

Report

Date June 15, 2022

File:

Subject Support for Strategic Priorities Fund Capacity Building Stream Grant Application

PURPOSE

To obtain Council support for the submission of a grant application to the Strategic Priorities Fund Capacity Building Stream for integrating Natural Assets into the Asset Management Plan project.

BACKGROUND

The Canada Community Building Fund in the B.C. Strategic Priorities Fund program provides up to 100% funding for local government capacity building projects, including asset management, long-term infrastructure planning and integrated community sustainability planning that support the national objectives and are large, regional in impact, or innovative.

DISCUSSION

Staff reviewed the five-year financial plan, looking at capacity building projects that are in the current work plans within the next two years and that meet the program criteria. The Environmental Services business plan for 2022 includes \$100,000 for establishing an inventory of natural assets throughout the Municipality and creating an asset management plan for these natural assets. After a preliminary review of applicable natural assets, staff believe additional funds will be required to fully complete the project.

Natural assets support the delivery of core services and provide recreation, clean air, habitat and biodiversity. They are invaluable to the overall health and well-being of the community. This project will help provide an integrated approach to enhancing and maintaining these natural assets for the future. Any grant funding received will help ensure that all of the natural assets can be reviewed as part of this project.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council authorize an application to the Canada Community-Building Fund, Strategic Priorities Fund Capacity Building Stream for a grant of up to \$200,000 for integrating Natural Assets into the Asset Management Plan.
 - A resolution of Council indicating support for the project and a willingness to provide overall grant management is a requirement of the grant program. This project is currently in the five-year financial plan for 2022 but is anticipated to take more than one year to complete.
2. THAT Council suggest an alternate capacity building project for application to the Canada Community-Building Fund, Strategic Priorities Fund Capacity Building Stream.
 - Council may choose an alternate project for the grant application, but the project must be able to begin within the next two years, be complete within the next five years, and meet the

program criteria.

IMPLICATIONS

The deadline for grant applications is June 30, 2022, and only one application can be submitted per municipality for this intake. Because of this, only projects that are already reasonably well defined and included in the financial plan were considered.

Given the importance of natural assets to the Municipality, this project was deemed the best fit for this grant application. If successful, it will provide more funding for this essential project.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council authorize an application to the Canada Community-Building Fund, Strategic Priorities Fund Capacity Building Stream for a grant of up to \$200,000 for Integrating Natural Assets into the Asset Management Plan.

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