

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2020-12-08

From: Kelly Lownsborough, Director of Finance

File No: 0340-30-27229

Subject: 2021 Regional Grant-in-Aid Policy

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board approve the attached Regional Grant-in-Aid Policy, effective January 1, 2021 and repeal the Grant-in-Aid Policy dated October 26, 1999.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District administers two Grant-in-Aid ("GIA") programs. Electoral Area GIAs are administered through the Electoral Area GIA Guidelines and Application, dated January 1, 2012, amended October 27, 2015.

For Regional GIAs, while there is a somewhat out-of-date Grant-in-Aid Policy (attached and dated October 26, 1999), the Regional GIAs have historically been incorporated into the Regional Budget Requisitions directly naming the organizations which received support; Wildsafe BC and Elizabeth's Wildlife Center. This report seeks to replace the dated Grant-in-Aid Policy with a Regional GIA Policy.

The Regional GIA Policy is drafted under the authority of the Local Government Act, Section 263(1)(c) which designates the corporate powers of a Regional District Board the ability to provide assistance for the purpose of benefiting the community, or any aspect of the community. For the purposes of this Policy, community is deemed to represent the Regional District.

DISCUSSION

The FVRD has a Regional Grant-in-Aid Policy that is seldom referenced and outdated. This report seeks to update and replace the Regional Grant-in-Aid Policy with a more robust policy, effective January 2021. The purpose of the Regional GIA is to provide a framework whereby financial assistance can be provided to non-profit organizations or community groups who provide services or a benefit to the

Regional District, whether those services span the entire Regional District or the majority of the Regional District.

This updated Regional GIA Policy includes two changes that are proposed to be effective for the 2022 Financial Plan.

1. Incorporation of the two long-standing Regional Grants-in-Aid (Wildsafe BC \$15,000 per annum and Elizabeth's Wildlife Center \$5,000 per annum) into the Environmental Services and Animal Control budgets, respectively.
2. Launch of an annual Regional GIA application process that includes a set deadline for applications (August 31) that ties into the annual budget process, as well as an annual maximum of \$50,000 (for all Regional GIA). Should the maximum Regional GIA be reached, the impact per residential property is approximately \$0.50 for every residential property in the FVRD.

This Policy is proposed to be effective January 1, 2021, to enable advance communication of the application process and timelines for the 2022 Financial Plan. For Regional GIA funding in 2021, the proposed Financial Plan includes GIA, per past practice, for Wildsafe BC \$15,000 and Elizabeth's Wildlife \$5,000.

COST

There are no direct costs with this report. The Policy does commit to two items for the 2022 Financial Plan and grant certainty for Wildsafe BC \$15,000 and Elizabeth's Wildlife \$5,000.

CONCLUSION

The proposed Regional Grant-in-Aid Policy is recommended for approval and to replace the existing Grant-in-Aid policy dated October 26, 1999.

COMMENTS BY:

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported. Historically, the FVRD has not had a regular budget line-item for regional grants-in-aid. Grants were budgeted ad hoc, on request. Examples of other past regional grants in aid included \$10,000 to the Cultus Lake Park Board for Milfoil removal (2006), \$50,000 to Canuck Place (2012), and \$50,000 to the Abbotsford Hospice (2014). Allocating \$50,000 per year to the budget would not require the Board to award grants annually, or provide the full allotment each year. Rather, this policy update and budget recommendation provides a clear and transparent process for future grant considerations.