



CORPORATE REPORT

To: Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2023-03-09

From: Kinga Williams, Accountant

File No:

Subject: 2022 Grant-in-Aid Financial Accountability Reporting

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Electoral Area Services Committee of information pertaining to Annual Reporting from Electoral Area Grants-in-Aid applicants that were issued in 2022 and outstanding responses from 2021. Staff is not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District has two categories of Grant-in-Aid funding available to not-for-profit organizations and community groups: Regional and Electoral.

Regional Grant-in-Aid funding is available to non-profit organizations or community groups based in the FVRD to support projects that provide a region-wide benefit. This funding is part of the FVRD budget process.

Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid funding is available to non-profit community groups or individuals who provide a service or benefit to their Electoral Area community. As a condition of receiving funding that exceeds \$1,000, the recipient is required to provide the FVRD with a follow-up report that details the use of these funds, the outcome of the project or event, as well as the planned use of any funds still remaining at the end of the year.

This report will discuss the Electoral Area Grants-in-Aid that were issued in 2022 and provide outstanding responses from 2021.

DISCUSSION

2022 GRANT-IN-AID FUNDING

There were a number of successful **events/projects that were funded through the FVRD's Grant-in-Aid** program in 2022. Attached is a consolidated report of those who submitted follow-up documentation, along with a listing of all Grants-in-Aid that were issued in 2022. The following report is a summary of the outcome of these events/projects.

It is noted that Staff experienced difficulty in receiving reports from some successful Grant-in-Aid **funding recipients that are required to do so per the FVRD's Grant-in-Aid policy.** The FVRD did not receive responses from four successful recipients and as of February 24, 2023, the FVRD has received no response from three recipients. The fourth GIA issued in 2022 that is not found in the following report is related to a Grant-in-Aid approved in December 2022 with funding being disbursed in January 2023; therefore, the recipient could not have been reasonably expected to have utilized the funds by year-end.

Electoral Area A

1. Boston Bar Community Charities Association – \$1,700

The Boston Bar Community Charities Association is a non-profit society that provides charitable services to the Boston Bar and North Bend Communities, as well as to Indigenous peoples in the local **area. The Society's purpose is to offer services related to health, cultural and social well-being** within these communities.

The full amount of these Grant-in-Aid Funds were used to cover the cost of hosting a concert by the Cascadia Wind Ensemble on June 12, 2022 which was free to the public. The concert was attended by more than 60 people.

Please see Appendix A for more information, pictures, and event programme.

2. Boston Bar Enhancement Society – \$3,000

The Boston Bar / North Bend Enhancement Society is a non-profit local group of volunteers dedicated to making their town a great place to live. They deliver a wide range of community-based services along with operating a number of community facilities.

These Grant-in-Aid funds were used to assist with the increased cost of running the food bank due to increased applications. The majority of the funding was used by the Food Bank in December 2022 to purchase Christmas hamper items for 60 local families. The remaining funding will pay for donation transportation/travel costs, as well as hamper items for January and February 2023.

Please see Appendix B for more information and a breakdown of funds used.

Electoral Area B

1. Sunshine Valley Ratepayer's Association – \$10,100

The Sunshine Valley Ratepayers Association is a non-profit organization representing citizens from the Sunshine Valley. They promote community education, sustainable public programs and community-based events for anyone to participate in.

These Grant-in-Aid funds were used to purchase a new pole pruner, assist in covering costs for Canada Day celebrations and the Show & Shine car show, as well as assist in covering the cost of equipment rental for the Skagit River cleanup, and relocating the community greenhouse. \$7,455 of the total Grant-in-Aid funds remain to complete a project for the Entrance Garden Boardwalk and to perform repairs on the Entrance Garden Pond. These projects will be completed in Spring/Summer 2023.

Please see Appendix C for more information, pictures, and a breakdown of funds used.

2. Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department – \$4,000

The Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department is a registered non-profit society providing road rescue and fire protection services to the Highway 3 corridor between Sunshine and Manning.

These Grant-in-Aid funds were used to assist with the acquisition of cots, blankets, heaters, and fans to **stock the Department's 42-foot** emergency supply container. Approximately \$1,000 of the total Grant-in-Aid funds remain to purchase additional racking or heaters in 2023.

Please see Appendix D for more information.

3. RiverMonsters Swim Club – \$9,800

The RiverMonsters Swim Club is a not for profit member of the B.C Summer Swim Club Association. The RiverMonsters provide a healthy, fun and competitive swim program for youth 3 - 18 from Yale, Boston Bar, Sunshine Valley, Othello Tunnels, Hope and surrounding communities to participate in the safe environment of the Dan Sharrers Aquatic Centre.

These Grant-in-Aid funds are intended to assist with the cost of purchasing storage shelving and containers for RiverMonsters equipment and portable bleachers for swimmers and spectator use. The Grant remains unspent as plans are being developed to determine appropriate sizes and exact locations of the equipment. The project is estimated to be completed in 2023.

Please see Appendix E for more information and for pictures.

Electoral Area C

1. Actively Creating an Exceptional Society (ACES) – \$8,000

Actively Creating an Exceptional Society (ACES) is a locally based community non-profit organization whose purpose is to unite people with similar concerns and create a strong voice while building an aware, caring, and connected community. ACES was established in 2009 and supports the community through gatherings, events, and projects.

ACES received two Grants-in-Aid each for \$4,000 in 2022, one funded by the 2021 Grant-in-Aid budget. The funds from the first Grant-in-Aid were intended to assist with the costs of completing the development of a community garden/edible forest. A Ceremonial Ground Breaking Celebration was

held in May 2022 and approximately 25-30 people attended despite the unfavorable weather. The funds from the second Grant-in-Aid were intended and used to further develop the community garden/edible forest.

Please see Appendix F for more information and for photos.

2. Hemlock Valley Homeowners Association - \$3,995

The Hemlock Valley Homeowners Association is a non-profit community group that represents all recreational, residential, home and property owners in the community of Hemlock Valley. They strive to ensure that the owners, along with their families, feel that they continue to be a part of the community. They are working hard to serve the community and secure improvements in the interest of all parties.

These Grant-in-Aid funds were used to facilitate online and in person “Survive-It Disaster Preparedness” workshops which helped the Association prepare the Hemlock Emergency Lookout Program (H.E.L.P) Disaster Guide. This guide is designed to support the Community of Hemlock Valley when facing a disaster. The remaining funds will be spent on various emergency supplies in February and March 2023.

Please see Appendix G for more information.

Electoral Area E

1. Post Creek Ratepayers Association (PCRA) – \$3,900

The Post Creek Ratepayers Association is a community group servicing the Post Creek Community and surrounding area located adjacent to Chilliwack Lake. They work to keep the area safe from wildfires, garbage dumping, and illegal shooting. They are trained in CPR, including the use of a defibrillator, and fire equipment use and safety.

These Grant-in-Aid funds were used to purchase a 2000 gallon water tank and create a gravel **placement for it to improve PCRA’S fire suppression effectiveness**, emergency response time, and fire training. Additionally, plumbing pipes and fittings were purchased for 12 tanks; however, were not installed due to cold weather. The assembly was completed in spring 2023. The remaining funds will be used to add further water reservoirs around the community, as well as perform important upgrades to fire equipment in 2023.

Please see Appendix H for more information and for pictures.

2. Chilliwack River Valley Vol. Fire Department – \$2,500

The Chilliwack River Valley Volunteer Fire Department provides fire/rescue services within the **Chilliwack River Valley**. **The department's operational costs are supported through the FVRD's** financial plan, which is funded by the properties benefiting from these services. In addition, the fire service has a member association whose main purpose is to support their membership outside of the regular firefighting duties.

These Grant-in-Aid funds were used in purchasing a new 2500 gallon Dump Tank that is used by the Department when performing rural water supply and suppression services, primarily in WildFire settings. The tank is also used for training and incidents as required.

Please see Appendix I for more information and for pictures.

Electoral Area F

1. McConnell Creek Farmer's Institute – \$7,500

The McConnell Creek Farmer's Institute operates the local community hall, servicing the local residents while also providing rental space to the general public.

These Grant-in-Aid funds are intended to assist with covering the costs of maintenance and repairs to the Community Hall, including professional floor waxing services, and various other hall maintenance. This Grant-in-Aid was approved in late December 2022 and funds were disbursed in January 2023; therefore, no expenditures were made by year end. These costs are expected to be incurred in 2023.

Electoral Area G

1. Dewdney Elementary School PAC –\$3,000

Dewdney Elementary School supports approximately 150 students and their families and, as a rural school, acts as a hub for many activities and programs for the local community. The Dewdney Elementary School PAC is a non-profit organization that provides benefits to students and their families outside of the regular school curriculum, which includes clothing for those in need, food hampers, lunches & snacks, school supplies, and grade 6 farewell activities.

These Grant-in-Aid funds were used to assist with the costs of providing ad hoc lunches and snacks to those in need, assisting with the costs of field trip admissions, and purchasing school supplies that are made available to all students in need. Approximately \$1,500 of the funds remain to be used for the same purpose in 2023.

Please see Appendix J for more information.

Electoral Area H

1. Columbia Valley Ratepayer's Association – \$3,500

The Columbia Valley Ratepayers Association is a non-profit community group that represents the **interests of the residents of the Columbia Valley. The Association operates a community hall, kid's playground, open area with horseshoe pits, as well as a gazebo.**

The total amount of Grant-in-Aid funds were used to assist in repairing the gazebo in March 2022. The repair consisted of raising the roof, removing the rotted parts from the supports, putting concrete footings, and then lowering and levelling the structure.

Please see Appendix K for more information.

2. Cultus Lake Stewardship Society (CLASS) – \$2,500

CLASS is a community-based, registered non-profit stewardship organization located in the Fraser Valley Regional District. CLASS was founded in 2007 with the purpose of protecting and maintaining the health of Cultus Lake and its watershed.

These Grant-in-Aid funds were used to purchase signage for relaying information about the invasive Smallmouth Bass species, a plastic cover for the relief map of Cultus Lake, office supplies, a school water quality monitoring kit that was donated to the Cultus Lake Community School, and diver gift cards. Approximately \$594 remains to be used for supplies and educational materials in 2023.

Please see Appendix L for more information.

3. Cultus Lake Park Board ("Cultus Lake Day") – \$2,500

The Cultus Lake Park Community Events and Engagement Committee is a community/volunteer committee led by the Cultus Lake Park Board. The Cultus Lake Park Community Events and **Engagement Committee's purpose is to create experiences that promote community spirit and pride** within Cultus Lake Park, with activities that are meant for residents and non-residents.

The total amount of Grant-in-Aid funds were used to offset the cost of holding a free family day for residents and guests from **surrounding communities. The 2022 "Cultus Lake Day"** was a success and engaged dozens of volunteers and even more residents and visitors.

Please see Appendix M for more information and for pictures.

4. Cultus Lake Pike Minnow Derby – \$1,500

The 7 Chilliwack Area Lions Clubs have provided services and assistance throughout the local area for a combined 250 years. Each club operates under strict fiscal guidelines and each has developed relationships with the many organizations required to make for successful events.

The total amount of Grant-in-Aid funds were used to assist in covering the cost of the 2022 Pike Minnow Derby. The event was successful with more than 1,000 hours of volunteer time, 210 adult and 161 child registrants, and 482 Pike Minnow and 210 Smallmouth Bass removed from the lake.

Please see Appendix N for more information and for pictures.

2021 GRANT-IN-AID FUNDING

There were a number of successful events/projects that **were funded through the FVRD's Grant-in-Aid** program in 2021. A consolidated report of those who submitted follow-up documentation was presented to the Electoral Area Services Committee on May 12, 2022. The following report is a summary of those who did not provide a summary of the outcome of their event/projects at that date, but who subsequently responded.

At the date of the previous report, the FVRD did not receive responses from ten successful recipients. Of those ten, eight have subsequently responded. As of February 24, 2023, the FVRD has received no response from the remaining two recipients.

Electoral Area B

1. Hope Care Transit Society – \$4,000

The Hope Care Transit Society is a registered charity servicing the Boston Bar, Hope and Sunshine Valley areas. **They are a "by donation" charity providing medical rides for appointments and treatments from Boston Bar to Vancouver and the Fraser Valley.** They have 16 volunteer drivers.

The total amount was funded through regular Grant-in-Aid funding and was used to transport people to their medical treatments and appointments.

Please see Appendix O for more information.

2. 1st Hope Scouting – \$4,000

1st Hope Scouting is a local not-for-profit community scout group run by volunteers serving youth aged 5 to 26 in the Hope, Yale, Spuzzum, Boston Bar, Sunshine Valley and Dogwood areas. **This includes youth from the Shxw'ow'hamel First Nations, Chawathil First Nations and Spuzzum First Nations.**

The Grant-in-Aid funding was used to purchase supplies, including new tents, stoves, ovens, and folding tables. In 2022 the Group was able to attend six camps due to these newly purchased supplies. Furthermore, the Group provides online challenges and activities for local low-income families to get outdoors and stay active.

Please see Appendix P for more information.

3. Yale & District Ratepayers Association – \$30,050

The Yale & District Ratepayers Association operates the Yale & District Community Centre. They are a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to the well-being of the community and its residents. The **thrift store, which operates out of the community centre, and the “Brownie Hall” is a focus of social activities and a host of gatherings, particularly for seniors.** There has been a noticeable influx of children in the area, so the Association hopes to update the equipment in the gym as to include them in the social gatherings and use of the centre as well.

The total amount was funded through Covid-19 Grant-in-Aid Funding. Of the total amount, \$22,000 was used to benefit the two buildings that house the Thrift Store. The buildings were repaired, the floors were levelled, and paving was done to allow better access for seniors. Furthermore, improvements were done to drainage to eliminate water pooling at entrances. Additional funding was used to provide Food Safe courses, host painting events, and provide occasional light lunches. The remaining funding will be used for a sound system in the Community Centre.

Please see Appendix Q for more information and for pictures.

4. Tashme Historical Society – \$4,000

The Tashme Historical Society provides heritage awareness to the community through events and the Sunshine Valley Tashme Museum. COVID-19 has affected the society by a decrease in visitors resulting in the closing of the museum for 7 months in 2021.

The total amount was funded through Covid-19 Grant-in-Aid Funding and was used to host a live haiku reading event on September 26, 2021. Haikus were read by descendants of families who experienced internment during the Second World War (1942-1946). The event was mentioned in numerous outlets and historical publications across Canada. Furthermore, the funding helped address revenue shortfalls as the site saw a significant decrease in visitors due to Covid-19 and the Atmospheric River event.

Please see Appendix R for more information.

5. SVC Recreation – \$5,000

The SVC Recreation Society is a registered not-for-profit society that offers programs and facilities in the Sunshine Valley to both its members and non-members in the community. Their purpose is to establish, maintain, and operate a non-profit community centre society in the Sunshine Valley which is accessible to all. The community centre hosts community events which encourage social interaction.

The total amount was funded through Covid-19 Grant-in-Aid Funding and was used to purchase a Panasonic projector and an inflatable screen. The equipment is used to show movies at the August car show, as well as for other movies and events.

Please see Appendix S for more information and for pictures.

Electoral Area E

1. Chilliwack River Valley Residents Association – \$6,070

The Chilliwack River Valley Residents Association is a non-profit that serves the residents of the **Chilliwack River Valley**. **Part of their mandate is to “protect the valley for Future Generations.”** As there is upwards of one million visitors annually to this area, the Association believe it is imperative that the visitors are caring for the area in which they are recreating.

The Chilliwack River Valley Residents Association received two Grant-in-Aids for a total of \$6,070. Of the total amount, \$3,950 was by way of regular Grant-in-Aid funding and \$2,120 was by way of Covid-19 Grant-in-Aid funding.

The regular Grant-in-Aid funding was used to help offset the costs associated with maintaining and expanding the Ambassador Program, which helps to improve the situation of unsightly garbage in the Chilliwack River Valley. Please see Appendix T for more information and for pictures.

The Covid-19 Grant-in-Aid funding was used to repair the one kilometer long trail that connects the upper and lower Slesse Park communities in the Chilliwack River Valley. Please see Appendix U for more information and for pictures

2. Post Creek Ratepayers Association – \$1,500

The PCRA is a registered not-for-profit organization that participates in social and working committee events for the community. The impact that COVID-19 has had on the community has been a significant increase in the number of people accessing the Chilliwack Valley, which is causing concern for managing fire risks and keeping the river habitats safe. Recently, there has become an issue with people camping in the fire breaks, increased garbage, campfires in the fire break, and increased public use of the rivers and streams.

The total amount was funded through Covid-19 Grant-in-Aid Funding and was used to purchase proper signage in the community to deter visitors from the residential area, educate the public about the environment, and deter campfires.

Please see Appendix V for more information.

Electoral Area F

1. McConnell Creek Farmers Institute – \$5,000

The **McConnell Creek Farmer’s Institute** operates the local community hall, servicing the local residents while also providing rental space to the general public. The hall hosts various events for the

community, including Christmas pot luck dinners, plant sales, Halloween fireworks, pig roasts, and weekly yoga classes.

The total amount was funded through regular Grant-in-Aid funding and was used for maintenance and repairs to the community hall, roof maintenance, stripping and waxing the floors, as well as a furnace replacement.

Please see Appendix W for more information and for pictures.

COST

There are no costs directly associated with the writing of this report.

CONCLUSION

There were 21 Grants-in-Aid issued in 2022. Of the 19 Grants-in-Aid issued that exceed \$1,000, the FVRD received responses from 15 of those recipients. The total of \$75,945 was issued through regular funding in 2022. The FVRD received responses from 8 of the remaining 10 successful recipients that did not respond to the previously presented report on May 12, 2022 relating to Grants-in-Aid issued in 2021.

COMMENTS BY:

Beth Klein, Manager of Financial Operations: Reviewed and supported.

Kelly Lownsborough, Director of Corporate Services/CFO: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.