

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee
From: Stacey Barker, Deputy Director, Regional Programs

Date: 2018-02-15
File No: 6140-60-000

Subject: Campground Operator for the Vedder River Campground

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board authorize its signatories to enter into a contract with F.H. Forestry Ltd. for the operation and maintenance of the Vedder River Campground in an amount not to exceed \$214,400 annually (excluding taxes) for a term of up to two years with the option to renew for a further 3 years.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services
Support Environmental Stewardship

PRIORITIES

Priority #5 Outdoor Recreation
Priority #4 Tourism

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) recently purchased the Vedder River Campground from the Cultus Lake Parks Board, as it offered a strategic addition to the FVRD's Regional Parks Program. Many preparations are underway for the coming visitor season, including securing a contractor to operate and maintain the campground.

Request for Proposals (RFP) #17020 was issued in late November 2017 to secure the required contractor. The FVRD received 3 complete fee-for-service proposals and have evaluated the submissions as per the terms of the RFP. The proposals ranged in cost from \$214,400 - \$295,600 per year.

DISCUSSION

F.H. Forestry Ltd. provided the most economical option, while also offering impressive experience in the design, construction, and maintenance of campgrounds and trails. This includes the current management of eleven campsites in the Chilliwack Forest District and three campsites in the Merritt Forest District under a partnership agreement with Recreation Sites and Trails BC. They are designated as a BC Forest Safety Council Safe Company and have substantial experience in providing the services required at the Vedder River Campground.

The F.H. Forestry Ltd. option was also attractive as it offered cost savings with the use of a resident, experienced Camp Host that will significantly reduce security and enforcement costs after hours as well

as offering site supervision while the campground is closed in the winter months. F.H. Forestry is also able to provide the majority of required equipment and will offer further cost savings with its staff having their certification as danger tree assessors and fallers. The company's references were exceptional.

COST

An operations and maintenance contract in the amount of \$214,400 (excluding taxes) could be accommodated in the proposed 2018 budget for the Vedder River Campground.

CONCLUSION

The F.H. Forestry Ltd. proposal for operations and maintenance of the Vedder River Campground is the preferred submission based upon RFP#17020 evaluation criteria. It is recommended that the Board enter into a contract with this proponent as soon as possible as preparations for the coming camping season are underway.

COMMENTS BY:

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported