



STAFF REPORT

To: Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2025-02-13

From: Kinga Al-Mubarak, Accountant

Subject: 2025 Grant-in-Aid Application – McConnell Creek Farmers Institute, Electoral Area F

Reviewed by: Beth Klein, Controller/Deputy Financial Officer

Kelly Lownsborough, Director of Corporate Services & CFO

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board approve a grant-in-aid in the amount of \$7,500 to McConnell Creek Farmers Institute, funded from the 2025 Electoral Area F grant-in-aid budget, to assist with the cost of capital improvements to the community hall, as well as repair and maintenance costs.

BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District ("FVRD") Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid program is available to non-profit community groups or individuals who provide a service or benefit to their Electoral Area community. Funding is available year-round to all applicants who meet the criteria and eligibility requirements as outlined in the Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid Policy & Application Form.

The Electoral Areas have an annual Grant-in-Aid budget, which is set through the Financial Planning process. This budget considers the expected aspirations of the communities and must not exceed the calculated maximum value based on the net taxable property values of the area.

All funding requests must be supported by the Electoral Area Director and approved by the Board.

DISCUSSION

McConnell Creek Farmers Institute is a non-profit organization that operates a local community hall in Electoral Area F. The hall provides a meeting place for community events and also provides rental space to the general public.

McConnell Creek Farmers Institute is requesting a \$7,500 grant to assist with the cost of capital improvements to the community hall, as well as repair and maintenance costs. The community hall building is owned by McConnell Creek Farmers Institute; therefore, capital improvement costs are not

restricted as per the Electoral Area Grant in Aid Policy because they are not performed on a rented or leased premise.

There are no application restrictions noted with the request. These costs are not the responsibility of senior levels of government and individual donations are collected for these improvements.

This request for funding is eligible as per the Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid policy under the "activities/programs which are accessible to a large portion of the electoral area" option.

Please refer to the completed Grant-in-Aid application attached and note that financial statements/reports were provided as the application is greater than \$4,000. Director Davidson is in support of the \$7,500 requested amount.

COST

The \$7,500 cost will be funded from the Electoral Area F grant-in-aid budget, which has sufficient funds remaining from 2024 to support this request, that have been carried forward to the 2025-2029 Financial Plan.

CONCLUSION

A grant-in-aid application has been received from McConnell Creek Farmers Institute to assist with the cost of capital improvements to the community hall, as well as repair and maintenance costs. The application is complete and meets the eligibility criteria and approval criteria as outlined in the Policy. No application restrictions are noted and the Electoral Area Director is supportive of the full amount.