

To: Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Date: 2025-04-24

From: Tarina Colledge, Manager of Emergency Management

Subject: Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Contract Award

Reviewed by: Graham Daneluz, Director of Planning & Development
Kelly Lownsbrough, Director of Corporate Services & CFO
Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board award a contract to Frontera Forest Solutions, Inc. as the preferred proponent to Request for Proposal 25005 for the provision of professional services to conduct a grant-funded Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

BACKGROUND

In December 2018, the Fraser Valley Regional District Board approved a grant funded contracted *Community Wildfire Protection Plan* (CWPP) with a 5-year life span which results in 3 “Area of Interest” CWPPs, each with comprehensive recommendations which have informed wildfire risk reduction activities for many FVRD business units, residents, and partners on the landscape; and funded the wages for our Wildfire Risk Reduction and Emergency Management (FireSmart) Coordinator.

Grant funded risk reduction accomplishments triggered by the CWPP recommendations (2019 – 2024) include:

- » Risk reduction at the Hemlock Valley Fire Hall & replacement of fire escape stairs
- » Risk reduction at and around Engineering and Utilities Infrastructure
- » Additional seasonal labour in Engineering to continuously reduce combustible material in the immediate areas around each asset
- » Updates to Planning and Land Use processes to incorporate wildfire risk reduction
- » Some neighbourhoods have become “FireSmart Recognized Neighbourhood” status
- » Many FireSmart Home Assessments, Rebates, and chipping/binning programs have been run.

With the CWPP having reached its expiration date, FVRD must replace the CWPP with a *Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan* (CWRP) to remain eligible for this grant in the future.

There is an important shift in the name **and focus from “protection” to “resiliency.”** This demonstrates the Province’s commitment to resiliency and the ability of a community to more readily withstand wildfire threats and bounce back faster when they occur within the boundaries of communities.

Key provincial goals of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning process are to:

- » **Increase communities’ capacity and understanding of wildfire risk;**
- » Foster greater collaboration within and across administrative boundaries;
- » Be more responsive to the needs of different types of communities throughout BC in terms of their size, their capacity, and the threats they face; and
- » Develop achievable and accountable action items.

DISCUSSION

On March 4, 2025, the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) issued Request for Proposal 25005 (“the RFP”) to develop a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) for all Electoral Areas, in alignment with the provincial CWRP instruction guide and associated grant funding requirements.

A CWRP is a forward-looking strategy that outlines how to reduce wildfire risks, strengthen community resilience, and support recovery. It emphasizes education, collaborative planning, and prevention over reactive fire suppression. Key benefits include improved public safety, reduced financial exposure, and enhanced local preparedness.

Funding for the project is provided through a successful grant from the Ministry of Forests, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) under the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) FireSmart & Community Funding Supports stream. The grant fully covers the CWRP’s scope, including the following deliverables:

- » A tailored Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan for the FVRD
- » A dashboard to track recommendations and implementation progress
- » A final presentation to the Electoral Area Services Committee
- » Wildfire risk information for 30 settled areas

The RFP was advertised via the FVRD website and BC Bid, closing on March 25, 2025. Six proposals were received and evaluated by a four-person staff committee, using criteria aligned with both the RFP requirements and CRI grant eligibility. Frontera Forest Solutions, Inc. was identified as the preferred proponent, with a strong submission that demonstrates the capacity, experience, and team cohesion necessary to successfully deliver the project and support its integration into the broader Emergency Management Program.

Frontera will lead all aspects of project delivery, including coordination of sub-consultants—except for engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies. Given the existing capacity challenges expressed by Indigenous partners and our responsibilities under the Emergency and Disaster Management Act,

FVRD staff will continue to lead those relationship-based components to avoid duplication and support respectful collaboration.

The proponent has submitted a preliminary work plan that meets RFP and grant expectations, aligns with timelines and budget, and supports the successful development of the final CWRP. This initiative **is a key priority in the Emergency Management department's work plan and is essential to securing** future CRI funding and sustaining the Emergency Management Coordinator position, which leads the FireSmart and Wildfire Risk Reduction portfolio.

COST

The Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan has a maximum budget of \$280,000 (excluding GST) and is funded in full by a grant received through the Community Resiliency Investment fund.

CONCLUSION

FVRD successfully received grant funding through the Community Resiliency Investment Fund to conduct a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan across all 8 Electoral Areas. A Request for Proposals was published on March 4, 2025 and closed on March 25, 2025. Staff have evaluated the proposal submissions and have identified Frontera Forest Solutions, Inc. as the preferred proponent.

A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) is a forward-thinking investment in public safety, **designed to reduce wildfire risks and strengthen our community's ability** to withstand and recover from future events. **By awarding this contract, we're taking a proactive step that prioritizes** preparedness and prevention, reduces the impacts of wildfire risks in and around community boundaries, and enables us to continue advancing wildfire resiliency.