

To: Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2025-05-15

From: Kinga Al-Mubarak, Accountant

Subject: 2025 Grant-in-Aid Request – Hope Mountain Black Bear Committee, Electoral Area B

Reviewed by: Beth Klein, Controller/Deputy CFO

Kelly Lownsbrough, 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 \$2,000 to the Hope Mountain Black Bear Committee, funded from the 2025 Electoral Area B grant-in-aid budget, to help offset the cost of preparing public education materials on bear awareness.

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

The Hope Mountain Black Bear Committee (the "Committee") is a community group that has been operating in Hope and surrounding areas for fourteen years. Its mission is to reduce the number of bears killed and cubs orphaned in residential areas due to human causes, to reduce the number of negative human-bear encounters, and to increase knowledge and appreciation of bears by the public. The committee has expanded to deal with other forms of wildlife who encounter the same issues since its founding.

With assistance from the Northern Lights Wildlife Society, the Hope Mountain Black Bear Committee is requesting a grant-in-aid to assist with the cost of preparing public education materials on bear awareness. These materials will include presentations as well as written materials for residents, renters and hikers due to the increasing number of residences and short-term rentals in the Sunshine Valley and Huckleberry developments.

Both organizations are considered financially and administratively sound as they are responsive to questions and have active websites with information about the non-profit, donations, and community involvement. There are no application restrictions noted with this request, these costs are not the responsibility of senior levels of government, and individual donations are collected for this project.

This request for funding is eligible under the Electoral Area grant-in-aid policy under the “use of net approaches/techniques in solving community challenges” **option**.

Please refer to the completed Grant-in-Aid application attached and note that financial statements/reports were not provided as the application is not greater than \$4,000.

Director Adamo is in support of this request for \$2,000.

COST

The \$2,000 cost will be funded from the 2025 Electoral Area B grant-in-aid budget, which has sufficient funds to support this request.

CONCLUSION

A grant-in-aid application has been received from the Hope Mountain Black Bear Committee to help offset the cost of preparing public education materials on bear awareness. 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.