



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

GROWING COMMUNITIES FUND

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Board confirm the allocation of the Growing Communities Fund as presented, **OR**
2. That the Board provide alternate direction to staff in relation to the allocation of the Growing Communities Fund.

BACKGROUND

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) received a letter signed by Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs in relation to the \$7,929,000 one-time Growing Communities Fund (GCF) grant included as Attachment 1. The letter identifies eligible costs as one-off, incremental and should accelerate the delivery of capital projects (not replace existing capital commitments), including feasibility studies or other early-stage development work. The funds are to be expended within five years of receipt (by March 31, 2028).

The BC Government has also published a Frequently Asked Questions for Regional Districts which is included as Attachment 2. Additional information includes that the GCF was intended to assist the Board in addressing regional priorities for actual infrastructure and other eligible costs and not meant to be reallocated back to electoral areas based on the Ministry allocation formula.

In order to support the Board's deliberations on the application of the funds, staff prepared an analysis using a multi criteria evaluation tool intended to prioritize projects from the Board's 5 year financial plan. The criteria used in the tool is included in Attachment 3. Naturally, the Board may use any methodology that does not violate the criteria communicated by the Minister and the ministry. The following table provides staff recommendations including the value assigned using the evaluation tool for the GCF grant allocation:

#	Service	Project	Total Capital Costs	Weighted Criteria Score	Growing Communities Funding Allocation Proposal
1	Fire Protection-Dashwood Firehall Constr	Firehall Replacement	\$ 7,384,936	73.0	\$ 922,274
2	Wastewater - Southern Community	GNPCC - Pump Station Upgrades	3,782,690	66.6	750,000
3	Fire Protection - Coombs Hilliers	VFD Engine 105 Replacement	1,382,393	62.6	657,393
4	Fire Protection - Nanoose Bay	VFD Engine 16 Replacement	1,328,940	62.6	528,940
5	Recreation & Culture - Area A	South Wellington School Remediation	1,468,396	61.8	300,000
6	Wastewater - Southern Community	GNPCC - Concrete restoration of 3 grit and 3 sedimentation	5,565,000	60.6	525,000
7	Water - River'S Edge	Additional Groundwater wells and new transmission	3,630,000	60.2	200,000
8	Regional Parks	Mt Benson Access Improvements	500,000	59.6	400,000
9	Regional Parks	Lighthouse Country Regional Trail Improvements	150,000	57.6	150,000
10	Wastewater - Northern Community	FCPCC Influent Pipe Repair	1,000,000	55.6	125,000
11	Water - Nanoose Peninsula	Groundwater Well - Redrilling	180,000	55.2	180,000
12	Oceanside Place	Electric Ice Resurfacer Zamboni	200,000	51.2	200,000
13	Wastewater - Nanoose	Nanoose Bay Forcemain Replacement - Phase 1 - Lift	1,734,000	51.2	170,000
14	Wastewater - Southern Community	Syphon Screen Chamber - Access Improvement	193,320	50.0	193,320
15	Wastewater - Northern Community	Biogas System Upgrade	1,675,295	48.6	15,295
16	Regional Parks	Top Bridge Regional Trail - Re-alignment	120,000	45.6	40,000
17	Community Parks - Area B	Village Way Trail Accessibility Improvements	175,000	44.0	175,000
18	Water - Nanoose Peninsula	New Generator	200,000	43.0	-
19	Community Parks - Area F	Errington Community Park Washroom and Concession	350,000	42.4	-
20	Water - San Pareil	New Watermain Installation	200,000	38.2	100,000
21	Community Parks - Area C (E Wellington)	Anders and Dorrits Nature Walk - Bridge and Trails	400,000	37.8	400,000
22	Community Parks - Area G	French Creek Community Park and 1236 Island Hwy Trail	400,000	32.2	-
23	Community Parks - Area A	Cedar Playground - New Construction	350,000	29.8	350,000
24	Regional Parks	Descanso Bay Regional Park Campground Administration	400,000	25.8	-
25	Water - Nanoose Peninsula	Asbestos Cement Watermain Replacement	11,400,000	25.2	-
26	Community Parks - Area H	Lions Park Improvements - Phase 3	300,000	21.4	200,000
27	Area B	Community Parks			400,000 *
28	Area C	Community Parks			200,000 *
29	Administration Building	Board Chambers Upgrade			500,000 *
		Total			\$ 7,682,222
	* Further details to be provided by Board Report in July 2023				

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The allocation of the GCF to these projects in most cases reduces the use of reserves and the requirement to borrow and in some cases it results in a reduction in the tax requisition. For each of the projects, the value allocated to each Municipality and Electoral Area was determined by identifying which service the project belongs to and which Municipalities and Electoral Areas participate in that service. Using the 2023 Revised Roll Assessments, values were assigned to each Municipality and Electoral Area. The following table compares the total value for the recommended projects of \$7,682,222 to the Funding Formula:

	Population # Used for Funding Formula	Total GCF Allocation per Funding Formula	Total GCF Allocation based on Recommendations	Difference
Nanaimo	101,987	\$ 1,733,779	\$ 1,792,530	\$ (58,751)
Lantzville	3,874	65,858	29,771	36,087
Parksville	13,871	235,807	169,133	66,674
Qualicum Beach	9,387	159,579	110,251	49,328
EA A	7,813	736,211	675,446	60,765
EA B	4,699	627,853	594,440	33,413
EA C	3,493	631,171	614,827	16,344
EA E	7,065	890,055	907,545	(17,490)
EA F	8,582	832,354	818,760	13,594
EA G	8,469	951,043	934,591	16,452
EA H	4,481	565,607	534,928	30,679
Sub Totals	173,721	\$ 7,429,317	\$ 7,182,222	\$ 247,095
Add \$500,000 Base		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -
Total		\$ 7,929,317	\$ 7,682,222	\$ 247,095

A further report will address the remaining unallocated portion, which will be informed by the Board discussion on this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

People and Partnerships - Seek opportunities to partner with the provincial and federal governments, other government agencies, and community stakeholder groups in order to advance strategic plan goals and objectives.

REVIEWED BY:

- P. Mahadeo, Asset Manager
- Executive Leadership Team
- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

1. GCF Letter from Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs dated March 16, 2023
2. GCF Regional District Fund Information – Frequently Asked Questions
3. Criteria used in the Multi Criteria Evaluation Tool