



**GROWING COMMUNITIES FUND JULY 25, 2023**

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***PLEASE NOTE THAT RECOMMENDATIONS WERE VARIED BY THE COMMITTEE***

**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	<b>Descanso Bay Wharf Service</b>	<b>Descanso Bay Emergency Wharf Gangway Replacement</b>	<b>121,966</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>121,966</b>	<b>**</b>
6	Recreation & Culture - Area A	South Wellington School Remediation	1,468,396	61.8	300,000	
7	Wastewater - Southern Community	GNPCC - Concrete restoration of 3 grit and 3 sedimentation	5,565,000	60.6	465,656	
8	Water - River'S Edge	Additional Groundwater wells and new transmission	3,630,000	60.2	200,000	
9	Regional Parks	Mt Benson Access Improvements	500,000	59.6	400,000	
10	Regional Parks	Lighthouse Country Regional Trail Improvements	150,000	57.6	150,000	
11	Wastewater - Northern Community	FCPCC Influent Pipe Repair	1,000,000	55.6	125,000	
12	Water - Nanoose Peninsula	Groundwater Well - Redrilling	180,000	55.2	162,510	
13	Oceanside Place	Electric Ice Resurfacers Zamboni	200,000	51.2	200,000	
14	Wastewater - Nanoose	Nanoose Bay Forcemain Replacement - Phase 1 - Lift	1,734,000	51.2	170,000	
15	Wastewater - Southern Community	Syphon Screen Chamber - Access Improvement	193,320	50.0	193,320	
16	Wastewater - Northern Community	Biogas System Upgrade	1,675,295	48.6	15,295	
17	Regional Parks	Top Bridge Regional Trail - Re-alignment	120,000	45.6	40,000	
18	Community Parks - Area B	Village Way Trail Accessibility Improvements	175,000	44.0	175,000	
19	Water - Nanoose Peninsula	New Generator	200,000	43.0	-	
20	Community Parks - Area F	Errington Community Park Washroom and Concession	350,000	42.4	-	
21	<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>Board Chambers upgrades and reconfiguration</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>***</b>
22	Water - San Pareil	New Watermain Installation	200,000	38.2	100,000	
23	Community Parks - Area C (E Wellington)	Anders and Dorrits Nature Walk - Bridge and Trails	400,000	37.8	400,000	
24	<b>Community Parks - Area B</b>	<b>Rollo McClay Park Improvements</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>278,034</b>	<b>*</b>
25	Community Parks - Area G	French Creek Community Park and 1236 Island Hwy Trail	400,000	32.2	-	
26	Community Parks - Area A	Cedar Playground - New Construction	350,000	29.8	350,000	
27	<b>Community Parks - Area C (Extension)</b>	<b>Extension School Lands</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>*</b>
28	Regional Parks	Descanso Bay Regional Park Campground Administration	400,000	25.8	-	
29	Water - Nanoose Peninsula	Asbestos Cement Watermain Replacement	11,400,000	25.2	-	
30	Community Parks - Area H	Lions Park Improvements - Phase 3	300,000	21.4	200,000	
		Total			\$ 7,605,388	
		Growing Communities Fund Grant			7,929,317	
		Unallocated			\$ 323,929	
	* Details updated from June 27, 2023 Board Report					
	** New project					
	*** Details provided in separate Board Report					

The four projects highlighted in yellow about have changed as follows from the June 27, 2023 report:

- The Descanso Bay Wharf Service is a new project added,
- The weighted criteria score for the Board Chambers upgrades and reconfigurations has been added and more details will be provided in a separate Board report,
- Detail about the name and weighted criteria score have been added for Rollo McClay Park improvements and Extension School Lands.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The allocation of the GCF to these projects provides funds for currently unfunded projects, reduces the requirement to borrow, reduces the use of Community Works Funds or reserves and may also result in the reduction in the tax requisition. The following table summarizes the impacts for the recommended use of the GCF:

Unfunded	\$ 3,397,222
Debt/Borrowing	1,585,656
Community Works Funds	1,225,000
Reserves	827,510
Tax Requisition	70,000
Total	\$ 7,105,388

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 \$7,605,388 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	\$ 1,733,779	\$ -
Lantzville	3,874	65,858	29,178	36,680
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	890,055	-
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	\$ 7,105,388	\$ 323,929
Add \$500,000 Base		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -
Total		\$ 7,929,317	\$ 7,605,388	\$ 323,929

Adjustments have been made to the allocation for some projects since the June 27, 2023 Growing Community Funds report to reduce overallocation for City of Nanaimo and EA E. Unallocated Growing Community Funds, identified in the difference column above, total \$323,929.

## **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