



TO: Electoral Area Services Committee **MEETING:** October 2, 2018
FROM: Melissa Tomlinson
Special Projects Coordinator,
Emergency Services **FILE:** 7130 03 ESU
SUBJECT: Emergency Services Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the Emergency Services Update be received for information.

SUMMARY

Several projects were outlined in the 2018 Emergency Services work plan as a result of the Emergency Services Gap Analysis, as well as ongoing and grant based projects. Significant progress has been achieved on most of the 2018 projects.

BACKGROUND

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program

The previous Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) program was outdated and in need of revision. A new simplified, updated NEPP program booklet is now available on the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) website. The program is an expansion from the Prepared BC NEPP and includes a handbook available for download, a RDN Get Involved Page as well as facilitated workshops and meetings including mentors from established NEPP groups. The new NEPP program aims to deliver a simpler program to encourage engagement by new NEPP groups.

Connect Rocket - Emergency Notification System

The Emergency Notification System was launched in the spring of 2017 and by the beginning of 2018 approximately 1500 residents had registered to receive notifications. The 2018 business plan aimed to reach a 20% increase in subscribers this year. The Emergency Notification System was promoted through newspaper ads, an insert in the utilities mail-out as well as in media releases during emergency events. So far in 2018, the subscription has increased to 7500 people, which is a 500% increase from 2017. The Emergency Notification System will continue to be promoted at community events, social media and the RDN website.

Emergency Operations Centre Staff Training

Ongoing staff training for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is a priority for Emergency Services as it is important to ensure current training for staff and gaps are filled as staff turnover occurs. So far in 2018 the RDN has engaged in several staff training opportunities. In May, an EOC Logistics course was co-hosted along with the Town of Qualicum Beach and the City of Parksville, six RDN staff attended this course. A simulated EOC exercise was held in June in the RDN Board Chambers, 28 RDN staff attended this two-hour session. In addition, there have been several EMBC sponsored courses attended by staff. Another table-top exercise planned for October to prepare for the winter season, as well as another co-hosted course planned for November.

National Disaster Mitigation Program/ Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) project

The project to complete a full Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for the region, including the RDN, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach will be completed parallel to the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) Flood Risk Assessment Project. Work began in early May, with CCEM Strategies as the successful consultant in the RFP process. This project will engage stakeholders from across the region in several consultation sessions, beginning in mid-October. This project is on time and is slated for completion in September 2019. The final document will help guide risk-based decision making and will enhance the current emergency planning documents.

UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Projects

EOC Updates - The RDN was approved in early 2018 for a \$24,000 grant to purchase and install dedicated phone line handsets for the EOC, a GIS enabled laptop and external storage for the EOC as well as two satellite phones. The dedicated phone line handsets and GIS equipment have been purchased through the IT department. Satellite phones will be purchased by the end of the year, completing this grant project.

ESS Trailer- The RDN was awarded a \$25,000 grant to purchase and equip an Emergency Social Services (ESS) trailer to serve communities of the RDN within School District 68. A utility trailer was sourced and purchased in August 2018. The interior design of the trailer is being modeled after the ESS trailer for the Oceanside area. Work to design and install storage and a workspace within the trailer is underway and will be completed by the end of 2018. The trailer will be equipped with ESS supplies, including tents, tables and a generator by early 2019, by the grant reporting deadline.

Area Evacuation Plans- This grant stream is currently open to applications with the deadline in November 2019. There are one road in/out communities that have been identified within Electoral Areas G and F as requiring evacuation planning. If approved through the grant process, work will begin on this project in early 2019.

Electoral Areas A and C Emergency Social Services Development

Developing an ESS program to service the Electoral Areas A and C has been identified as a priority project and is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

In 2017, RDN Emergency Services applied to the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative in order to update several Community Wildfire Protection Plans. As a result, Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative awarded the Regional District of Nanaimo a grant to complete a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Extension, North Cedar and Cranberry Fire Protection areas. After a competitive bid process, the Regional District of Nanaimo offered a contract to Strategic Natural Resources Consulting (SNRC). After starting the project, SNRC was informed by SWPI that the project funding is only to cover interface with Crown land, as Privately Managed Forest Land information is only released at the discretion of the forestry company. The challenge is that there is less than 2% Crown land and most of the land is Privately Managed Forest Land within the Extension, North Cedar, and Cranberry fire service areas. This project has been put on hold until a resolution regarding information sharing on Privately Managed Forest land can be determined.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Emergency Services Update be received for information.
2. That alternate direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The projects outlined in this update have been accounted for in the budget process resulting in no additional costs.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Continuing to work on Emergency Services priority projects supports the strategic priority of "Focus on Service and Organizational Excellence" by recognizing emergency services as a core element of community safety, and through continued support of emergency preparedness within the Regional District of Nanaimo.



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September 17, 2018

Reviewed by:

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