
TO: Electoral Area Services Committee **MEETING:** November 20, 2018
FROM: Catherine Morrison **FILE:** 7130-07 CEPF
 Manager, Emergency Services
SUBJECT: Evacuation Route Planning Grant – Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the grant application by the Regional District of Nanaimo for \$25,000 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the completion of Evacuation Route Planning for Electoral Area E be endorsed.
2. That the grant application by the Regional District of Nanaimo on behalf of the District of Lantzville for \$25,000 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the completion Evacuation Route Planning for the District of Lantzville be endorsed.

SUMMARY

Efficient and safe evacuation routes are needed for the movement of people, livestock, animals and personal property from an area of imminent or actual threat to an area of safety. Successful and detailed planning is the key to effectively executed evacuations when an event occurs that requires these actions.

BACKGROUND

In October 2017, Union of British Columbia (UBCM) introduced the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, intended to enhance resiliency of local governments in responding to emergencies. Funding streams are available for four categories, including Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), Emergency Social Services (ESS), Evacuation Route Planning, and Flood Planning and Mitigation. Each funding category has different application deadlines. The Regional District of Nanaimo applied for Flood Mapping in October 2017, ESS funding in November 2017, EOC funding in January 2018 and are now applying for Evacuation Route Planning funding.

In the 2010 a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed for the Nanoose Bay, Lantzville and Nanoose First Nations, as it was recognized that there is an extreme fire hazard in Electoral Area E. The Plan was also recognized that residents within rural areas will experience delayed emergency response times. As such, Seablush Drive and Morello Road were identified as priority areas in the 2017 and 2018 Operational Plan as requiring evacuation plans. These areas are not only at extreme risk for Wildland Urban Interface, they are rural and suffer delayed response times, in addition to being one road in/one road out communities creating access issues. The Island Highway is the main traffic artery bisecting the communities

and as many as 700 vehicles per hour travel in each direction creating a bottleneck and in some sections, there is no detour route for emergency responders.

While Seablush Drive and Morello Road areas were identified as priorities in the Operational Plan, the CWPP demonstrates a need for evacuation route planning for the entire Electoral Area E, District of Lantzville and Nanoose First Nations.

The District of Lantzville and the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) are both eligible to apply for grant funding for the project. The District of Lantzville has a signed Emergency Planning Services Agreement with the RDN and Schedule A of the agreement indicates that the RDN can apply for and manage various related grant programs and funding initiatives. The District of Lantzville supports the RDN applying for the evacuation route grant on their behalf and have included a letter of support. Nanoose First Nations is not eligible to apply for grant funding but have indicated via email response their willingness to collaborate on the project. The collaboration between the District of Lantzville, the RDN and Nanoose First Nations will increase funding and provide the ability for a more comprehensive plan with coordinated multi agency response to evacuation needs.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the grant application by the Regional District of Nanaimo for \$25,000 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the completion of Evacuation Route Planning for Electoral Area E be endorsed.
2. That the grant application by the Regional District of Nanaimo on behalf of the District of Lantzville for \$25,000 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the completion Evacuation Route Planning for the District of Lantzville be endorsed.
3. That the Board provide alternate direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications for this project are primarily around staff time and meeting with community associations and stakeholders to host events and drills to develop and to familiarize those with a role in the execution of the Evacuation Route Plans. The Regional District Emergency Services has projected funds for ten community events per year in addition to funds allocated for training exercises. There should be minimal financial implications as such events are accounted for in our planning.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The completion of Evacuation Route Plans in these site-specific areas will greatly enhance relationships with these communities and aligns with the 2016-2020 Board Strategic Plan priorities of: Focus on Relationships. In addition, the project aligns with the Strategic Plan priorities of: Focus on Service and Organizational Excellence in terms that the Regional District Emergency Services would address existing challenges to effectively execute evacuations and promote community safety.



Catherine Morrison
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October 30, 2018

Reviewed by:

- D. Pearce, Director, Transportation and Emergency Services
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 DoL Letter of Support