
TO: Committee of the Whole **MEETING:** July 9, 2019
FROM: Jeannie Bradburne **FILE:** 1855-04-COWO
 Director of Finance
SUBJECT: Community Works Fund Status Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board receive the 2019 Community Works Funds Projects list (Attachment 1).

SUMMARY

A list of Board approved Community Works Fund (CWF) projects and information on eligible project categories is provided. Attachment 1 provides a list of current CWF funded projects by electoral area, Attachment 2 provides a list of eligible project categories, and Attachment 3 provides a list of completed CWF projects from 2014 to 2018.

BACKGROUND

The renewed Gas Tax Agreement (GTA) between Canada, British Columbia and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), and the 2014-2024 CWF Agreement between the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and UBCM took effect April 1, 2014. Under these agreements, local governments receive annual transfers which may be used for local priorities to improve public infrastructure. The current Agreement is in place until 2024. In 2019, based on per capita amounts for the electoral area population, \$1,744,404 before interest is expected for the RDN.

As a result of the Board decision made in 2007, each RDN electoral area is allocated funds based on population. Municipalities within the RDN receive funds separately from UBCM under the CWF program. The CWF program is separate from the application-based Strategic Priorities Fund, which provides funding for projects that are larger in scale, regional in impact, or innovative in nature.

The projects listed in Attachment 1 include the development of community water and sewer systems, recreation and parks infrastructure, building upgrades and the implementation of official community plan initiatives.

Some of the projects include a transfer of funding to third parties such as improvement districts and not-for-profit associations. In those cases, agreements are completed with the recipients to ensure compliance with the overarching GTAs signed by the RDN with UBCM and by UBCM with British Columbia and Canada.

Costs such as land purchases, legal costs and operating/administrative costs remain ineligible for funding under the gas tax funding program. There is an expectation included in the agreements by the federal and provincial governments that the ultimate recipients (local governments and other eligible entities) are required to “work to strengthen” asset management during the term of the Agreement.

CWF projects that are complete are shown in Attachment 3. From 2014 to 2018, projects that have been completed total \$4,131,199 of investment into our community.

The Government of Canada announced that they would be making a one-time bonus payment to occur in the 2019/20 year. An additional payment of \$1,756,237 is expected to occur in the summer of 2019, but at the time of writing this report, a transfer schedule has not been confirmed by Canada. This payment has been excluded from the Financial Implications in this report because of the difference in fiscal years with the Government of Canada and the ability for this payment to occur in 2020.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Board approved the Community Works Funds program project list included in Attachment 1.
2. Other direction, as provided by the Board.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2019, the RDN will receive \$1,744,404 in CWF base funding, which is added to the existing balance and will accrue interest during the year. The Board previously decided to allocate \$50,000 of the funding annually for cross-area projects and the remaining balance to the electoral areas on a per capita basis. Allocations are based on 2016 census data.

The following table sets out estimated balances available by area.

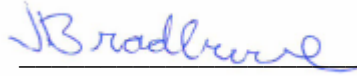
	Jan 1, 2019 Opening Balance	2019 Allocation	2019 Budget	Dec 31, 2019 Projected Closing Balance
Base Funding	\$196,800	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$226,800
Electoral Area A	\$1,934,858	\$328,858	\$1,346,500	\$917,215
Electoral Area B	\$873,195	\$170,276	\$852,499	\$190,972
Electoral Area C	\$1,000,246	\$118,556	\$61,288	\$1,057,514
Electoral Area E	\$937,175	\$268,313	\$954,758	\$250,730
Electoral Area F	\$2,137,413	\$326,113	\$1,378,962	\$1,084,564
Electoral Area G	\$2,094,125	\$315,178	\$313,611	\$2,095,692
Electoral Area H	\$212,201	\$167,110	\$352,264	\$27,046
Total	\$9,386,012	\$1,744,404	\$5,279,883	\$5,850,533

In 2019, \$5,279,883 is budgeted to be spent. Use of CWFs allows for projects to be completed which would not otherwise be feasible without significant tax increases.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Growth Management - Fully develop our Asset Management Plan.

Community Works Funds supports the Value of Fiscal Responsibility and is used towards supporting other key strategic areas such as Growth Management.



Jeannie Bradburne

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June 24, 2019

Reviewed by:

- D. Wells, General Manager, Corporate Services
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

1. 2019 Community Works Fund Projects
2. Community Works Funds Eligible Project Categories
3. Community Works Funds Completed 2014 - 2018