



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: FN-BRD-069

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: April 15, 2021

Subject: Service Establishment – Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark

OPTIONS: [Corporate Unweighted]

1. That the Regional Board approve the establishment of a service function for the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark; further, that a regional Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark establishment bylaw be drafted for consideration by the Regional Board as the next step in the service establishment process.
2. That the Regional Board refuse the establishment of a service function for the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

At the February 17, 2021 Special Board meeting, the following resolutions were made:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED

That the Regional Board consider Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark Society for the establishment of a Geopark service function in the region.

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED

That the Regional Board receive a report on funding models for the proposed museum, geopark and hockey event service functions.

The Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark is a nonprofit society that has brought significant value to the District of Tumbler Ridge and beyond. It has been identified by Destination BC as one of the five “Iconics” of the northern region. UNESCO Geoparks are internationally designated places that are designed to attract visitors ready to explore the unique geological, cultural and natural wonders that they offer.

\$2.2 million dollars of grant funds have been brought into the region in the last five years and are spent within the region on things such as trail improvements, scientific research, educational programs, safety training and the like. In 2019, the Geopark was chosen as one of the areas to hide one of six replica thrones from HBO’s Game of Thrones in their “Iron Throne Scavenger Hunt”. The seven day event resulted in an estimated total economic injection to the District of Tumbler Ridge was between \$871,066 and \$1,054,525.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board consider including funding for Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark in Function 140 – Economic Development, once a strategy has been determined.
2. That the Regional Board delay its decision regarding establishment of a service function to provide a grant in aid to the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark until the outcome of current discussions between the Geopark Society and the Tumbler Ridge Museum Society regarding potential amalgamation of the two societies is known.
3. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Since 2014, the total PRRD grant contribution paid to Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark Society (TRGGS) is \$660,000. A total of \$630,000 was paid from Function 140, Economic Development and \$30,000 was paid from Function 275, Grants to Community Organizations. TRGGS demonstrates that the majority of the grant funds are used to support core operational costs such as wages and administration. All grant funding provided was issued to support operational expenses. See the list of grants paid by the PRRD below.

2018 - 2020 (\$125,000/year)	\$375,000
2017	\$ 55,000
2015	\$200,000
2014	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
Total	\$660,000

Based on 2021's Completed Assessment roll, if this service function was a regional function and the maximum requisition was \$150,000 based on Land & Improvements, the tax rate would be approximately \$0.0046 / \$1,000.

If the same requisition amount was applied (\$150,000) to Improvements only, the tax rate would be \$0.0058 / \$1,000.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Tumbler Ridge Museum and Global Geopark have started to explore the possibility of amalgamation of the two societies. The initial action phase is expected to take approximately 8 months. The Board may wish to delay establishment of a service function for one or both groups until the outcome of this process is known; funding the Geopark may lead to funding the Museum if they combine, or vice versa.

Attachments:

1. Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark Impact Summary