



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ENV-BRD-151

From: Daris Gillis, Environmental Services Manager

Date: October 5, 2023

Subject: Peace River Regional District Water Conservation Plan

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board receive the report titled “Peace River Regional District Water Conservation Plan ENV-BRD-151” which includes the attached report titled ‘Water Conservation Plan’, completed by Integrated Sustainability, for inclusion in future grant applications pertaining to water and wastewater projects.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

At the December 2, 2021, Regional Board meeting, the following resolution was made:

MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED

That the Regional Board authorize a report to be brought back to a future Electoral Area Directors Committee meeting identifying possible grant funding that may be available to assist the Regional District to develop a Water Conservation Plan.

On February 17, 2022, the Electoral Area Directors Committee made the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED

That the Electoral Area Directors Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize the submission of a grant application to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs Local Government Infrastructure Planning Grant Program for a grant of up to \$10,000 for the development of a Regional Water Conservation Plan; further, that a report be brought to a future Rural Budgets Administration Committee to commit financial resources to cover ineligible expenses, and the remaining eligible costs above the eligible grant.

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) was previously unqualified to apply to provincial and federal grant programs because it did not have an eligible water conservation plan. Water Conservation Planning is a prerequisite for most provincial and federal grant programs related to water and wastewater. It was recommended by the PRRD grant administrators that the PRRD spend the time to develop the necessary plan. The PRRD allocated funding and applied for a provincial planning grant to fund the development of a plan based on the Regional Board’s resolutions. PRRD received the provincial grant and development of the plan was awarded to Integrated Sustainability. Integrated Sustainability has developed the attached Water Conservation Plan document. The document provides an outline of measures the PRRD can utilize to support water conservation in the region. This plan may be updated based on the outcomes of the Regional Growth Strategy.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Asset and Infrastructure Management
 - Identify Funding and Investment Strategies

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

A funding allocation of \$20,000 was earmarked in the 2023 Function 120 – Legislative Electoral Areas budget to cover the costs of developing the plan. The planning grant was awarded at \$8,900. The PRRD will have to fund the remaining \$11,100 of expenses from the allocated amount in the Function 120 budget.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Water Conservation Plan