



# REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-023

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: September 3, 2020

**Subject: Grant Request – Cutbank Community Club**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee approve a grant in the amount of \$40,806.87, payable from Community Works Gas Tax, to be issued to Cutbank Community Club to assist with the Exterior Façade Improvement project for the Cutbank Community Hall.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

In the spring of 2019, Cutbank Community Club embarked on a major renovation project for the Cutbank Community Hall. The project plan consisted of the addition of a large storage room and vestibule area, accessibility upgrades to all entrances, expansion of a covered patio area, and new energy efficient siding. The project was to be completed in phases carried out over a two year timeframe for a total estimated cost of \$140,000. Funding was secured in the amount of \$50,000 from Northern Development Initiative Trust, Community Halls and Recreation Facilities and \$23,000 from Farm Credit Canada (FCC) AgriSpirit. Unfortunately, little progress has been made on the renovation project to date, largely due to a change in the project lead and the shuffling of roles within the society.

As a result of this scenario, the approaching deadline on the FCC AgriSpirit grant of December 31, 2021, and the short falls created as a result of the current pandemic, the society decided to reassess their priorities and came up with the new Exterior Façade Improvements project. The new project consists of the installation of new siding, the application of stonework, new soffits, fascia and downspouts and upgrades to the hall's main entrance and has a budget of \$63,806.87. The society will use the FCC AgriSpirit grant of \$23,000 for this project and is requesting that the Regional District support the remaining funds of \$40,806.87. The society had planned to contribute \$18,545.98 of their own funds for this project; however, they now feel these funds need to be set aside to use as emergency funds to make up for any shortfall in revenue due to the hardships and financial uncertainty as a result of COVID-19.

The Regional District has been providing grant funding to Cutbank Community Club dating back to 2006. The society has received the following grant funding in 2020:

- January 2020 - \$19,273.43 (Community Works Gas Tax) for upgrades to the existing water/sump pump systems and the installation of a new commercial dishwasher.
- January 2020 - \$11,385.35 (Peace River Agreements) for electrical work required at the hall to support new heaters and lighting.
- April 2020 - \$19,881 (Recreational and Cultural Grants-in-Aid) to assist with operational costs such as insurance, utilities, janitorial services and general maintenance.

Cutbank Community Club is a registered not-for-profit organization in good standing with the *Societies Act*. This project meets the eligibility criteria to be funded using funds from Community Works Gas Tax as it meets the definition of activities under the Recreation Infrastructure project category.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant request from the Cutbank Community Club and provide no grant funding to support the Exterior Façade Improvement project for the Cutbank Community Hall.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

- As of July 31, 2020, the balance available after remaining commitments in the Community Works Gas Tax Reserve fund was \$6,241,346.80.
- Grant contributions provided using Community Works Gas Tax funds are payable through claim reimbursement in order to meet the mandatory requirements for the annual expenditure reporting process.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

The applicant will be advised in writing of the Committee's decision and, if approved, asked to recognize the Regional District for its financial contribution.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None.

**Attachments:**

1. Grant Application – Cutbank Community Club
2. Gas Tax Grant Funding Policy (RBAC Funding Policies)
3. Community Works Fund – Eligible Project Categories