



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-092

From: Paulo Eichelberger, GM of Environmental Services

Date: October 15, 2020

**Subject: October 15, 2020 Rural Budgets Administration Committee Meeting Recommendations**

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The following recommendations from the October 15, 2020 Rural Budgets Administration Committee meeting are being presented to the Regional Board for its consideration:

**RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board endorse the "Water Conservation in the Peace River Regional District" plan, dated August 2018, in support of the grant application to "Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - British Columbia - Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure" for the construction of a reclaim water system at the Charlie Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility.

**RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board authorize submission of a grant application in the amount of \$2,000,000 for the construction of a reclaim water system at the Charlie Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility to the "Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - British Columbia - Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure" stream; further

That the Regional Board commit funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 to be paid from Electoral Area C Peace River Agreement Funds to the Charlie Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

The Regional District previously submitted an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program in 2018 towards the design and construction of a water reclaim facility at the Charlie Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility (the Facility). 26.67% of the potential project cost (or \$533,400) of Electoral Area C Peace River Agreement (PRA) money was committed towards the Facility in 2018 and is still on the books. As that particular grant application was unsuccessful, these monies need to be reassigned.

The Regional District awarded design of the reclaim water facility to Urban Systems on August 13, 2020. Part of the work includes compiling a pre-design to submit for a new grant application into the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure<sup>1</sup> (ICIP), due October 22, 2020. The project is deemed eligible under this grant as one of the stated outcomes is to "increase capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater."

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<sup>1</sup> Grant application deadline is October 22, 2020 at 11:59pm.

The applicant must show that they can commit to at least 50% of the costs of construction. Based on estimates to date, the revised estimate for construction of the Facility is expected to be approximately \$2,000,000. To that end, it is recommended that the Rural Budgets Administration Committee (RBAC) authorize \$1,000,000 for construction of the water reclaim facility. This financial amount of \$1,000,000 will be reflected in the grant application.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Organizational Effectiveness
- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

Reserve Summary:

- PRA Reserve Area C:
  - (Uncommitted) \$2,771,800
  - (Currently committed) \$533,400
  - Total - **\$3,305,200**
- Other Available Reserves:
  - Gas Tax (Uncommitted) \$6,852,861
  - Fair Share Area C (Uncommitted) \$1,088,065

All stated reserves are applicable for capital infrastructure designed as an improvement to the rural community.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

1. The Regional District previously submitted a grant for funding for “Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - British Columbia – Green Infrastructure Grant” on Feb 26, 2020. The results of this grant have been delayed to spring 2021. If approved, funding of a capital project can only occur if the works have not been tendered out for construction.
2. The Charlie Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility operates under Municipal Wastewater Regulation discharge #108540. In order for the reclaim facility to operate, a separate discharge authorization from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MoECCS) is required. This will take some time to process and get approval.
3. Deadline for projects to be completed and operating under either program is five years after grant approval.
4. The grant application requires a copy of Board endorsement of a water conservation plan.

Given the above constraints, it is expected that detailed designs and associated tender packages will be completed in 2021 but tendering and construction will not occur until 2022.

Attachments:

1. Water Conservation in the Peace River Regional District Plan
2. RBAC Report: Charlie Lake Reclaim Water Facility - Funds Securement - ENV-RBAC-002