



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: ENV-RBAC-002

From: Paulo Eichelberger, GM of Environmental Services

Date: October 15, 2020

Subject: Charlie Lake Reclaim Water Facility – Funds Securement

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee release \$533,400 from Peace River Agreement funds previously committed by the following resolution at the July 19, 2018 RBAC meeting:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee commit funding for the portion of the Charlie Lake Reclaimed Water Facility project that is not eligible under the Canada-British Columbia Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program-Green Infrastructure: Environmental Quality Sub-stem Program, estimated at 26.67% of the total project cost, which is up to a maximum of \$2 million

RECOMMENDATION #2:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee approve a commitment of \$1,000,000, payable from Electoral Area C Peace River Agreement Funds - Spending Item #9 PRRD Sewer Services Assistance, to the Charlie Lake Sewer for the construction of a reclaim water system at the Charlie Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility.

RECOMMENDATION #3:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee recommend 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 #4:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize a grant application for \$2,000,000 for the construction of a reclaim water system at the Charlie Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility be submitted to the "Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - British Columbia - Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure"; 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 Infrastructure¹ (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.”

The applicant must show that they can commit to at least 50% of the costs of construction. Based on estimates to date, the revised construction estimate 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 Rural Budgets Administration Committee 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 identified.

¹ Grant application deadline is October 22, 2020 at 11:59pm.

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.

Attachment

1. Water Conservation in the Peace River Regional District Plan