



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-592

From: Committee Name

Date: April 10, 2025

Subject: Rural Budgets Administration Committee Recommendations from March 27, 2025

The following recommendations from the Rural Budgets Administration Committee meeting held on March 27, 2025 are presented to the Regional Board for consideration:

RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board adopt the amended Rural Recreational and Cultural Grants-In-Aid Policy No. 0340-61 which amendments include:

- change the annual allocation meeting attendance requirement from ‘all applicants’ to ‘applicants requested by the Director’;
- change the allocation determination from ‘consensus’ to ‘the Director’;
- add a policy definition for ‘maintenance’ for clarity;
- clarify the process for unspent funds;
- add capital as an eligible expense;
- added West to the title of Schedule M to match the rest of the Schedule;
- change Area B to either bursary or scholarship to reflect past practice; and
- list and attach all Schedules to the policy.

RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board adopt the amended Community Works Gas Tax Grant Policy, which aligns the policy with the newly signed 2024-2034 Community Works Fund Agreement and the Community Works Fund Program Guide.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The draft minutes of the Rural Budgets Administration Committee meeting held on March 27, 2025 are provided on the Consent Calendar of this meeting agenda.

Recommendation #1

Please [click here](#) to access the Rural Budgets Administration Committee Agenda and see Item # 8.6 titled “Rural Recreational & Cultural Grants in Aid Policy Amendment, FN-RBAC-366” to review the report and the attachment titled “DRAFT Rural Recreation and Cultural Grants- in- Aid Policy 0340-61”.

Recommendation #2

Please [click here](#) to access the Rural Budgets Administration Committee Agenda and see Item # 8.7 titled “Community Works Gas Tax Grant Policy Amendment, FN- RBAC-361”to review the report and attachments.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):Recommendation #1

None at this time.

Recommendation #2

The UBCM requires recipients to spend CWF funding within 5 years of receipt unless longer timelines are identified in a long-term capital plan or long-term financial plan which has been submitted to UBCM in advance of the spending deadline.

Any unspent CWF funds held from the 2014-2024 programs will be required to be spent within five years of entering into the 2024-2034 CWF Agreement. On December 31, 2024 there was a balance of \$6,427,132.60 in the Gas Tax Reserve. This balance must be spent by April 2029.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):Recommendation #1

The amended policy will be posted on the PRRD website.

Recommendation #2

The changes to funding eligibility are being implemented by the funder and are not the choice of the PRRD Board. The PRRD will inform all future applicants of the updated eligibility and reporting requirements.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):Recommendation #1

None at this time.

Recommendation #2

Existing funds that are carried over are now considered “new” and subject to the terms and conditions of the new agreement. Projects that were started prior to March 31, 2024 (the end of the previous agreement) can still receive funding until completion. The PRRD has nine projects that were approved on April 25, 2024, shortly after March 31, 2024 that do not include the required resolution. UBCM has stated that ‘3rd party projects approved, in good faith, in the time between agreements are ok to go ahead.’ To mitigate impacts to non-profit groups affected by the changes, the Board could initiate capital planning processes that identify third party infrastructure as PRRD priorities. The Board could also provide asset management for the third party assets created. However, this will require additional financial and staff resources.