



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-031

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Date: January 14, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Resilience Grant – North Peace Leisure Pool Air Handling Unit

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board approve that a grant application be submitted in the amount of up to \$670,000 to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream for the replacement of the air handling unit at the North Peace Leisure Pool and that the Regional Board commits to any ineligible costs and cost overruns associated with the project (to come from capital reserves), should the application be successful.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Air Handling Unit Replacement Project:

In December 2019 a mechanical assessment of the facility was completed. At that time it was identified that the air handling unit was in need of replacement and had reached the end of its useful life. As such, the “air quality in the pool varies from acceptable to unacceptable” which can force the shutdown of the facility and can contribute to the erosion of equipment.

Further, the natatorium heat recovery ventilator is located on the roof of the building which has been identified as a concern by WorkSafe BC in terms of accessing it for repairs and maintenance. If the system is replaced and remains on the roof, additional work may be required to support the unit and ensure that access meets WorkSafe BC requirements.

Finally, the December 2019 report urgently recommends that the slide tower exhaust fan be replaced. The situation is that a combination of increased water agitation due to the addition of a second waterslide, coupled with no additional airflow from the space has led to poor air quality in the slide tower.

In 2020 the City tendered the replacement of the air handling unit, however, the tenders received far exceeded the budgeted amount of \$125,000 and as such the replacement was not conducted in 2020 during the pool shut down. \$670,000 has been budgeted in 2021 in the capital plan to complete this project and if successful in obtaining the grant then capital reserves and 2020 capital surplus being carried forward would not need to be used.

If the Regional Board approves the submission of the grant application, PRRD staff will work with City of Fort St John staff to submit the application by the January 27, 2021 deadline. Note that the City is also working with Urban Systems on a similar grant application for the North Peace Arena and they will provide support to this grant application as well.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream

The COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) is a component of the overarching Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) which provides provincial and federal funding capital projects. CVRIS will support infrastructure projects that provide retrofits, repairs and upgrades to local government and indigenous buildings. One of the goals of the ICIP is to create long-term economic growth and by funding for infrastructure projects at this time, that will help support that goal and the economic challenges being experienced by local economies.

Regional Districts may submit one application for each Electoral Area, in addition to, one application from the Regional District for a sub-regional or regional service. Up to 100% of the cost of the project may be funded if successful. If the grant application is not successful, it is proposed that the project be funded through capital reserve and any capital surpluses from 2020.

In order to be eligible for this grant, projects must be shovel ready and be able to be completed by December 31, 2021 or December 31, 2022 for remote communities.

Note in November 2020 the Board received a grant of \$700,000 from the Province for the COVID Safe Restart Grant. As per the report to the Regional Board in December 2020, the funds cannot be used for new capital projects that are not directly related to COVID-19 (such as this as it was a pre-existing project) and as such it is appropriate to apply for the ICIP grant which, if successful, can be used for this project.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board decline to submit a grant application for up to \$670,000 to the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Program for the replacement of the air handling unit at the North Peace Leisure Pool.
2. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Partnerships
- ☒ Collaboration with Local and First Nations governments

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

In 2020 \$125,000 was budgeted to replace the air handling unit at the North Peace Leisure Pool. When tenders were received they far exceeded this budgeted amount. A more recent and local quote for the system has been obtained and it is estimated at \$568,512 which does not include all costs of the replacement. \$670,000 has been included in the draft budget for the North Peace Leisure Pool, which also includes costs for structural modifications and engineering to the building and contingency.

If the application is successful, the grant will save the taxpayers up to \$670,000. If the grant is not successful the replacement will be funded through capital reserves and the 2020 capital surplus.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The City of Fort St John will also be replacing the North Peace Arena's air handling unit in 2021. The Board may wish to consider partnering with the City to tender the North Peace Leisure Pool's air handling unit at the same time as the arena's in order to seek possible cost and time efficiencies.

External Links:

- 1) Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – [COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream](#)