



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-075

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: April 22, 2021

Subject: Grant Request – Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark Society

OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize grant contribution of \$125,000, payable from Electoral Area B, C, D, and E Fair Share in equal amounts of \$31,250, to be issued to Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark Society to assist with operational costs.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize grant contribution of \$35,000, payable from Electoral Area B, C, D, and E Peace River Agreements, Spending Item #4 (Assistance to Other Organizations) in equal amounts of 31,250, to be issued to Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark Society to assist with operational costs.
3. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark Society and provide no grant funding to assist with operational costs.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The grant request from Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark (TRGGS) is being brought forward for discussion to provide Rural Budgets Administration Committee an opportunity to jointly consider the request, determine its merit and whether or not the grant application will be supported. The objective of this report is to present information to RBAC to assist with determining the following:

1. Approval of a grant contribution, the amount and funding source; or
2. Rejection of the grant application for reasons identified by the Committee.

TRGGS is requesting a one-time rural grant contribution of \$125,000 to assist with operational costs of the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark for their fiscal year of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Grant funding, if provided will be used to support wages and mandatory operational costs. TRGGS indicates in their grant application that due to the Regional Board's inability to legally provide Regional Grants-in-Aid in 2021, they have been impacted and it has created a financial shortfall in their budget.

Since 2014, TRGGS has been in receipt of regional grant funds to support core operational costs such as wages and administration. A total of \$660,000 has been issued as outlined below.

2018 - 2020	\$375,000 (\$125,000/year)
2017	\$ 55,000
2015	\$200,000

2014 \$ 30,000

At the Regional Board meeting held on January 28, 2021, TRGGS attended as a delegation where they provided a review of their activities and spending for the 2020/21 operating year and what they will strive for in the 2021/22 operating year. A link to that presentation has been provided at the end of this report should you wish to review it. TRGGS also presented the same information as a delegation to the Electoral Area Directors Committee at their meeting held on February 18, 2021. The Regional Board is now considering the establishment of a service function to support TRGGS. On February 17, 2021 the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED

That the Regional Board consider Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark Society for the establishment of a Geopark service function in the region.

TRGGS is a not-for-profit society in good standing with the *Societies Act of BC*. Please refer to the attached grant application to see more detailed information on the grant request.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Rural grant contributions may be provided from Fair Share or Peace River Agreements, Spending Item #4 – Assistance to Organizations. The table below outlines the balance after remaining commitments for each reserve per each Electoral Area as of March 31, 2021.

Electoral Area	Fair Share	Peace River Agreement
Area B	\$ 721,567.04	(\$ 2,864.50)
Area C	\$ 911,887.50	\$1,519,261.59
Area D	\$2,075,140.22	(\$ 130,360.91)
Area E	\$2,088,395.01	\$1,722,067.21

Area B and Area D are currently in a deficit balance for PRA, however, the PRA payment for 2021 will be received by April 30th, 2021 and will no longer be in a deficit balance.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

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

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. 2021 Grant Application – Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark

External Links:

1. Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark, Update on Activities – [See Item 7.2](#)
2. Establishment of Service Functions – [See Item 5.1](#)