

**REPORT TO THE ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE 2007**

SUBJECT Galiano Island Community Wildfire Protection Plan Grant

PURPOSE/ISSUE

The purpose of this report is to request Board endorsement for the grant application by the Galiano Island Fire departments to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan program.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

This program is administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for the Ministry of Forests & Range to clarify and refine priorities for the protection of life, property and critical infrastructure in the wild-land urban interface. The grant is for 50 % of eligible costs to a maximum of \$15,000. The amount being applied for is \$15,000. Funding has been provided by the provincial Ministry of Forests and Range under the Community Wildfire Protection Plans program since 2003 to assist local governments in developing plans to identify fire hazards posed by forest fuels and outline steps required for communities to improve fire prevention and protection in wild-land urban interface areas. The CRD is responsible for funding the balance of the eligible costs and any ineligible costs. Eligible costs may include in-kind contributions from staff and volunteers and use of local government resources.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1) That the Board approve the submission of the grant application.
- 2) That the Board not approve the submission of the grant application.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Galiano Island Fire departments could save a minimum of 50% of the cost of preparing a plan if approval is received on the grant application. While there are no other immediate financial implications, the island faces increased risk of property damage and loss of life if a plan is not developed and implemented.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The grant will provide funds to offset the cost of providing a plan to improve community safety and reduce the risk of property damage from wildfires.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the submission of the grant application for the Galiano Island Community Wildfire Protection Plan program.

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