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**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013**

**SUBJECT COMMUNITY WORKS FUND ALLOCATION - SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS
(SGI) LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM AND AGRICULTURE STRATEGY**

ISSUE

The need for a Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) local food system and agriculture strategy

BACKGROUND

The SGI Community Economic Development Commission (SGI-CEDC) was established in early 2012 to facilitate community development that fosters the SGI's economic, environmental and social sustainability. Initially, the Commission identified six strategic priorities:

1. Social Finance
2. Transportation Planning
3. Experience the Gulf Islands (ETGI)
4. Broadband Infrastructure Improvements
5. Education
6. Resource Inventory

In addition, the Commission's preliminary discussions with various stakeholders raised a seventh priority - local food system and agriculture – as well as issues and questions about the role, governance and strategic focus of the SGI-CEDC.

At its meeting of May 25, 2013, the SGI-CEDC identified development of a local food system and agriculture strategy as an immediate priority. Funding for this initiative is estimated at \$66,000, which can be sourced from the SGI's allotment of Gas Tax Community Works Funds (GT-CWF). The SGI Electoral Area Director supports this request.

The Regional Planning office will provide for the administration of the food system and agriculture strategy and will ensure it aligns with the in-progress CRD food system sub-strategy as well as the Salt Spring Island food system strategy. Regional Planning's specific project contributions and oversight responsibilities are outlined in Attachment 1. A fee for these services of \$6000 (10% of the project cost) is included in the proposed initiative's total cost of \$66,000.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Board authorize a contribution of \$66,000 from the Southern Gulf Islands' (SGI) portion of the Gas Tax Community Works Fund to prepare a Southern Gulf Islands Local Food System and Agriculture Strategy by September 30, 2014.
2. That CRD staff determine an alternative source of funds for this planning initiative.

IMPLICATIONS

Administrative

The proposed project aligns with the Food Systems Sub-strategy that is currently underway as part of Capital Regional District's (CRD) Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS).

The SGI Electoral Area Director, with assistance from Regional Planning, will be responsible for managing the project under the SGI-CEDC's guidance.

Economic

The proposed project fits within the Capacity Building category of the GT funding program. The required funding is available in the SGI's allotment of GT-CWF.

CONCLUSION

The newly formed SGI-CEDC has identified seven strategic priorities to include in an economic development plan for the SGI. At its meeting of May 25, 2013, the SGI-CEDC identified the development of an SGI Local Food System and Agriculture Strategy as an immediate priority.

This project requires a budget of \$66,000. The SGI Electoral Area Director, with assistance from Regional Planning, will be responsible for managing the project under the SGI-CEDC's guidance. To fund this project, the SGI Electoral Area Director is seeking an allocation of \$66,000 from the SGI's portion of GT-CWF for which the project is grant-eligible under the *Capacity Building* category of the GT program.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Electoral Area Services Committee recommend:

That the Board authorize a contribution of \$66,000 from the Southern Gulf Islands' (SGI) portion of the Gas Tax Community Works Fund to prepare a Southern Gulf Islands Local Food System and Agriculture Strategy by September 31, 2014.

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ATTACHMENT 1

The following services will be provided by Regional Planning to the SGI Food System and Agriculture Strategy for a fee of \$6,000.00 (10% of project cost).

Project Management:

- Review project terms of reference
- Prepare and tender request for proposals
- Consultant selection
- Regular communications with consultant regarding project progress, budget, timing and communications/engagement.

Alignment:

- Ensure alignment with CRD Food System sub-strategy
- Consider alignment with CRD Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS) and other sub-strategies like Climate Change, as appropriate
- Monitoring indicators

Contributions:

- Agriculture and food-related data – GIS, Census, other relevant food system strategies
- Information sharing – in-progress CRD Food System sub-strategy and RSS agricultural policies, relevant policies from other jurisdictions
- Input on appropriate monitoring indicators