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REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

SUBJECT 2020 Community Works Fund Annual Report

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the Community Works Fund (CWF) activity for the period of January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

BACKGROUND

Community Works Funds are provided under the Administrative Agreement of the Federal Gas Tax Fund in BC (Gas Tax Agreement) with funding distributed to local governments based on population. The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) is the program administrator. The CRD has been recipients of CWF under two agreements from 2006–2013 and 2014–2024. Appendix A provides a current summary of funds and balances.

CWF received by the District is re-allocated to the three Electoral Areas (EA): Juan de Fuca (JDF), Salt Spring Island (SSI), and Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) on a per capita basis. To distribute CWF funding, the CRD reviews applications from third parties and CRD services in their respective EA throughout the year. Applications are subject to meeting the program's eligibility criteria, availability of funds, and must receive EA Director support. CWF funds are not required to be spent in the year they are received.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

To help communities recover from COVID-19, in 2020 the federal government accelerated payment and provided funds in a single payment rather than the customary two payments.

Grants Activity Overview

Tables 1 and 2 provide an overview of CWF allocations and activity to EAs in 2020 comparative to 2019. Appendix B details CWF applications that were awarded in 2020. Appendix C provides a further breakdown of CWF awarded by eligible project category and recipient type.

Table 1: Distribution of CWF Funds to EAs

EA	Population	%	2020 Allocation	2019 Allocation
JDF	4,860	24%	\$271,227	\$548,026
SSI	10,557	52%	\$589,165	\$1,190,436
SGI	4,732	24%	\$244,083	\$533,593
Total	20,149¹	100%	\$1,104,475	\$2,272,055²

¹ These numbers are derived using 2016 population statistics.

² 2019 CWF funding included two installments and a bonus payment.

Table 2: CWF Funding Awarded to Projects

EA	2020		2019	
	# of Applications	Amount Awarded	# of Applications	Amount Awarded
JDF	11	\$722,555	6	\$156,500
SSI	8	\$436,400	11	\$559,734
SIG	8	\$244,449	15	\$420,889
Total	27	\$1,403,404	32	\$1,137,123

CONCLUSION

The 2020 Community Works Fund Annual Report provides a summary of funding activity in 2020. CRD services and eligible third parties can access CWF funding through an application process. Funds are used within the framework that sets out project categories, eligibility, and requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
 That the 2020 Community Works Fund Annual Report be received for information.

Submitted by:	Lia Xu, MSc., CPA, CGA, Finance Manager, Local Services
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Appendix A: CWF Funding Assigned to Projects and Balance Remaining by Electoral Area, April 1, 2006 – December 31, 2020
- Appendix B: 2020 Community Works Fund Grants Awarded
- Appendix C: 2020 Community Works Fund Detailed Breakdown by Electoral Area