



STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

DATE OF REPORT October 14, 2020
MEETING TYPE & DATE Regional Services Committee Meeting of October 28, 2020
FROM: Environmental Services Division
Engineering Services Department
SUBJECT: Drinking Water and Watershed Program Partnership Policy
FILE: 0540-20-RS/02

PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to recommend supporting policy for the Drinking Water and Watershed Programs (DWWP) partnership development process.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

That it be recommended to the Board that the Drinking Water and Watershed Program Partnership Policy attached to the October 28, 2020 Environmental Services staff report be approved.

BACKGROUND

On March 11 2020, the Board approved the new DWWP One Water/One Region ten-year implementation strategy.

This strategy includes the recognition of the importance of community-based partnerships to fulfill the objectives of the program particularly given the limited resources available to the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and the scope of the program. Based on discussions with the community in the development of the strategy and high-level workplan, there are multiple opportunities to partner with various community groups in a number of areas including but not limited to data collection, analysis and education. Where partnerships are proposed for activities outside of these areas, a staff report and workplan will be brought forward for Board approval as part of the annual budget cycle.

The CVRD has a standardized purchasing policy which does not take into consideration the value of partnerships and different fiscal models to achieve the program goals. The DWWP Partnership Policy will allow the CVRD to work collaboratively with community groups to meet those goals while also providing for a mechanism to fiscally support the identified partners to do so.

The budget for the DWWP program is roughly organized into four areas: organizational, water quality, water supply and stewardship and education. Supportive funding for the partnership work would be focused in these areas and be summarily classified as consulting expenses as the outputs are in line with the approved strategy.

ANALYSIS

The DWWP program is not a granting program; it has clear objectives that were communicated to the public during the referendum as well as a ten-year strategy and summary workplan approved by the Board in 2020. The strategy also recognizes the importance of partnerships in meeting those publicly-approved goals.

The development of long-term relationships and partnerships with other organizations such as the province, environmental groups and the community are necessary to fulfill the objectives of the program given the financial resources that are available.

It is also recognized that we will likely rely heavily on community groups to be engaged and support the program in the long term particularly for data collection. The policy is intended to provide the CVRD with a transparent mechanism to support community groups in helping the CVRD achieve its goals by providing fiscal support where needed or leverage existing programs where possible. This policy will also allow for the transparency required in the payment of funds to community groups for services required and ensure that the program meets the needs of the larger community.

The policy is framed around development of agreements for the delivery of services for purposes of transparency and fiscal program management.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct fiscal considerations. The policy supports the effective development of the programs annual budget and transparency in how funds are expended.

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

Upon approval of the policy by the Board, the policy will be communicated to our partners as well as the general public.

STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

This program is in alignment with current Board-approved strategic priorities.


GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

☐ Not Applicable

Referred to (upon completion):

- ☐ Communications & Engagement
- ☐ Community Services (*Cowichan Community Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Arts & Culture, Public Safety, Facilities & Transit*)
- ☒ Corporate Services (*Finance, Human Resources, Legislative Services, Information Technology, Procurement*)
- ☐ Engineering Services (*Environmental Services, Recycling & Waste Management, Water Management*)
- ☐ Land Use Services (*Community Planning, Development Services, Inspection & Enforcement, Economic Development, Parks & Trails*)

Prepared by:



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Reviewed by:

Not Applicable
Not Applicable



Hamid Hatami, P. Eng.
General Manager

Reviewed for form and content and approved for submission to the Committee:

Resolution:

Financial Considerations:

☒ Manager, Legislative Services

☒ Manager, Finance

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Partnership Policy