



STAFF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

DATE OF REPORT January 14, 2021

MEETING TYPE & DATE Regional Services Committee Meeting of January 27, 2021

FROM: Environmental Services Division
Engineering Services Department

SUBJECT: National Disaster Mitigation Program Grant Application – Youbou Dam Decommissioning Plan

FILE: 0540-20 RS

PURPOSE/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for an application to the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) for a grant to support the development of a dam decommissioning plan.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

That it be recommended to the Board that a grant application in the amount of \$300,000 be submitted to the National Disaster Mitigation Program for the development of a Decommissioning Plan for the Youbou dam.

BACKGROUND

Youbou Creek dam is a concrete gravity dam situated on Youbou Creek approximately 0.5 km north of Cowichan Lake. There is limited information available with respect to the design and construction of Youbou Creek Dam, however it is known that the dam was originally constructed by a nearby sawmill that has since closed. The dam was constructed at some point prior to 1959. Operations of the weir are regulated under the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) license for providing waterworks services. The CVRD no longer needs this infrastructure as they have moved to a groundwater source for this system and the infrastructure is a residual liability.

The BC Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) has currently assigned the Youbou dam a consequences classification rating of “Significant” in terms of the BC Dam Safety Regulation (BC Reg. 40/2016).

ANALYSIS

The NDMP consists of federal and provincial grant funding for four streams of flood-related disaster mitigation. Generally one progresses through the streams in sequence, from risk assessment, through flood mapping, mitigation planning and finally small scale or non-structural mitigation. A preliminary risk assessment has been developed with prior NDMP funding, so the focus of this grant application is on mitigation planning for removal of the Dam.

The 2019 Dam Safety Review and Risk Assessment of Youbou Creek dam indicates that the Youbou dam should be decommissioned as the current structure does not meet design loading criteria.

The goals of the project are consistent with the CVRD Asset Management Climate Risk Assessments and the provincial Integrated Flood Hazard Management program and Dam Safety program. The goals are to:

- reduce or prevent injury, human trauma and loss of life;
- to minimize property damage during flooding events; and

- to reduce CVRD liabilities with regards to its assets.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The NDMP provides 100% funding for eligible projects. The CVRD is committing \$20,000 worth of staff time as an in-kind contribution for project management, project meetings, etc.

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

Public consultation will be a component of the decommission plan development.

STRATEGIC/BUSINESS PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

The development of the dam decommissioning plan supports the CVRD 2020 Corporate Strategy Strategic Focus Areas of Climate Change Action and Mitigation and Management of Infrastructure.

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Not Applicable

Referred to (upon completion):

- Communications & Engagement
- Community Services (*Cowichan Community Centre, Cowichan Lake Recreation, South Cowichan Recreation, Arts & Culture, Emergency Management, 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:

Reviewed by:



Kate Miller, M.Sc., RPP, LEED AP+
Manager

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 –

Attachment B –