

Request for Decision

File No: Ehh 650 065

Date February 4, 2020
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Subject Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – 2020 Flood Planning Program Grant Application

REQUEST

To approve the submission of a Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) grant application to conduct baseline flood hazard mapping across the RDEK.

OPTIONS

1. THAT the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – 2020 Flood Planning Program grant application for \$150,000 be submitted to conduct baseline flood hazard mapping across the region; with the RDEK to provide overall grant administration.
2. THAT the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – 2020 Flood Planning Program grant application, to conduct baseline flood hazard mapping across the region, not proceed.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Flooding is a significant hazard in BC that damages infrastructure, causes serious economic losses, and creates social disruption. Flood risk in the RDEK is often attributed to:

- Climatic conditions – intense rainfall, rain on snow, ice jams, rapid snowmelt, etc.
- Geomorphic processes – debris flows, landslides
- Structural failures – dike failure, dam failure, culvert failure

Climate change is impacting the frequency and magnitude of flooding, due to changes in precipitation patterns. It is important for communities to understand flood hazards and how to become resilient to extreme weather events.

The RDEK has invested in flood risk assessment and mitigation in specific areas such as the Elk River Valley and Fairmont Hot Springs, yet gaps remain in the systematic assessment and mapping of clear-water flood and steep creek hazards across the region. Much of the existing hazard information is outdated, and does not reflect future anticipated climate conditions.

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the UBCM.

The intent of the 2020 Flood Planning Program funding stream is to support eligible applicants to ensure they have accurate knowledge of the flood hazards they face and to develop

effective strategies to mitigate and prepare for those risks. The maximum available funding is \$150,000.

If successful, the grant funds would be used to retain a Qualified Professional Engineer or Geoscientist consultant to:

1. Characterize clear-water and steep creek hazards across the entire region, using existing hazard information and new terrain-based inundation modelling, similar to work recently completed by RDCK and CSRD
2. Develop a framework to make consistent, risk-informed decisions about further assessments, data collection and risk reduction planning in specific areas
3. Deliver flood hazard geospatial results to incorporate into the RDEK's existing geospatial data management systems.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Financial

The estimated total cost of the project is \$150,000. The maximum eligible amount is \$150,000. Grant funds will be used to retain a Qualified Professional Engineer or Geoscientist consultant to deliver the services described above. There is no expectation that additional funds will be required from the RDEK.

Purchasing Policy

As per the current RDEK Purchasing Policy, tenders and/or proposals will follow a competitive selection process and service contracts will include a requirement to produce evidence of liability insurance.

Process

Should the grant application be successful; staff will issue a Request for Proposals as per Purchasing Policy guidelines, and select the proponent using pre-established evaluation criteria.