

Date April 27, 2026
Author Tina Hlushak, Corporate Officer
Subject Kootenay Ale Fest – LCRB SEP Exemption – Municipally Significant Event

REQUEST

Consider the Kootenay Ale Fest an event of municipal significance for the purpose of supporting an exemption request under the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, Special Event Permit process.

OPTIONS

1. THAT the Board designate Kootenay Ale Fest a Municipally Significant Event for the purpose of supporting the Coy's Golf and Bistro Special Event Permit application for the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.
2. THAT the request from Coy's Golf and Bistro to designate Kootenay Ale Fest, a Municipally Significant Event, for the purpose of supporting a Special Event Permit application for the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, be denied.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Coy's Golf and Bistro, located in the Dutch Creek area in Electoral Area F, is hosting its first annual Kootenay Ale Fest. Coy's has requested that RDEK designate the Kootenay Ale Fest as an event of municipal significance for the purpose of supporting an exemption request under the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) Special Event Permit (SEP) process.

Although the LCRB uses the term "municipal significance," the RDEK, as the local government, can also provide these designations for events within an electoral area.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

LCRB Process and Policy

SEPs are regulated by the LCRB under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and are required when liquor is served or sold at a location that is not a private residence, private place, or licensed establishment. Because the Kootenay Ale Fest is proposed to be held in barn facility on Coy's property, which is outside the existing licensed service area, a SEP is required.

Under LCRB policy, SEP events are generally limited to cost-recovery liquor pricing, with maximum prices intended to cover only eligible liquor service costs such as liquor, mix, glassware, ice, and taxes, and does not include event operating expenses. Higher pricing may

be permitted where proceeds are donated to charity or where the event has been designated as municipally significant.

When an event is designated as municipally significant, the LCRB may allow the organizer to retain profits from liquor sales through an exemption to the SEP policy. Exemption requests are reviewed by the LCRB as part of the SEP application process. A municipally significant event is considered to be of unique importance to the community, such as by providing historical, cultural, or broader community benefit.

Designation requires a Board resolution, and proof of that designation must be available at the event site. A designation does not approve the SEP or guarantee an exemption, as the LCRB remains the final decision-maker.

Criteria Evaluation

The SEP policy specifically leaves it to the regional district to determine its own criteria. As this is the first request of its kind received by the RDEK, there is currently no established Board policy or criteria to determine if an event should be considered of municipal significance. In the absence of Board-adopted criteria, staff have suggested possible considerations to assist the Board in evaluating the request on a case-by-case basis, such as:

- **Cultural and Historic Significance:** The event celebrates, preserves, or educates about the local culture, history, or traditions, contribute to the community's identity.
- **Community Impact:** The event demonstrates a positive effect on the community, enhancing in community spirit, engagement and pride.
- **Economic Contribution:** The event significantly benefits the local economy, attracting visitor, generating revenue and supporting local business.
- **Public Participation and Accessibility:** The event attracts significant public participation, including people of all ages and abilities and promotes inclusivity.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Organizers demonstrate a commitment to sustainability, minimize the environmental impact and promoting green practices.
- **Innovation and Uniqueness:** The event offers unique, innovative experiences that distinguish it from regular community programming.

Criteria Assessment

To assist the Board in determining whether an event should be considered of municipal significance, Coy's was asked to provide relevant information, referenced in the attached letter, about the event, to include:

- anticipated number of attendees;
- the number of participating breweries and the communities they are from;
- the number of food and beverage vendors and where they are based; and
- explanation of the event's broader community benefit.

The information was further assessed based on the suggested criteria and it was determined that the event reasonably meets criteria to be considered an event of unique importance to the community.

Criteria	Assessment	Comments
Cultural and Historic Significance	Meets	Intent of the event is to create cultural and social importance to the community within a historic barn facility.
Community Impact	Meets	Fosters community gathering, local pride and supports small-scale producers.
Economic Contribution	Meets	Strong case for visitor attraction, vendor support, and local business benefit.
Public Participation Accessibility	Partially Meets	LCRB regulations prohibit minors; however Coy's promotes a family friendly establishment.
Environmental Sustainable	Insufficient Evidence	No clear commitments identified.
Innovation and Uniqueness	Meets	Event with a defined regional craft beverage focus.

Risk Considerations

Designating the event as municipally significant may create a precedent for future applications. In the absence of Board-adopted criteria or policy, case-by-case determinations may be perceived as inconsistent or discretionary. There is also a risk that designation could be interpreted as an endorsement of a private commercial event, despite the fact that the LCRB remains the final decision-maker on the SEP and any exemption request.

Attachment

- Anderson Consulting – Request for Event Designation