



Regional District of Central Kootenay  
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABLE LIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Open Meeting Agenda

**Date:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024  
**Time:** 9:00 am  
**Location:** RDCK Board Room, 202 Lakeside Dr., Nelson, BC

Directors will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting electronically. Proceedings are open to the public.

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Pages

**1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO**

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

**Meeting Time:**

9:00 a.m. PST

**Join by Video:**

<https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/99504635670?pwd=NXlqOGYyS21MN3BIZUIKc0pmMnZhUT09&from=addon>

**Join by Phone:**

1 833 958 1164 Canada Toll-free

**Meeting ID:** 995 0463 5670

**Meeting Password:** 149941

**In-Person Location:**

Nelson Office - Boardroom  
202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Main called the meeting to order at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.

**3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
The Agenda for the June 18, 2024 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

**5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES** 4 - 7  
The April 16, 2024 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee minutes, have been received.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

**6.1 FOR INFORMATION: UPDATE ON SUSTAINABILITY SERVICE PROJECTS AND AREAS OF ACTIVITY** 8 - 21  
The Staff Update dated June 18, 2024 from Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner has been received.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**7.1 FOR INFORMATION: REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INVESTIGATION** 22 - 37  
The Committee Report dated May 22, 2024 from Alex Leffelaar, Climate Action Assistant and Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner has been received.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
That the RDCK Board direct staff to establish a collaborative working group and Rural Transportation Solutions Pilot fund in partnership with regional industry, local governments, and community organizations  
  
AND FURTHER, that up to \$65,000 in associated costs be included in the July 2024 LGCAP funding proposal to the Board.

**7.2 FOR DISCUSSION: COMMUNITY WORKS APPLICATION FOR NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT OF YMIR WATERSHED/QUARTZ CREEK** 38 - 50  
The Committee Report dated May 22, 2024 from Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner has been received.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
That the Community Works Fund application submitted by Regional District Central Kootenay for the Ymir Watershed Natural Asset Management Plan in the amount of \$60,000 be approved and that funds be disbursed from Community Works Funds allocated to Electoral Area G and be allocated to S105 Community Sustainable Living Service.

FURTHER that a budget amendment to the 2024-2029 Financial Plan reflect this allocation and that the Sustainability Planner be approved to issue a Request for Proposal and subsequent contract for the Natural Asset Management Plan for Ymir.

AND FURTHER the General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Service and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the contract once a proponent is selected.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.1 FOR DISCUSSION: FUNDING APPLICATION TO WATER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT IN YAQAN NUKIY AMAKIS OF KTUNAXA - CRESTON VALLEY**

51 - 54

The Committee Report dated April 29, 2024 from Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability, has been received.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board direct staff to submit an application to the Watershed Security Fund for water sustainability for yaqan nu?kiy ?amak?is - Creston Valley in the amount of \$150,000 and that if successful, grant funds be allocated to S105 Community Sustainable Living Service.

**8.2 FOR INFORMATION: REVISION OF CSLAC TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Staff has deferred this agenda item to the August 13, 2024 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee Meeting.

**9. PUBLIC TIME**

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.



**Regional District of Central Kootenay  
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABLE LIVING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Open Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.  
RDCK Hybrid Meeting

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair L. Main	Silverton	
Director G. Jackman	Electoral Area A	
Director R. Tierney	Electoral Area B	In-Person
Director K. Vandenberghe	Electoral Area C	
Director A. Watson	Electoral Area D	
Director C. Graham	Electoral Area E	
Director T. Newell	Electoral Area F	
Director H. Cunningham	Electoral Area G	
Director W. Popoff	Electoral Area H	
Director A. Davidoff	Electoral Area I	
Director H. Hanegraaf	Electoral Area J	
Alternate Director P. Peterson	Electoral Area K	
Director S. Hewat	Village of Kaslo	

**STAFF PRESENT**

S. Horn	Chief Administrative Officer
S. Sudan	General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Services
D. Sequin	Manager of Community Sustainability
P. Marshall-Smith	Sustainability Planner
S. Kindred	Administrative Assistant, Development & Community Sustainability Services

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**1. WEBEX REMOTE MEETING INFO**

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

**Meeting Time:**

1:00 p.m. PST

2:00 p.m. MST

**Join by Video:**

<https://nelsonho.webex.com/nelsonho/j.php?MTID=mebe65e4b00846699a351053876b56faf>

**Join by Phone:**

+1-604-449-3026 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

**Meeting Number (access code):** 2771 515 9739

**Meeting Password:** PMr3rYqF2q4 (76737973 from phones)

**In-Person Location:**

RDCK Boardroom

202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Main called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

**4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved and seconded,

And Resolved:

The Agenda for the April 16, 2024 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

The February 13, 2024 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee minutes, have been received.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

**6.1 FOR INFORMATION: UPDATE ON SUSTAINABILITY SERVICE PROJECTS & AREAS OF ACTIVITY**

The Staff Update dated April 16, 2024 from Paris Marshall Smith, has been received.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**7.1 FOR INFORMATION: WATERSHED GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE UPDATE**

The Committee Report dated March 28, 2024 from Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner, has been received.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.1 FOR INFORMATION: CSLAC IDEAS ON RESTRUCTURING THE YEAR**

The CSLAC 'Ideas on Restructuring the Year' presentation dated April 18, 2024 from Paris Marshall Smith, has been received.

Moved and seconded,  
And Resolved that it be recommended to the Board:

That the Board direct Staff to review the current Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and bring forward a report for the June 18, 2024 CSLAC meeting.

**Carried**

**8.2 FOR DISCUSSION: RESCHEDULE JUNE 2024 MEETING**

Due to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference on June 6-9, Chair Main has requested to change the June 11, 2024 CSLAC meeting to June 18, 2024.

Moved and seconded,  
And Resolved:

That the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee June 11, 2024 meeting be rescheduled to June 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**Carried**

**9. PUBLIC TIME**

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at 2:08 p.m.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved and seconded,  
And Resolved:

The Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:11p.m.

**Carried**

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Leah Main, Chair

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Shelly Kindred, Meeting Coordinator



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

# CSLAC Staff Update

**Date:** 2024/06/18  
**To:** Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee  
**From:** Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner  
**Subject:** UPDATE ON SUSTAINABILITY SERVICE PROJECTS & AREAS OF ACTIVITY  
**File:** 01-0515-20-CSLAC

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The purpose of this memo is to provide an update to the Community Sustainability Living Advisory Committee (CSLAC) of the current activity of the Sustainability Planner within S105. Updates on S100 initiatives such as RDCK Ideas for Climate Action, Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) and 100% Renewable Energy by 2050 will go directly to the Board.

- Year 1 (2017) focus – responding to projects underway and initiating new activity to support Board priorities on Coordinated Delivery; Water – protection & advocacy; Housing; and Food & Agriculture. Energy & Climate Change are also Board priorities as per the climate action charter;
- Year 2 (2018) focus – integrating initiatives internally and externally through coordinated communication, marketing, policy development and by-law review.
- Year 3 (2019) focus – Watershed Governance Initiative, Senior Energy Specialist, Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP),
- Year 4 (2020) focus – Watershed Governance Initiative, Timber Deadstock Bioenergy, Regional Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) and Climate Action Strategy
- Year 5 (2021) focus – Watershed Governance Initiative, Climate Action Strategy and Regional Bioenergy Opportunities
- Year 6 (2022) focus - Watershed Governance Initiative, Climate Action Strategy & project management of Slocan Lake and River Partnership (SLRP), Invasive Species Plan Implementation & Geothermal GIS projects
- Year 7 (2023) focus: Watershed Governance Initiative, Slocan Lake and River Partnership (SLRP) and Grid Resilience Investigation.
- Year 8 (2024) focus: Climate Action Plan, Watershed Governance Initiative and Slocan Lake and River Partnership (SLRP)



**SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABILITY PLANNER'S *April to June* WORK TIME DISTRIBUTION**

AREA OF WORK	CURRENT %	WORK UPDATE
<b>Community Sustainability Service (105) initiatives</b>		
Elk Root Conservation Regenerative Agriculture pilot	2%	Contract in place for CSLAC funding
Watershed Governance Initiative	45%	A letter from the RDCK and Yaqan Nukiy sent to the Province – Water Land and Resource Stewardship requesting support for water protection in Creston Valley – Yaqan Nukiy Amakis. Staff have provided a report requesting approval to apply for funding.
Slocan Lake and River Partnership	10%	Terms of reference have been sent to both the Partnership and the Working group. Meetings being planned.
Living Lakes Ground Water Monitoring project	2%	Contract in place for CSLAC funding
Rural Grid Resilience Investigation	1%	Year 1 – 16 of 20 rebate accessed and Year 2 will continue to offer the program and offer the remaining rebates. A final report will be presented to the Board in the fall.
Regional Active & Low Carbon Transportation Strategy	10%	Staff have provided an update on the regional transportation investigation and a recommendation for next steps.
Admin	5%	The admin rhythm revolves around the bi-monthly CSLAC meeting and includes project evaluations & funding applications
<b>General admin (S100 ) initiatives</b>		
Central Kootenay Food Policy Council	7%	Report following Board presentation expected in July
Climate Action Strategy	10%	RDCK Ideas for Climate Action approved, staff preparing report on next steps, expected in July
Regional Invasive Species Plan	1%	No funding available for year 2 of the Regional Invasive Species Working Group
Admin	7%	Reporting as needed to the Board
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Color legend for areas of work
Food & agriculture
Water advocacy & protection
Energy & Transportation
Climate Action

**CURRENT CSLAC COMMITMENTS FOR YEAR 8 (2024)**

CSLAC AREA OF FOCUS	PROJECT	STATUS	TIMELINE	CSLAC STAFF TIME
Food and Agriculture	Central Kootenay Food Policy Council	Active and confirmed	On-going	10%
	Elk Root Conservation Regenerative Agriculture pilot	Active and confirmed	Summer-Fall 2024	
Water	Watershed Governance Initiative – Phase 3	Active and Confirmed	On-going	50%
	Slocan Lake and River Collaborative	Active and Confirmed	On-going	
	Living Lakes Ground Water Monitoring project	Active and Confirmed	Summer-Fall 2024	
Energy	Rural Grid Resilience Investigation	Active and confirmed	Fall 2024 reporting	10%
	Regional Active & Low Carbon Transportation Strategy	To be determine		
Climate Action	Climate Action Strategy	Active and confirmed	On-going	25%
	Implementation of Regional Invasive Species Strategy	Deferred	Spring 2025 (no funding for 2024)	
CSLAC	Administration	Active and confirmed	On-going	5%

**2024 staff time commitment** 100%

**Available CSLAC funding for 2024** All funding committed for 2024

**New CSLAC granting cycle/budget year**

- December 2024 – annual report, what has been accomplished and what’s available (staff time and funding) for the following year
- February 2025 – visioning and annual planning, budget discussion
- March 2025 – approve CSLAC budget with funding
- April 2025 – call for applications if funding available & previous project reporting
- June 2025 – evaluate applications
- July 2025 – projects launched

**DASHBOARD OF CSLAC ACTIVITIES – Board resolutions follow**

Program	Responsible	Update of Activity	Staff time & funding	Current allocation of resources by SP	Activity to next meeting	Activity for 2024
<b>CENTRAL KOOTENAY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL</b>	Executive Director with support from SP	Presented to Board in May, staff preparing a follow up report for the Board in July	\$15,000 from S100 + staff time	Normally minimal: 1-2 hours per month to attend meetings and follow email conversations.	Prepare follow up report	Continue to participate in Council

Project	Responsible	Update of Activity	Staff time & funding	Current allocation of resources by SP	Activity to next meeting	Activity for 2024
<b>WATERSHED GOVERNANCE PROJECT PLANNING</b>	SP & Water Service Liaison	Provided an update to CSLAC in April, prepared a letter to the Province to indicate interest in proceeding with water sustainability planning and objective development in Creston Valley and prepared a report on Natural Asset Management	Expenses from LGCAP + staff time + \$25,000 for Duck Creek	SP (0.3 FTE), GMDS (0.05 FTE), CSM (0.1 FTE) and Water Services Liaison (0.1 FTE) to support the project	Review Services Case Analysis, Work on Terms and Scope for water sustainability project in Creston Valley	Continue to work on Phase 3 items
<b>SLOCAN LAKE AND RIVER PARTNERSHIP</b>	SP & GMDS	Development of Terms of Reference for the Partnership underway	\$5,000 from CSLAC project fund	SP – 3-4 hours per month	Finalize terms of reference	Develop structure for SLRP

Project	Responsible	Update of Activity	Staff time & funding	Current allocation of resources by SP	Activity to next meeting	Activity for 2024
<b>CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY</b>	SP	RDCK Ideas for Climate Action approved by the Board in April, staff preparing proposal for next steps	Funding from S100 LGCAP and other grants & staff time	60-70 % of staff time for first part 2024	Staff preparing report on next steps for Board in July	Begin to take action on climate action ideas

Project	Responsible	Update of Activity	Staff time & funding	Current allocation of resources by SP	Activity to next meeting	Activity for 2024
<b>REGIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN</b>	SP	No funding at this time	No funding for 2024	Minimal	No funding at this time, working group deferred to 2025	Activity deferred to 2025

Project	Responsible	Update of Activity	Staff time & funding	Current allocation of resources by SP	Activity to next meeting	Activity for 2024
<b>GRID RESILIENCE</b>	SP	Pilot underway by LINKS in Lardeau Valley	Staff time	Minimal	Minimal, reporting on project to Board in fall 2024	Reporting on outcomes & funding application for ongoing pilots

Project	Responsible	Update of Activity	Staff time & funding	Current allocation of resources by SP	Activity to next meeting	Activity for 2024
<b>WEBSITE UPDATE &amp; PRINT MATERIAL</b>	SP & Communications Coordinator	Website continues to be updated and prepared for transition to new website	Staff time	On-going	On-going monitoring and updating	Ensure that website supports internal and external communication effectively
<b>ADMIN</b>	SP	Project management, relationship building, meetings, communication, reporting	Staff time	4-5 hours per week	On-going	

**BOARD RESOLUTIONS THAT GUIDE CSLAC’S WORK**

**FOOD & AGRICULTURE**

CENTRAL KOOTENAY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 718/17 That the Board direct staff to include a \$10,000 per year funding for the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council within the 2018-2022 draft financial plan for Service S105.</li> <li>2. 741/18 That the Board grant the balance of \$22,083.62.00 to the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council (CKFPC) contingent on all grant reporting and society action reporting deliverables be presented and approved by the Board; AND FURTHER, that staff obtain documentation form CKFPC that indicates they are in compliance with the British Columbia Societies Act.</li> <li>3. 757/18 That the Board appoint the following Directors to the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council for a term to end December 31, 2020 Director Faust and the second appointment BE REFERRED to December 13, 2018 Board meeting.</li> <li>4. 03/19 That the Board appoint the following Director to the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council for a term to end December 31, 2020 as per resolution 757/18: Director Peterson Director Main (Alternate)</li> <li>5. 48/19 That the Board agrees that the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council has satisfied the Board’s requirements and has demonstrated that it is in compliance with funders and the BC Societies Act; AS SUCH, the RDCK Board grants the balance of the \$29,347.87 to the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council from Community Sustainability Service S105.</li> <li>6. 284/20 That the Board approve the \$25,000 in the 2020 Financial Plan from Community Sustainable Living Service S105 be held for a Food Security Coordinator position within the Emergency Operations Centre as leveraging funds.</li> <li>7. 285/20 That the Board direct staff to report on options to establish a Food Security Coordinator position to be fully funded through Community Sustainable Living Service S105 with a budget up to \$25,000.</li> <li>8. 377/20 That the Board send a letter of support for the Columbia Basin Food Security Plan; AND FURTHER, that the Board allocate funds to the first phase of the "Central Kootenay Interim Food Security Action Plan" from Community Sustainability Service S105 in the amount of \$22,145.00 to the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council.</li> <li>9. 115/21 That the Board approve the Central Kootenay Food Policy Council’s request for increase in core funding for a total amount of \$15,000 to be included in the 2021 Financial Plan from the Service 105 Community Sustainable Advisory.</li> <li>10. 286/21 That the Board and staff review the draft Central Kootenay Interim Food Security Action Plan and provide their recommendations by May 11, 2021.</li> <li>11. 288/21 That Board direct staff to complete an internal assessment, prior to requesting a Service Case Analysis, to understand if a Contribution Service for food and agriculture is possible.</li> </ol>
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	<p>12. 855/21 That the Board direct staff to work with Central Kootenay Food Policy Council to proceed with the proposed actions of the Regional Food Security Action Plan: (See minutes for full resolution)</p>
<p>WATER</p>	
<p>WATERSHED GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 416/16 That the RDCK write a letter to the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance and invite the organization to the West Kootenay to hold a watershed workshop.</li> <li>2. 592/16 That the RDCK invite The POLIS Project on Ecological Governance to attend the January 2017 Board meeting to give a presentation on watersheds and water sustainability.</li> <li>3. 88/18 That the Board direct staff to invite the Polis Project to host a workshop with the RDCK staff and Directors on watershed governance; AND FURTHER expenses and stipend be paid by General Administration S100.</li> <li>4. 256/18 The Watershed Governance workshop with the POLIS Project be booked for May 18th, 2018 and the Watershed Governance Workshop Discussion report be made available to all Board Directors.</li> <li>5. 487/18 That the Board direct staff to develop a Regional Watershed Governance Initiative project plan, and identify an allocation for General Manager of Development Service and Sustainability Coordinator's time to implement the project plan for consideration in the draft 2019 five year financial plan within General Administration Service (\$100).</li> <li>6. 892/18 That the RDCK Board directs staff to seek funding to launch and coordinate a scoping study to better understand the potential watershed governance roles and responsibilities of the RDCK; with areas for the study to be determine by the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee at the January committee meeting; And Further, the Board allocates staff time of the Sustainability Planner (0.3 FTE), General Manager of Development Services (0.1 FTE) and Water Services Liaison (0.1 FTE) to support the procurement process for services.</li> <li>7. 13/19 That the Board direct staff to develop a Regional Watershed Governance Initiative project plan, and identify an allocation for General Manager of Development Service and Sustainability Coordinator's time to implement the project plan for consideration in the draft 2019 five year financial plan within General Administration Service (\$100).</li> <li>8. 121/19 That the RDCK Board approve funds in the amount of \$26,250 from S105 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Service for the Watershed Governance Initiative scoping study, to complement the work being done in Area H and I's ground water studies, for the following watersheds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bourke, Sitkum &amp; Duhamel Community Watershed (Area F);</li> <li>• Arrow Creek Community Watershed (Area B);</li> <li>• Ymir Community Watershed (Area G);</li> <li>• Argenta Watershed (Area D);</li> <li>• Harrop (Area E);</li> <li>• and Deer Creek (Area J)</li> </ul> </li> <li>9. 409/10 That the RDCK Board award the Regional Watershed Governance Initiative Scoping Study to Christina Metherall and Elucidate Consulting, and that the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the necessary documents to a maximum value of \$26,880 (includes GST).</li> <li>10. 282/20 That the Board direct staff to prepare a workplan to determine the organizational capacity of the Community Sustainability Services and Water Services staff to pursue</li> </ol>

	<p>the recommendations of the RDCK Regional Watershed Governance Initiative report dated January 2020.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. 389/20 That the Board endorse the Watershed Governance Initiative Project Plan (May 2020) and direct staff to pursue the Project Plan as a collaboration between Community Sustainability and Water Services staff.</li> <li>12. 610/20 The Board direct staff to bring forward a project plan with budget that will seek to collate and map existing watershed information held by the RDCK and other sources at a regional scale to inform our next steps and as a support to communities and conducting a gap analysis; AND FURTHER bring this back to the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee to inform the RDCK's next steps on watershed governance.</li> <li>13. 828/20 That the Board approve transfer of funds to Community Sustainability Service S105 for a student position to support the Watershed Governance Initiative Data Collation and Mapping project in the amount of \$14,500 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Service S100 and include in the 2021 Financial Plan; That the Board approve transfer of \$9,000 in funds for the Watershed Governance Initiative Data Collation and Mapping project from Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Service S100 to Community Sustainability Service S105.</li> <li>14. 112/21 That the Board send a letter of support to Living Lakes Canada for the Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Collaborative and Water Hub.</li> <li>15. 113/21 That the Board direct staff to report back to Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee on how the workplan for the Watershed Governance Initiative is modified and budgeted based on a collaboration with Living Lakes Canada.</li> <li>16. 584/21 That the Board approve the recommended next steps of Phase 3 of the Watershed Governance Initiative (WGI) with a focus on relationship building and planning, mapping and monitoring as outlined below and presented to the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee August 17, 2021:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supporting continued relationship building with Yaqan Nukiy and Ktunaxa Nation Council, Syilx Okanagan Nation Alliance, Secwepemc and Sinixt</li> <li>2. Provide technical support for community led watershed mapping and communication tools such as story mapping</li> <li>3. Supporting management of RDCK water systems - pilot natural asset management</li> <li>4. Supporting regional monitoring – investigate how the RDCK could support local level monitoring</li> <li>5. Supporting community led mapping – investigate Nature Based Planning</li> </ol> </li> <li>17. 585/21 That the RDCK Board direct staff to develop a work plan for continued work on the Watershed Governance Initiative (WGI) including seeking external partners; AND FURTHER, to prepare for discussion on how Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee (CSLAC) can encompass the entire Board.</li> <li>18. 658/21 That the Board direct the Chair of the Board and Chair of Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee to reach out to MLA Brittny Anderson to discuss opportunities for engagement around the Regional Watershed Governance Initiative as it moves into Phase 3 focused on relationship building, monitoring and mapping.</li> <li>19. 852/21 That the Board direct staff, Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee Chair and Board Chair to work with MLA Anderson to develop a relationship with Forest Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and host community forums focused on watershed governance and stewardship in 2022.</li> <li>20. 853/21 That Resolution 847/20, being the transfer of \$9,000 in funds for the Watershed Governance Initiative Data Collation and Mapping project from Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Service S100 to Community Sustainability Service S105 and include in the 2021 Financial Plan BE RESCINDED because funds were not needed as anticipated.</li> </ol>
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	<p>21. 86/22 That the RDCK Board approve funding up to \$25,000 for the 2022 Watershed Governance Initiative budget from S105 Community Sustainable Living Service and include this in the 2022 Financial Plan; AND FURTHER, the Board allocates staff time of the Sustainability Planner and Water Services Liaison to support the 2022 Watershed Governance Initiative.</p> <p>22. 128/22 That the Board direct staff to submit a response on behalf of the RDCK to the Province on the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund; AND FURTHER, invite Board members and staff to comment on the draft responses by Monday, February 28, 2022.</p> <p>23. 258/22 That the RDCK Board direct staff to send a request to Yaqaan Nukiy Chief and Council for their participation on developing a Water Sustainability Plan for the Creston Valley; AND FURTHER, request that the Province order a Water Sustainability Plan be developed in the Creston Valley in partnership with RDCK and Yaqaan Nukiy SUBJECT TO agreement from Yaqaan Nukiy.</p> <p>24. 433/22 That the Board direct staff to prepare a service case analysis and report back to the Board on the implications of establishing the requisition of a Drinking Water &amp; Watershed Protection Service bylaw for protection of watersheds and drinking water in the Regional District of Central Kootenay to be added to the workplan in 2023.</p> <p>25. 515/22 That the Board direct staff to work with the Wynndel community residents to create a story map, request an investigation under the Drinking Water Protection Act (Section 29) and request that the Ministry of Forests confirm the VRI (vegetation regeneration index) for the Duck Creek Watershed; AND FURTHER, that the Community Sustainable Living Service (S105) contribute up to a total of \$25,000 of funds over 2022 and 2023 budget years to conduct a cumulative impact study of proposed logging in the Duck Creek Watershed.</p> <p>26. 224/23 The Board is asked to provide comments related to watershed ecosystem services and health; climate resiliency; watershed governance and the help needed; economic opportunities within watersheds; reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples as it relates to water; and, advancing the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>27. 304/23 That the Board approve the RDCK enter into a Collaborative Research Agreement with Selkirk College to provide research support for a service case analysis on a Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Case Analysis for the period of May 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023; AND FURTHER, that the Agreement be signed by the Chair and Corporate Officer.</p> <p>28. 305/23 That the Board direct staff to conduct Step 1 of Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee project evaluation of completing a Natural Asset Management Plan for Ymir Water System - Quartz Creek Watershed.</p> <p>29. 377/23 That the Board direct staff to complete Step 2 of Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee project evaluation to create a natural asset management plan for the Quartz Creek Watershed prepare a workplan and budget.</p> <p>30. 304/23 That the Board approve the RDCK enter into a Collaborative Research Agreement with Selkirk College to provide research support for a service case analysis on a Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Case Analysis for the period of May 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023; AND FURTHER, that the Agreement be signed by the Chair and Corporate Officer.</p> <p>31. 305/23 That the Board direct staff to conduct Step 1 of Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee project evaluation of completing a Natural Asset Management Plan for Ymir Water System - Quartz Creek Watershed.</p>
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	<p>32. 377/23 That the Board direct staff to complete Step 2 of Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee project evaluation to create a natural asset management plan for the Quartz Creek Watershed prepare a workplan and budget.</p>												
<p>KOOTENAY LAKE PARTNERSHIP</p>	<p>1. 91/18 That the RDCK Board approve funding of \$10,000 under S105 Community Sustainable Living Service to support the contracted service of the Kootenay Lake Partnership Coordinator position within the 2018 budget.</p> <p>2. 414/19 That the RDCK Board extends its support for Living Lakes Canada's Foreshore Inventory and Mapping for Aquatic Species at Risk proposal to the Canada Nature Fund with in-kind contributions of mapping data and staff hours for a total contribution of \$175,000.00 over the four (4) year term of the project, which is:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="575 506 1177 831"> <thead> <tr> <th>PROJECT</th> <th>IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Regional Flood and Hazard Risk Assessment</td> <td>Completed in 2018 \$40,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LIDAR Acquisition and Processing</td> <td>Completed in 2018 \$40,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Floodplain Mapping Kootenay Lake</td> <td>In Process \$60,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inundation Study</td> <td>In Process \$10,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning staff time for review and outreach</td> <td>Pending \$25,000.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>3. 390/20 That the Board direct staff to transfer the remaining grant funding from the Real Estate Foundation (REF) in Community Sustainability Service S105, administered by RDCK on behalf of the Kootenay Lake Partnership, to Living Lakes Canada to support the Program Coordinator Position upon receiving confirmation from REF to do the transfer; AND FURTHER, that final report comes back to RDCK for information</p> <p>4. 89/22 That the Board approve an allocation of \$10,000 annually from 2022-2024 to fund the Kootenay Lake Partnership Coordinator from the Community Sustainable Living Service S105 and this amount be added to the 2022-2026 Financial Plan; AND FURTHER, the Board approve that amount be paid to the Ktunaxa Nation Land and Resource Division annually, to support the Kootenay Lake Partnership through contract administration of the Coordinator position SUBJECT TO a contribution agreement with the Ktunaxa Nation Council being prepared and brought back to the Board.</p> <p>5. 129/23 That the Board approve an allocation of \$10,000 annually from 2022-2024 to fund the Kootenay Lake Partnership Coordinator from the Community Sustainable Living Service S105 and this amount be added to the 2022-2026 Financial Plan Community Sustainable Living Service S105. (see minutes for full resolution)</p> <p>6. 326/23 That the Regional District of Central Kootenay manage and administer the Ktunaxa Nation Council's successful grant applications for the Kootenay Lake Partnership initiatives, and be compensated for that work through the administration fee included in the grant award; AND FURTHER, that the Chair and</p>	PROJECT	IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	Regional Flood and Hazard Risk Assessment	Completed in 2018 \$40,000.00	LIDAR Acquisition and Processing	Completed in 2018 \$40,000.00	Floodplain Mapping Kootenay Lake	In Process \$60,000.00	Inundation Study	In Process \$10,000.00	Planning staff time for review and outreach	Pending \$25,000.00
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Planning staff time for review and outreach	Pending \$25,000.00												

	<p>Corporate officer be authorized to sign the necessary agreements.</p> <p>7. 716/23 That the Board direct staff to submit a funding application to UBCM Community to Community (C2C) for Kootenay Lake Partnership 2024 strategic planning.</p> <p>8. 04/24 That the Board ratify the funding application to the UBCM Community to Community (C2C) Program for the Kootenay Lake Partnership 2024 strategic planning; AND FURTHER, the RDCK is willing to provide overall grant management and supports all proposed activities within the C2C grant application for Kootenay Lake Partnership 2024 strategic planning with less than 10 hours of staff time to come from Planning and Land Use Service S104.</p>
ENERGY	
REGIONAL BIOENERGY & FULL FIBER UTILIZATION PLANNING	<p>1. 119/19 That the Board direct staff to explore partnerships possibilities with Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Regional District East Kootenay and Regional District Kootenay Boundary on the Timber Deadstock Biofuel scoping study; AND FURTHER, that staff explore funding opportunities for the study</p> <p>2. 232/19 That the Board approve the RDCK entering into a Contribution Agreement with Columbia Basin Trust to support the research and development of a business plan for timber deadstock biofuel in the Regional District of Central Kootenay, and that the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the necessary documents; AND FURTHER, the required matching funds of up to \$25,000 come from Service S105 - Community Sustainable Living Advisory; AND FURTHER, that the grant funds be received and administered through S105.</p> <p>3. 500/20 That the Board direct staff to further develop the business case potential of the Wood Pellet Boiler Network, District Energy in Castlegar and Village District Energy Systems as part of the Timber Deadstock Bioenergy Feasibility Study in coordination with municipal staff.</p> <p>4. 845/20 That the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee Chair, RDCK Board Chair and senior staff approach the new Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations &amp; Rural Development to ask what emerging direction may be coming which would assist the RDCK in further investigating bioenergy projects which would align with provincial objectives of maximizing fiber utilization and reducing forest fuel loading; AND FURTHER to make a similar outreach to Forest Enhancement Society BC.</p> <p>5. 285/21 That the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee take no further action at this time on the following recommendation: 845/20 That the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee Chair, RDCK Board Chair and senior staff approach the new Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations &amp; Rural Development to ask what emerging direction may be coming which would assist the RDCK in further investigating bioenergy projects which would align with provincial objectives of maximizing fiber utilization and reducing forest fuel loading; AND FURTHER to make a similar outreach to Forest Enhancement Society BC.</p>
COMMUNITY GEOTHERMAL - GIS PROJECT	<p>1. 451/21 That the Board approve funding \$10,000 for the South Kootenay Lake Community Services Society's Community Geothermal - GIS Project Set-up and Data Integration from S105 Community Sustainable Living Service and include this in the 2021 Financial Plan.</p>
RURAL GRID RESILIENCE INVESTIGATION	<p>1. 516/22 That the Board direct staff to work with Community Energy Association to understand the potential and limitations of energy storage, micro generation or bi-directional charging and prepare a workplan and budget for 2-3 community pilots in 2023, with the report to come back to the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee for review.</p> <p>2. 303/23 That the Board approve \$6,500 in funding to support a Lardeau Valley Opportunity LINKS Society pilot of residential power back up/renewable home assessment &amp;</p>

rebates, to be paid from the Community Sustainable Living Service (S105).	
CLIMATE ACTION	
CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 124/19 That the Board direct staff to prepare a resolution that responds to ramping up RDCK's climate action in response to the climate emergency by April, 2019.</li> <li>2. 272/19 - WHEREAS Climate change is recognized to be an urgent reality requiring rapid decarbonisation of energy across all sectors; Climate change is recognized to be an urgent reality where risks are compounded by increased climate change weather related events (more precipitation in the winter, dryer hotter summers) and increased levels of uncertainty. Preparing for increased resilience and adaptability is critical; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Regional District of Central Kootenay Board recognizes that the world is in a global state of climate crisis. This reality creates an imperative for ALL ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT to undertake "rapid and far reaching" changes to building construction, energy systems, land use and transportation.</li> <li>1. 701/19 That the Board direct staff to update the RDCK Policy Framework to incorporate a climate action lens; AND that, the 3-phased Climate Action Lens Policy strategy will seek input from the Senior Management Team to ensure smooth integration with operations and will bring recommendations to the Board for approval.</li> <li>2. 861/19 That the Board direct staff to distribute the 2019 RDCK State of Climate Action full report and summary handout to the public.</li> <li>3. 848/20 That the Board approve transfer of funds to Community Sustainability Service S105 for a student position to support climate action work in the amount of \$14,500 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) Service S100 and include in the 2021 Financial Plan; AND FURTHER, to offset the costs of the student position, the Board direct staff to apply to the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) for \$12,000.</li> <li>4. 604/21 That the RDCK Board endorse updating the RDCK State of Climate Action (SoCA) reporting framework to include a combination of reporting efforts such as – a dashboard, an annual scorecard, and reports (less frequent than current annual reports) with expenses to be paid from General Administration Service S100.</li> <li>5. 44/22 That the Board adopt Policy 200-01-17 Better Corporate Building Policy and accompanying Procedures effective January 20, 2022</li> <li>6. That the RDCK Board adopt science based carbon pollution (greenhouse gas emissions) reduction targets of 50% below 2018 levels by 2030, and 100% by 2050; AND FURTHER that the Board directs staff in 2022 to prepare 4-year climate action plans as a pathway to 2030 climate action targets and bring a report back to the Board.</li> <li>7. 259/22 That the RDCK Board approve the budget of up to \$80,000 for the development of the 2023 -26 Climate Action Plan and associated four (4) year Communication and Engagement Strategy, and that these funds be drawn from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) reserve in General Administration Service S100.</li> <li>8. 514/22 That the Board appoint the following Directors to an advisory group to support the completion of the Regional District of Central Kootenay Climate Action Plan – Aimee Watson, Garry Jackman, Janice Morrison, Suzan Hewat</li> <li>9. 268/23 That the Board refer adoption of RDCK Climate Actions to the August 17, 2023 Board meeting to allow for continued engagement through to July 26; AND FURTHER, that Staff are directed to conduct public in-person meetings at the request of Directors (all requests be submitted no later than Friday May 5).</li> <li>10. 391/23 That the Board approve up to the amount of \$121,700 to support communication and engagement related to RDCK Climate Actions from the Local Government Climate Action Program funding in Service 100 – General Administration; AND FURTHER, that the Board utilize the Community Sustainable Living Committee, as an advisory</li> </ol>

	<p>committee, to inform communication and engagement related to building the RDCK Climate Plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. 89/24 That the Board direct staff to solicit additional individual feedback from RDCK Board Directors via survey; AND FURTHER, that staff use engagement feedback to identify different possible Climate Action Plan versions; AND FURTHER, that staff provide these versions to the Board for direction on which to develop.</li> <li>12. 90/24 That the Board approve stipend and expenses for the Climate Action Plan workshop to be paid from General Administration Service S100.</li> <li>13. 231/24 That the Board direct staff to explore new climate action items impacting RDCK residents and make recommendations to the Board based on the RDCK Ideas for Climate Action document presented at the April 18, 2024 Board meeting; AND FURTHER, that those items that were identified as high priorities in our consultation process, are practicable, and fiscally feasible are presented to the Board with a business case prior to proceeding, with funding ideally being provided by polluter super-funds.</li> </ol>
<p>RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (RDI) – CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECT</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 233/19 That the Board partner with the Rural Development Institute’s Regional Approach to Rural Climate Adaptation Project Partnership and direct staff to finalize the agreement; AND FURTHER, allocate \$12,500 of in-kind staff time from Service S105 for 2019-2020 (2 years) to support the Partnership.</li> <li>2. 595/19 That the Board approve the RDCK entering into a Collaborative Research agreement with Selkirk College for the Regional Approach to Rural Climate Adaptation Project Partnership for the period from May 1, 2019 to March 1, 2021, and that the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the necessary documents.</li> </ol>
<p>100% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2050</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 257/18 That the Board commit to the development of strategies and implementation of projects to achieve the long-term goal of deriving 100% of its net energy from renewable sources by 2050, and commit to demonstrate strong political leadership and significantly contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases in the region.</li> <li>2. 222/19 That the Board appoint the following individual(s) to work with the West Kootenay EcoSociety towards the 100% Renewable Energy by 2050 from the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee; AND FURTHER, stipend and expenses to come from S105: Director Faust &amp; Lockwood</li> <li>3. 412/19 That the Board Chair and Corporate Officer sign the Memorandum of Understanding with West Kootenay 100% Renewable Energy Plan.</li> <li>4. 139/21 That the Board receive the West Kootenay 100% Renewable Energy Plan dated December 2020 as presented in the January 6, 2021 West Kootenay 100% Renewable Energy Plan Board Report; AND FURTHER, that the adoption of the plan be considered after the workshop has taken place.</li> </ol>
<p>REGIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 483/21 That the Board direct Development and Community Sustainability Services staff to coordinate with staff from Geographic Information Services, Resource Recovery, Water Services, Recreation Facilities and Parks to create a proposal for an implementation plan of the draft Regional Invasive Species Strategy.</li> <li>2. 50/22 That the Board direct staff to negotiate and enter into a sole-source agreement with the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society for an invasive plant inventory on RDCK-owned or leased properties and development of a detailed implementation plan of the Regional Invasive Species Strategy for an amount not to exceed \$44,472 exclusive of GST; AND FURTHER, that the costs for the inventory be paid from the services responsible for the lands and buildings sites identified and the costs of \$8,500 for the Regional Invasive Species Implementation Plan be paid from General Administration Service S100.</li> <li>3. 780/22 That the Board direct staff to enter into a sole-source agreement with the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society for invasive plant management on RDCK-owned-leased properties, as outlined in the 2022 RDCK Invasive Plant Management Plan up to a maximum amount of \$48,230 plus GST; AND FURTHER, that the costs for the invasive plant management be added to the 2023-2027 Financial Plan for the departments responsible for the lands and building sites identified.</li> </ol>

	<p>4. 172/23 That the Board direct staff to enter into a Contribution Agreement with Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society for the implementation of PROGRAM Option 1 of the Regional Invasive Species Strategy for a total not to exceed \$15,000 + GST.</p> <p>5. 646/23 That the Board appoint the following two (2) Directors to the Regional Invasive Species Working Group for a term to end September 2024 – Kelly Vandenberghe and Suzan Hewat.</p>
REGIONAL ACTIVE & LOW CARBON TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY	<p>1. That the Board direct staff to prepare a detailed project budget to investigate regional active transportation solutions as outlined in the report from Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee (CSLAC) staff dated September 10, 2022 and report back to CSLAC for approval.</p>
COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS – partnership with Youth Climate Corps/Wildsight	<p>1. 125/23 That the Board support the development and delivery of the Climate Action Ambassadors program in partnership with Youth Climate Corps-Wildsight; AND FURTHER, the Board provide a letter of support to partner with Youth Climate Corps through Wildsight for the application to the Rural Economic Diversification &amp; Infrastructure Program (REDIP) contributing in-kind support (\$58,000) and cash contribution (\$40,000 previously approved in reso 259/22) to be funded from the Local Government Climate Action Plan for training in each of the departments and oversight of development and delivery of the program.</p> <p>2. 651/23 That the Board provide a letter of support to the Rural Economic Diversification &amp; Infrastructure Program (REDIP) for the Fire to Food Youth Climate Corps-Wildsight project with in-kind support up to \$19,200 for training in each of the departments and oversight of development and delivery of the program.</p>
CSLAC ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMUNICATION SUPPORT	
WEBSITE UPDATE & PRINT MATERIAL	<p>1. 601/18 That the Board direct staff to highlight the work of the Sustainability Service (105) through the RDCK website and announce with a media release.</p> <p>2. 578/19 That the Board directs staff to procure services from Little H Design Works for \$2,500 for the work of designing the summary report for the RDCK's Climate Action Indicator Project with funds to come from Service 105; AND FURTHER, staff be directed to seek quotes to produce a graphic illustration of this report for distribution on line.</p>
ADMIN	<p>1. 382/18 That the RDCK Board support the allocation of S105 funds 'Grants' leveraging and linking additional funds from external agencies for sustainability initiatives, as described in the Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.</p> <p>2. 123/19 That the Board approve the 2019 Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee draft budget; AND FURTHER, that the directors stipend and expenses be reduced to \$5,000 for the years 2020-23 inclusive.</p> <p>3. 207/24 That the Board direct staff to review the current Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and bring forward a report for the June 18, 2024 CSLAC meeting.</p>



# Committee Report

**Date of Report:** May 22, 2024  
**Date & Type of Meeting:** June 18, 2024, Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee  
**Author:** Alex Leffelaar, Climate Action Assistant and Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner  
**Subject:** UPDATE: REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INVESTIGATION  
**File:** 10-5200-20-CAP-RATS  
**Electoral Area/Municipality** ALL

## SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the following RDCK CSLAC direction made to staff in October 2022:

*That the Board direct staff to prepare a detailed project budget to investigate regional active transportation solutions as outlined in the report from Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee (CSLAC) staff dated September 10, 2022 and report back to CSLAC for approval.*

This report includes a summary of public input of how the RDCK can support the advancement of a low carbon, multimodal regional transportation network. This input was collected through the 2022 Transportation Think Tank, 2023 RDCK Climate Actions engagement process, the 2024 Regional Transportation Summit including pre and post participant surveys, and other informal communication with residents. Staff provide options for next steps including the establishment of a collaborative working group and rural transportation solutions fund in partnership with regional industry, local governments, and community organizations. Options are discussed in the report including the costs associated. Staff are recommending the work be funded through the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP). If CSLAC chooses to proceed with action related to the regional transportation network, the costs will be included in a proposal on LGCAP spending being brought to the Board in July 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the RDCK Board direct staff to establish a collaborative working group and Rural Transportation Solutions Pilot fund in partnership with regional industry, local governments, and community organizations  
AND FURTHER, that the \$65,000 in associated costs be included in the July 2024 LGCAP funding proposal to the Board.

## SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

In RDCK rural areas, approximately 70% of the total carbon pollution comes from transportation, that is, the combustion of fossil fuels in vehicles. Without significant reductions in this sector (both for passenger and commercial vehicles) the RDCK will not be able to achieve its commitment to reduce carbon pollution by 50% by

2030 and 100% by 2050.

### **What role could the RDCK take in decreasing carbon pollution from transportation?**

The RDCK is well suited to support the planning and implementation of regional rural transportation systems and solutions. Given the sparsely populated landscape of the region, it is important to support RDCK residents' connectivity and access to services not available close to home. This connectivity must also reflect the low carbon commitments the RDCK has made. The following describes existing RDCK Board commitments, resolutions, and adopted strategic priorities that support the RDCK taking an active role in regional transportation planning.

- 1. BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES** that align with RDCK involvement in regional transportation planning and collaborative community pilot initiatives:
  - a.) Organizational Excellence – *this initiative demonstrates a clear response to the high volume of public input received that indicates this is a community priority.*
  - b.) Develop Relationships & Partnerships – *the success of this initiative will require strong collaboration with member communities, community organizations, and neighboring regions in decision-making processes that affect residents' daily lives.*
  - c.) Energy Efficiency & Environmental Responsibility – *this initiative will demonstrate leadership in both environmental stewardship and energy efficiency.*
  - d.) Regional Approach to Growth – *this initiative will demonstrate an understanding and commitment to the uniqueness of each community when it comes to transportation systems and networks, providing a balanced approach to regional vs. local considerations.*
  - e.) Advocacy – *this initiative will allow the RDCK to actively engage with community organizations and advocate for regional needs to other levels of government.*
  
- 2. CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY**
  - a. 2019 Climate Action Imperative – *this initiative requires a low carbon resilience focus on all decisions involving regional transportation, supporting the RDCK to take up active involvement in the planning and implementation of low carbon transportation solutions.*
  - b. 2022 Board carbon pollution reduction targets: 50% below 2018 levels by 2030, and 100% by 2050 – *as about 70% of RDCK community emissions result from transportation currently, this is a critical field for the RDCK to target reductions.*
  - c. Annual State of Climate Action (SoCA) reports – *The following SoCA pathways support the RDCK involvement in regional active and low carbon transportation systems:*
    - Landuse & Planning –*contributes to the support of healthy, sustainable, and low carbon lifestyles for all residents.*
    - Transportation & Mobility –*implementation supports the development of an integrated active and low-carbon regional transportation network and supports universal access to services and amenities.*
    - Energy –*supports a regional transition to a low-carbon and energy resilient future.*
    - Corporate Leadership & Operations –*implementation demonstrates leadership in multi-agency initiatives to accelerate climate action and mitigation and alignment with the RDCK's carbon pollution reduction targets.*

- d. Details on how the recommendations in this report align with RDCK Ideas for Climate Action and existing staff work plan have also been included as ATTACHMENT A.

Planning and implementation of regional rural transportation systems and solutions will not be straightforward and will require community specific responses. Fortunately, neighbouring local governments have taken similar leadership roles such as planning, funding, and implementation of regional transportation solutions and can provide guidance:

- Regional District of East Kootenays - Columbia Valley Active transportation Plan
- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary - South Kootenay Green Link Active Transportation Plan
- Regional District of Central Okanagan - Regional Transportation Plan

Furthermore, four of the RDCK's member municipalities (Nakusp, Nelson, New Denver and Creston) have already drafted transportation plans/strategies that place the RDCK in a strong position to link these existing plans into a rural context and integrated regional approach.

## **OPTIONS FOR ACTION**

Staff have prepared three options for CSLAC:

### **Option 1: STRATEGY**

Purpose: To prepare a strategy in collaboration with RDCK Parks, Planning, Transit, residents and community organizations that inform and guides existing and potential projects related to active transportation.

Deliverables: A multi-year strategy for the decarbonisation of regional transportation systems.

Cost - \$50,000 in consultant fees

### **Option 2: WORKING GROUP**

Purpose: To establish and coordinate a working group that advocates for regional needs to other levels of government and industry. This group will also facilitate collaboration between group members both within and outside of the working group.

Deliverables: 2 years of working group collaboration, solution development, grant and funding applications, advocacy for regional needs to other levels of government and industry.

Costs: \$15,000 for 2 years of coordination and facilitation

### **Option 3 (recommended option): WORKING GROUP and RURAL TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS PILOT FUND**

Purpose: In addition to the working group, to fund the planning and implementation of rural transportation pilot projects through the established collaborative working group.

Deliverables: In addition to the working group deliverables, the planning and delivery of various rural pilot projects such as bicycle lock ups at key transit hubs, improved signage, trail planning, e-bike or e-scooter co-operative.

Costs: \$15,000 for 2 years of coordination and \$50,000 as a fund for rural pilots.

## **BACKGROUND**

In the summer of 2022, the RDCK hosted a **Transportation Think Tank** where approximately 20 community interest groups (including members of local government staff, industry, non-profit, and community groups) gathered to discuss the current state of our regional transportation network and brainstorm creative solutions



to the challenges we are facing. The outcomes of this meeting were presented to CSLAC in October of 2022 and prompted the Board direction to staff provided in the Executive Summary of this report.

Since then, staff have gained further understanding of how RDCK residents priority regional transportation network, and how local government might support these. Some of this work was informed by **the Climate Action Plan public engagement process**, which occurred over the summer and fall of 2023. Transportation was one of the topics that received the most feedback. There were 351 total comments related to transit and active transportation (127 on transit, 113 on active transportation and 111 on active, low carbon transportation). The feedback clearly indicated that residents want to see additional transit routes, increased transit frequency, secure places to store bikes at bus stops, safer road infrastructure to encourage more biking and walking, more transit access for rural communities, and more active transportation trails.

**Regional Transportation Summit**

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 RDCK staff hosted the **Regional Transportation Summit** with the intent of:

1. Gaining a better understanding of community priorities around transportation solutions in RDCK communities.
2. Gathering information on the resources available in RDCK communities to support solutions.
3. Exploring potential models for working collaboratively with a wide variety of community organizations active in the region.

**Outcomes of the Summit:**

There were 38 individuals representing nearly 30 different organizations from around the Kootenays that attended the event. These participants assessed priority levels and feasibility of regional rural transportation initiatives identified through public engagement.

*The top five prioritized initiative areas were:*

- Improving public transit services (25 priority votes)
- Building intercommunity active transportation paths (8 priority votes)
- Supporting car sharing & ridesharing programs (7 priority votes)
- Establishing a collaborative working group (6 priority votes)
- Focusing on equitable and accessible transportation solutions (6 priority votes)

*The top five initiative areas in terms of our collective resources, and experience to support were:*

- Establishing a collaborative working group (11 feasibility votes)
- Local government transportation planning, servicing, and policy (8 feasibility votes)
- Improving public transit (6 feasibility votes)
- Exploring the electrification and/or rerouting of the Kootenay Bay Ferry (4 feasibility votes)
- Regional support for ZEVs (4 feasibility votes)

*Further details on the attendance & results of the Regional Transportation Summit group activities have been included as ATTACHMENT B of this report.*

**SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS**

**3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:**

<b>Included in Financial Plan:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Financial Plan Amendment:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Debt Bylaw Required:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Public/Gov’t Approvals Required:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

This report provides options for regional active and low carbon transportation planning and collaborative rural community pilot initiatives. The recommended funding allocations (\$15,000 + \$50,000) could be delivered through the S100 LGCAP funding. If CSLAC chooses to proceed with action related to the regional transportation network, the costs will be included in a proposal on LGCAP spending coming to the Board in July 2024.

The agencies listed below also provide funding for this type of work, any funding secured through LGCAP would be leveraged or if the Board chooses not to allocated LGCAP funding, it may be possible to secure all funding from one of these funds:

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (Green Municipal Fund)
- Provincial Government (BC Active Transportation Network planning)
- Union of BC Municipalities (Active Transportation Planning fund)
- Infrastructure Canada (Rural Transit Solutions planning and design funding)
- Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (Regional Transportation Enhancement program)
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (various potential funding opportunities)

### **3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):**

This work aligns with CleanBC, the Canadian 2020 Emissions Reduction Plan, the RDCK Board Strategic Plan, RDCK State of Climate Action goals & objectives, RDCK Ideas for Climate Action, as well as electoral areas' and member municipalities' OCPs.

### **3.3 Environmental Considerations**

The recommendations proposed in this report align with the Board declared Climate Action Imperative (2019), adopted GHG emission reduction targets, and the RDCK Board commitment to 100% renewable energy by 2050. As well as supports the potential transportation climate action areas target emission reductions, which currently accounts for 70% of regional community emissions annually.

### **3.4 Social Considerations:**

The options for regional low carbon and active transportation planning described in this report specifically target improving transportation and mobility options for all residents, with a focus on groups vulnerable to transportation affordability and accessibility.

### **3.5 Economic Considerations:**

The rural transportation pilot initiatives would create economic opportunities for businesses and individuals around the region. Improved options for mobility across the region can support economic development from the initial pilot stage to the increasing options for those without vehicles to access other communities to increasing tourism options.

### **3.6 Communication Considerations:**

The potential options described in this report that the RDCK could consider for regional transportation planning, were developed in response to public feedback received during the Regional Transportation Summit (2024), the Climate Actions planning engagement process (2023), and the Regional Transportation Think Tank (2022).

### **3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplace Considerations:**

The funding request includes staff time for the Climate Action Assistant to support the coordination and development of the working group and pilot project fund. This work would be overseen by the Sustainability Planner and would be included in the 2024 workplan.

### 3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

The recommendation made in this report is supported by the following 6 of the RDCK's Strategic Priorities:

- a.) Organizational Excellence
- b.) Manage our Assets & Service Delivery in a Fiscally Responsible Manner
- c.) Develop Relationships & Partnerships
- d.) Energy Efficiency & Environmental Responsibility
- e.) Regional Approach to Growth
- f.) Advocacy

## SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

That the RDCK Board direct staff to establish a collaborative working group and Rural Transportation Solutions Pilot fund in partnership with regional industry, local governments, and community organizations; AND FURTHER, that this be included in the July 2024 LGCAP funding proposal to the Board.

### Option 1: REGIONAL ACTION AND LOW CARBON TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

#### Pros:

- Ensures long-term involvement of the RDCK in regional transportation planning
- Decreased opportunity for collaboration with community groups active in the regional transportation network

#### Cons:

- Requires funding that could be used for other work

### Option 2: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP

#### Pros:

- Indicates RDCK response to public input on need for collaboration and leadership from RDCK on regional transportation network planning and improvements
- Ensures active and on-going conversation between RDCK & community organizations & industry involved in regional transportation
- Gives capacity for this group to leverage additional resources external to the RDCK

#### Cons:

- Does not ensure any transportation initiatives will be implemented through the RDCKs involvement in this working group
- Requires funding that could be used for other work

### Option 3 (recommended option): REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP and RURAL TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS PILOT FUND

#### Pros:

- Indicates RDCK response to public input on need for collaboration and leadership from RDCK on regional transportation network planning and improvements
- Ensures active and on-going conversation between RDCK & community organizations & industry involved in regional transportation

- Gives capacity for this group to leverage additional resources external to the RDCK
- Ensures that some regional transportation solutions will be implemented through the RDCKs work and involvement with this working group

**Cons:**

- Requires funding that could be used for other work
- Requires an increased level of RDCK involvement in the efforts of the proposed collaborative working group

**Option 4: NONE OF THE ABOVE**

**Pros:**

- Staff time can be dedicated elsewhere
- Funding retained for other work

**Cons:**

- Regional transportation solutions go uninvestigated at this time
- Public interest in this topic is unmet for now

## SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the RDCK Board direct staff to establish a collaborative working group and Rural Transportation Solutions Pilot fund in partnership with regional industry, local governments, and community organizations

AND FURTHER, that up to \$65,000 in associated costs be included in the July 2024 LGCAP funding proposal to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Leffelaar – Climate Action Assistant

Paris Marshall Smith – Community Sustainability Planner

## CONCURRENCE

Chief Administrative Officer – Stuart Horn

General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Services – Sangita Sudan

Manager of Community Sustainability Services – Dan Séguin

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Attachment A** – State of Climate Action Goals/Objectives, Climate Action Ideas, & Staff Work Plan Items Supporting Recommendations

**Attachment B** – Regional Transportation Summit – Attendance & Initiative Area Prioritization Results

**Attachment C** – Further Considerations Related to the RDCKs Potential Involvement in the Planning and Implementation of Regional Transportation Solutions

## Attachment A

### State of Climate Action Goals/Objectives, Climate Action Ideas, and RDCK Work Plan Items supporting CSLAC-RATS report recommendations

#### SoCA Goals & Objectives Aligned with CSLAC RATS Report Recommendations

**1. Landuse & Planning Goal:**

RDCK policies and decision-making frameworks/guidelines support and promote healthy, sustainable, and low-carbon lifestyles for all residents, and minimize risks associated with natural hazards

**Objectives:**

Update planning policies and bylaws to guide future development to create sustainable and complete communities

**2. Transportation & Mobility Goal:**

An integrated active and low-carbon regional transportation network (ecosystem) supporting universal access to services and amenities

**Objectives:**

Promote and support mobility for residents (with a focus on vulnerable communities) through locally initiated multi modal programs and infrastructure

Create an internal corporate structure and access to expertise that can support the shift to regional low-carbon transportation (zero-emission vehicles, buses, e-bikes/scooters, carshares, trains, ferries) within/between rural areas and municipalities

**3. Energy Goal:**

Transition to a low-carbon and energy resilient future through clean energy strategies, technologies, and cultural shifts (3 E's - Eliminate emissions, Efficiency improvements, Electrification or fuel switching)

**4. Leadership & Operations Goal:**

Incorporate a climate lens for all decision making and policies through the Board, to demonstrate that the RDCK prioritizes climate action and adaptation

**Objectives:**

Provide leadership and participate in multi-agency initiatives to accelerate climate action & mitigation efforts within the RDCK

Update and improve RDCK systems and guiding documents to better support and further climate actions and initiatives

Align decision making with the RDCK's carbon pollution targets in all areas (i.e.. land use & planning, building construction, project management) and provide staff with resources to support climate targets and goals

## Climate Action Ideas Aligned with CSLAC RATS Report Recommendation

### Ideas on transportation and mobility

- Work with the Provincial government to connect communities by increasing regional active and public transportation options
- Partner with community groups to expand local options for cycling, walking and other forms of active transportation
- Connect all new and renovated RDCK buildings (such as offices and recreation facilities) to bus routes and to pathways for cycling and walking
- Look into amenities in each community – such as hospitals, schools, parks and recreation facilities – that could benefit from access to increased transit service or pathways

### Ideas on energy efficiency

- Support community organizations in switching to renewable energy sources

### Ideas on planning for growth

- Research and learn from how other regional districts have used alternative/innovative strategies to guide regional development Idea Analysis Approval 2
- Consider a regional approach to land use planning and support municipalities and neighbouring areas (e.g. Area F and Nelson) in planning for growth together

## RDCK Workplan Items Aligned with CSLAC RATS Report Recommendation

RDCK Workplan Items	Possible Next Steps related to Workplan Items
Work strategically with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to increase connectivity and multi-modal options for movement	Pursue collaboration & funding from MoTI for multi-modal transportation infrastructure (hubs, bike stalls, e-bike stalls, etc.) - 2023-2030
Integrate access to public greenspace, recreation, and active transportation networks	Integrate this work with the community amenity assessment work to support the regional active transportation ecosystem development efforts - 2023-2026
Collaborate with regional partners on innovative low-carbon transportation solutions	<p>Host a transportation think tank to generate innovative ideas and identify collaboration opportunities - 2022</p> <p>Emphasize a focus on equity and universal access in the shift to low-carbon transportation - 2023-2026</p> <p>Collaborate on a webmap to detail the regional transportation ecosystem - 2023-2030</p> <p>Consider using &amp; supporting community halls as 'hubs'/nodes for multi-modal transportation - 2023-2030</p>

	Consider ways to support and incentivize carshares/rideshares/bikeshares, shuttle services, and multi-modal low-carbon transport - 2023-2030
Increase Transit ridership	Free ridership (or cheaper) for all or for certain demographics (i.e. low-income, seniors, students, etc.) -2026 - 2030  Work towards a taxpayer-based transit service - 2030  Gain public support through outreach & education - On-Going  Encourage and promote employer bus-pass programs - 2023
Consider establishing an Active Transportation Service and/or policy documents to support active transportation projects & initiatives (i.e. Regional Active Transportation Strategy or alternative framework of guidelines) to exercise governance over regional active transportation coordination and development	Consult with staff and draft a Board Report to propose the development of an Active Transportation Service and/or policy documents to support related projects and initiatives (Regional Active Transportation Strategy or guideline framework) - October 2022  Develop a position and hire an in-field expert to run service (deal with public inquiries, manage contracts, etc.) - 2024-2025  Utilize the Castlegar-Nelson active transportation route development as a case-study to help determine best practice and avoid duplicating pitfalls, and as an opportunity to advocate for the need for an in-house expert/responsible staff (learn from process) - 2023-2026
Collaborate with other agencies to determine common goals and work together	Explore programs to facilitate inter-agency collaboration (i.e. Tamarack Institute's Climate Transitions

## Attachment B

### Regional Transportation Summit – Attendance & Initiative Area Prioritization Results

#### Attendance & Initiative Area Prioritization/Feasibility Results

The Regional Transportation Summit invitation list was generated from the initial list of participants at the 2022 Transportation Think Tank, people who have expressed interest in this subject over the last 1.5 years (through work happening at the RDCK, informal conversations, engagement from RDCK Climate Actions and the Community Ambassadors), and then on the invitation for the Summit there was a request that “if you know of anyone that you think should attend, please let us know and we will extend the invitation” which solicited additional invites.

**Attendance:** There were 38 attendees at the Regional Transportation Summit representing almost 30 organizations locally involved in regional transportation including

- West Kootenay Cycling Coalition
- RDCK
- RDKB
- RDEK
- Community Energy Association
- Town of Creston
- City of Castlegar
- City of Nelson
- FortisBC
- Nelson and Area Community Transport
- West Kootenay Transit Action group
- Doctors & Nurses for Planetary Health
- Interior Health
- Selkirk College
- Castlegar & District Community Services Society
- Community Futures Central Kootenays
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Creston Valley Youth Network
- Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce
- BC Transit
- Kootenay Carshare Coop
- Municipal Active Transportation Plans
- Council of Canadians
- Private planning consultant involved with RDCK & RDKB municipal active transportation plans
- Kootenay Charters
- West Kootenay Climate Hub
- Castlegar-Nelson Active Transportation Corridor

While not present in person, we were also in contact with the following organizations in preparation for the event

- Village of New Denver
- Local bike shop
- Village of Silverton



- BC Transit
- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
- Clearview Consulting
- Castlegar Chamber of Commerce
- Youth Climate Corps
- Residents (through CAP engagement)
- Whitewater Ski Resort
- Lardeau Valley Links
- East Shore Transportation Society
- Rural Health Network

### Initiative Area Prioritization Activity Results

Initiative Area	# Priority	# Feasibility	Resources/People
Separated/Safe Bike Lanes	4	2	Keith Wiley CoN collaboration for regional lanes?
Intercommunity Active Transportation Paths	8	2	Tax exemptions for right of way/paths on private property Community group sponsors for pathway maintenance
Maintenance for Active Transportation Paths	4	0	Andrew Murray Nelson & Area Community Transportation
Safe & Secure Bike Parking	3	2	
Support for E-bikes, e-scooters, etc.	2	1	
Non-Motorized Active Transportation Routes	4	0	Cassie Norman
Bike Racks on Busses/Taxis	3	1	
Multi-Modal Hubs	4	1	Cassie Norman
Bus Shelters & Benches	2	1	Laura Sacks Community work parties to build shelters?
Bus Pass Programs	3	3	Passes for high-school students Kayla Tillapaugh (Selkirk College) – for staff & students Reidun Rosi (CDCSS) – needs for their clients, and has capacity to help with this Intercity bus passes for seniors
Improved Public Transit	24	6	Keith Wiley Reidun Rosi (CDCSS) can help w advocacy Nice/covered bus shelters CoN staff & resources to support/advocate for improvements

			On-demand transit Dave Gregory – Transit Action Group (knowledge of UK experience) Commuter trains on existing tracks Mark Lee’s Connection BC report has a vision/financial plan
Shuttle Services	2	3	West Kootenay Volunteer Driver Program
Ridesharing/Carsharing	7	3	Sarah Breen (examples from other places) Linking ridesharing to driver program & transit
Support for ZEVs	3	4	FortisBC funding? CEA Peer networks Rebates on vehicles/chargers (CleanBC) Graham Vikse – CoN fleet decarbonizations Kayla Tillapaugh (Selkirk College) – implement EV charging at each campus & advocate for regional progress
Kootenay Bay Ferry	2	4	MoTI Energy Studies
Collaborative Action/Working Group	6	11	Cassie Norman Kayla Tillapaugh (Selkirk College) Reidun Rosi (CDCSS) – ETSI grant (X2) for volunteer driver program Laura Sacks/West Kootenay Climate Hub RDCK meeting spaces Andrew Murray (NACT) Sarah Breen (facilitation) – increase dialogue to decrease duplicity e.g.(United Way multi-community grant – transport for seniors) CoN staff participation in working group Interior Health – Healthy Communities – participation/support
Local Government Transportation Planning, Servicing, and Policy	3	8	LGCAP funding CEA & FortisBC Support Policy/grant writing support Sarah Breen (case studies/research) Mike Adam (Interior Health) – support planning efforts Dan Seguin CSLAC to help strategize
Focus on Equity & Accessibility of Transportation	6	3	West Kootenay Volunteer Driver Program Mike Adam (Interior Health) Linked to community Planning, infrastructure & advocacy Cassie Norman
Transportation Phone App	1	0	

Transportation Ecosystem Map	0	0	
Advocacy Efforts/Group	4	2	Local governments could support residents to strengthen their voice to higher levels of government/large industry Collaborate & share voices (seniors on school busses, sidewalk in subdivisions)
Community-Based Social Marketing	1	2	Take experience from RDCK utility services
Focus on Safety of Transportation	2	0	Cassie Norman
Trams/Trains			
Total	97	60	

## **Attachment C**

# **Further Considerations Related to the RDCK's Potential Involvement in the Planning & Implementation of Regional Transportation Solutions**

### **General Considerations**

1. The RDCK has no authority over the development of highways and transportation infrastructure (except transit).

RESPONSE: As part of its climate action commitments, the RDCK must investigate its role in active transportation, and how to advocate for regional needs to those organizations with relevant jurisdiction. The RDCK does currently have a backbone of transit that can be leveraged jointly by communities and the RDCK.

2. Building a community level, regionally connected transportation ecosystem requires coordination and planning. A lack of coordination results in gaps in transportation ecosystem development and reactive planning.

RESPONSE: Provide coordination to internal and external initiatives to ensure planning and action is happening effectively and with greatest impact to resident experience.

3. There is interest from residents to engage in active transportation solutions requiring support from RDCK for administration of grants, resulting in extra staff time not currently in workplans.

RESPONSE: Recognize that the RDCK has a role in supporting community led initiatives and can benefit from involvement.

4. Limited understanding of the Provincial model for active transportation and lack of alignment with Provincial systems can result in unsuccessful requests for standalone projects

RESPONSE: Create a coordinated repository of information and planning that can align with provincial planning and funding mechanisms to support Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) capital projects like bridge replacements and betterment funding.

### **Governance**

- Collaboration and coordination (MOTI, BC Parks, IHA et al.). Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) asks that requests are shared with them to allow them to take the components of the plan and work them into their funding and operations processes. Transit has received money and support from MOTI through shelter funding and install, ROW acquisition, shoulder improvement, and a variety of other improvements.
- Provincial and Federal funding typically provides funding for initial planning, capital projects, education and the supporting policy and legislation development. This notably does not include any funding for ongoing operations and maintenance, meaning the RDCK would have to own, operate and maintain any new infrastructure built. If the land is not in the MOTI right of way the cost of land acquisition and the challenge of land use regulation (ALR, zoning etc) also need to be considered.

### **Electric Vehicles**

- While the electrification of passenger vehicles is an important part of the response to reducing carbon pollution and the transition to an active and low-carbon transportation ecosystem,

private ownership of electric vehicles (EVs) is not currently available to many residents. As such, **staff recommend an emphasis on solutions that benefit all residents, particularly those with mobility challenges and financial limitations.** Active mobility such as walking, cycling, and rolling provides health benefits from physical exercise, and offers equitable choices for residents who are unable or choose not to drive.



# Committee Report

**Date of Report:** May 22, 2024  
**Date & Type of Meeting:** June 18, 2024, Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee  
**Author:** Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner  
**Subject:** COMMUNITY WORKS APPLICATION FOR NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT OF YMIR WATERSHED/QUARTZ CREEK  
**File:** 0515-20-NAM-QUARTZCREEK  
**Electoral Area/Municipality** All

## SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend approval of the Community Works application for a Natural Asset Management Plan of Ymir Watershed/Quartz Creek.

**Recommendation** - That the Community Works Fund application submitted by Regional District Central Kootenay for the Ymir Watershed Natural Asset Management Plan in the amount of \$60,000 be approved and that funds be disbursed from Community Works Funds allocated to Electoral Area G and be allocated to S105 Community Sustainable Living Service.

FURTHER that a budget amendment to the 2024-2029 Financial Plan reflect this allocation and that the Sustainability Planner be approved to issue a Request for Proposal and subsequent contract for the Natural Asset Management Plan for Ymir.

AND FURTHER the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the contract once a proponent is selected.

## SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In April 2023, the Board directed staff to conduct Step 1 of Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee project evaluation of completing a Natural Asset Management Plan for Ymir Water System - Quartz Creek Watershed.

Following that direction, staff learned that a Natural Asset Management Plan would be eligible for Community Works funding and have since completed an application to Community Works funding from Area G with approval from Director Cunningham – see ATTACH01.

Staff are now requesting approval of the application to proceed with this project.

### BACKGROUND

The intent of this project is to create a Natural Asset Management Plan for Ymir Water System on Quartz Creek drinking water watershed. This system is currently owned and operated by the Regional District. The Regional

District receives community-specific advice and policy guidance from the Ymir Water Commission of Management.

A Natural Asset Management Plan (NAMP) is similar to an asset management plan in that NAMP's goal is sustainable service delivery while creating an integrated approach of including and valuing the role of natural assets.

Natural assets are naturally occurring resources that provide services to the community including:

- ecological services, such as habitat for wildlife
- co-benefits such as clean air and recreation spaces
- local government services, such as drinking water supply or storm water management

The Quartz Creek drinking water watershed provides drinking water for 300 Ymir residents through the Ymir Water System. It is a vulnerable watershed that is threatened by proposed industrial activity. Residents have worked for many years to find a means of protecting the watershed, without success. It is thought that a natural asset management plan, which will place an economic value on the services provided by the watershed, could be a means of clarifying its role, value and significance.

The NAMP will provide guidance for how to protect and enhance this important infrastructure by:

1. Managing risk through an understanding of what services are delivered by the Quartz Creek drinking water watershed and the costs of replacing them if damaged;
2. Reducing costs by managing this natural asset to provide services in perpetuity;
3. Maintaining the health of the watershed and Quartz Creek

To do this, the Plan will include:

- An inventory of ecological servicing provided by Quartz Creek/Ymir Watershed;
- An evaluation of the financial, ecological, and social benefit of this servicing to Ymir residents and the RDCK as a whole;
- Guidance for how to restore, protect, monitor, and maintain this critical infrastructure; and,
- An implementation plan including a financial requirements and benefits.

## **WHY EXPLORE NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT?**

The Ymir Water System - Quartz Creek is one of the RDCK systems and there has been a longstanding interest from the Board to use natural asset management to inform our water management. It also fits within the WGI and our interest to 1. support drinking water systems and communities whose drinking water source is threatened and 2. investigate different tools to support collaborative decision making.

RDCK's role is twofold –

1. Operational - The Ymir Water System supplied by the Quartz Creek watershed is a RDCK water system. Conducting a natural asset management plan builds on the asset management planning the RDCK has completed for the 19 water systems that can be replicated for other water systems.
2. Governance - The Watershed Governance Initiative seeks to support community efforts to protect drinking water watersheds. As with the Duck Creek watershed and the possible cumulative effects study, completing a natural asset management plan explores another tool for how the RDCK can support collaborative decision-making with First Nations, Province and industry.

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

### 3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

**Included in Financial Plan:**  Yes  No     
 **Financial Plan Amendment:**  Yes  No  
**Debt Bylaw Required:**  Yes  No     
 **Public/Gov't Approvals Required:**  Yes  No

This project is budgeted at \$70,000, funded through Community Works and in-kind staff time.

Item	Value	Source
Consultant fees	\$50,000	Community Works – Area G
Administration costs	\$10,000	Community Works – Area G
Project management	\$10,000	In-kind time – Sustainability Planner (S105)

### 3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

None at this time.

### 3.3 Environmental Considerations

The natural asset management plan for Quartz Creek will support the protection of the watershed which serves the Ymir water system.

### 3.4 Social Considerations:

The natural asset management plan for Quartz Creek will support the Ymir water system, which provides close to 300 households with drinking water. The community has not be able to identify an alternate water source. Loss of this water system would be devastating to Ymir residents.

### 3.5 Economic Considerations:

In addition to the social considerations, the natural asset management plan for Quartz Creek will support the economic activity in the Ymir community. The community has not be able to identify an alternate water source. Loss of this water system would be devastating to Ymir residents.

### 3.6 Communication Considerations:

The natural asset management plan for Quartz Creek will involve working with Water Services staff and Ymir Water group.

### 3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplace Considerations:

This project is included in the 2024 Sustainability Planner workplan.

### 3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

The natural asset management plan for Quartz Creek aligns with several Board priorities including coordinated service delivery, the Watershed Governance Initiative and protection of drinking water.

## SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

That the Community Works Fund application submitted by Regional District Central Kootenay for the Ymir Watershed Natural Asset Management Plan in the amount of \$60,000 be approved and that funds be disbursed from Community Works Funds allocated to Electoral Area G.



### **OPTION 1 – APPROVE**

**PRO:**

- Creating a Natural Asset Management Plan could have significant benefits for both Ymir residents in supporting the protection of their watershed and in creating a precedent for watershed valuation and protection across the region.

**CON:**

- Staff time could be directed elsewhere
- Requires Community Works funding that could be used elsewhere

### **OPTION 2 – DO NOT APPROVE**

**PRO:**

- Staff time could be directed elsewhere
- Requires Community Works funding that could be used elsewhere

**CON:**

- Creating a Natural Asset Management Plan could have significant benefits for both Ymir residents in supporting the protection of their watershed and in creating a precedent for watershed valuation and protection across the region, to not explore it leaves the Ymir community with limited options in the protection of their drinking water watershed.

### **OPTION 3 – SEEK OTHER FUNDING**

**PRO:**

- Community Works funding is not spent and could be used elsewhere

**CON:**

- Time is needed to find and apply for an alternate source of funding, Ymir residents have been waiting for action for over a year.

## **SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Community Works Fund application submitted by Regional District Central Kootenay for the Ymir Watershed Natural Asset Management Plan in the amount of \$60,000 be approved and that funds be disbursed from Community Works Funds allocated to Electoral Area G and be allocated to S105 Community Sustainable Living Service.

FURTHER that a budget amendment to the 2024-2029 Financial Plan reflect this allocation and that the Sustainability Planner be approved to issue a Request for Proposal and subsequent contract for the Natural Asset Management Plan for Ymir.

AND FURTHER the General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Service and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign the contract once a proponent is selected.

Respectfully submitted,

Paris Marshall Smith – Sustainability Planner

## **CONCURRENCE**

Chief Administrative Officer – Stuart Horn

General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Services – Sangita Sudan

Manager of Community Sustainability Services – Dan Séguin

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**Attachment A – CSLAC-NAM-CommunityWorks-ATTACH01**



# Regional District of Central Kootenay

Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4  
 250-352-6665 1-800-939-9300 Email info@rdck.bc.ca

<b>Community Works Fund Application (Appendix-A)</b>			
<b>Gas Tax Program Services – CWF Funding (UBCM)</b>			
<b>"The Project"</b>		Natural Asset Management	
Date of Application		2024/05/08	
<b>Applicant Information</b>			
Name of Organization	Regional District of Central Kootenay		
Address	202 Lakeside Drive		
City, Prov. Postal	Vancouver BC		
Phone No.	250 254 6084	Fax No.	
Organization's Email	info@rdck.bc.ca		
Name of Contact	Paris Marshall Smith	Contact's Email	pmarshallsmith@rdck.bc.ca
<b>Director in Support of Project</b>			
Name of Director(s)	Area(s)/Municipality	Amount Requested	
Hans Cunnigham	Area G	\$ 60,000.00	
<b>Project Time Line</b>			
Project Commencement Date (yyyy/mm/dd)		Project Completion Date (yyyy\mm\dd)	
2024/09/10		2025/05/13	
<b>Land Ownership</b>			
Ownership and legal description information is required for all parcels of land on which the proposed work will occur.			
Legal Description of land(s)			
Registered Owners of Land(s)			
Crown Land Tenure/License No./Permit No.(s)			
<b>Compliance With Regulations</b>			
The proponent shall in all respects abide by and comply with all applicable lawful rules, regulations and bylaws of the federal, provincial or local governments, or any other governing body whatsoever, in any manner affecting the Project.			
Have you consulted with a building official?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	
Have you applied and received a building permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, Permit No. _____	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	
If No, please explain: We are conducting planning work to management the asset in place			

**Application Content**

Must include all of the following:

- 1.0 - Description of the Project including management framework
- 1.1 - Project timeline and supporting documents
- 2.0 - Project budget
- 3.0 - Accountability Framework Financial statements that adhere to Project accountability

1.0 Description of the Project including management framework

The intent of this project is to conduct a natural asset management plan for Ymir Water System on Quartz Creek drinking water watershed.

The system was first constructed in the 1890s to supply water to an expanding mining community. Several stages of upgrades have been performed since that date. The system became a Regional District service in 1979 after a cold winter that froze the entire system and left the community without water for up to six weeks.

This system is currently owned and operated by the Regional District. The Regional District receives community-specific advice and policy guidance from the Ymir Water Commission of Management.

The Ymir system draws water from an intake located in Quartz Creek. The Quartz Creek area is designated as a Community Watershed. The Quartz Creek watershed has been licensed for timber harvesting. The Regional District has been working with BC Timber Sales and now the Licensee, ATCO Wood Products to provide water quality monitoring.

The intent of this project is to create a Natural Asset Management Plan for Ymir Water System on Quartz Creek drinking water watershed. This system is currently owned and operated by the Regional District. The Regional District receives community-specific advice and policy guidance from the Ymir Water Commission of Management.

A Natural Asset Management Plan is similar to an asset management plan in that NAMP's goal is sustainable service delivery while creating an integrated approach of including and valuing the role of natural assets.

Natural assets are naturally occurring resources that provide services to the community including:

- ecological services, such as habitat for wildlife
- co-benefits such as clean air and recreation spaces
- local government services, such as drinking water supply or storm water management

(If needed, please provide additional information on separate page)

1.1 Project Costs including Timeline and Supporting Documents

**TIMELINE:**

June 2024 - Community Work Funding approval by RDCK Board

July - August 2024 - Procurement

September - January 2024 - Project delivery

February 2024 - Reporting

**COSTS:**

Consultant fees \$50,000 Community Works – Area G

Administration costs \$10,000 Community Works – Area G

Project management \$10,000 In-kind time – RDCK staff

(If needed, please provide additional information on separate page)

1.2 Project Impact

The Quartz Creek drinking water watershed provides drinking water for 300 Ymir residents through the Ymir Water System. It is a vulnerable watershed that could be threatened by proposed industrial activity. There is no alternative water source for the Ymir residents, if this drinking water watershed is destroyed, they will be without water in their community.

Residents have worked for many years to find a means of protecting the watershed, without success. It is thought that a natural asset management plan, which will place an economic value on the services provided by the watershed, could be a means of clarifying its role, value and significance. By assigning a value to the watershed and putting in place systems to manage the watershed as an asset, drinking water can be provided in perpetuity.

(If needed, please provide additional information on separate page)

### 1.3 Project Outcomes

The Natural Asset Management Plan will provide guidance for how to protect and enhance this important infrastructure by:

1. Managing risk through an understanding of what services are delivered by the Quartz Creek drinking water watershed and the costs of replacing them if damaged;
2. Reducing costs by managing this natural asset can provide services in perpetuity;
3. Maintaining the health of the watershed and Quartz Creek

To do this, the Plan will include:

- An inventory of ecological servicing provided by Quartz Creek/Ymir Watershed;
- An evaluation of the financial, ecological, and social benefit of this servicing to Ymir residents and the RDCK as a whole;
- Guidance for how to restore, protect, monitor, and maintain this critical infrastructure; and,
- An implementation plan including a financial requirements and benefits.

(If needed, please provide additional information on separate page)

**1.4 Project Team and Qualifications**

Consultants with expertise in natural asset management planning will be hired to create the plan. They will work with Ymir residents and RDCK Water Services & Sustainability staff all of whom can provide the local and operational knowledge of the watershed.

Project management will be by RDCK staff who have significant experience managing contracts and overseeing projects.

(If needed, please provide additional information on separate page)

**2.0 Project Budget**  
List anticipated and confirmed Project revenue and expenses that have been deemed necessary for the implementation of the Project. Schedule B outlines eligible costs for eligible recipients (see attached).

**Project Revenue**  
(Capital, Professional, Environmental Assessment, Employee, Equipment, Incremental)

Item	Description of Revenue	Value (\$)
Consultant costs	Community Works	\$ 50,000.00
Administrative	Community Works	\$ 10,000.00
Project Management	Regional District of Central Kootenay in-kind	\$ 10,000.00
		\$
		\$
		\$
(If needed, please see page 7 to provide additional budget information)	<b>Sub-Total Project Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 70,000.00</b>

**Project Expenses**  
(Capital, Professional, Environmental Assessment, Employee, Equipment, Incremental)

Item	Description of Expenses	Value (\$)
Consultant fees		\$ 50,000.00
Administrative		\$ 10,000.00
Project Management		\$ 10,000.00
		\$
		\$
(If needed, please see page 7 to provide additional budget information)	<b>Sub-Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 70,000.00</b>



Project Revenue (continued)		
(Capital, Professional, Environmental Assessment, Employee, Equipment, Incremental)		
Item	Project Revenue	Value (\$)
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
	<b>Total Project Revenue</b>	\$ 70,000.00
Project Expenses (continued)		
(Capital, Professional, Environmental Assessment, Employee, Equipment, Incremental)		
Item	Description	Value (\$)
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
	<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	\$ 70,000.00

<b>2.1 Additional Budget Information</b> Quote rationale to be reviewed by RDCK Chief Administrative Officer		
(If needed, please provide additional information on separate page)		
<b>3.0 Accountability Framework</b>		
The eligible recipient will ensure the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Net incremental capital spending is on infrastructure or capacity building</li> <li>- Funding is used for eligible Project and eligible costs</li> <li>- Project is implemented in diligent and timely manner</li> <li>- Where recipient is a Local Government, undertake Integrated Community Sustainability Planning</li> <li>- Provide access to all records</li> <li>- Comply with legislated environmental assessment requirements and implement environmental impact mitigation measures</li> <li>- Provide a Project Completion Report including copies of all invoices</li> <li>-</li> </ul>		
<b>4.0 Schedule of Payments</b>		
The RDCK shall pay the grant to the proponent in accordance with the following schedule of payments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 75% upon signing of the Contract Agreement</li> <li>b) 25% upon receipt of a Project completion report indicating 100% completion of the Project and proof of meeting anticipated impacts and outcomes, a statement of income and expenses, and copies of invoices/receipts supporting funding expenditures.</li> </ol>		
<b>5.0 Acknowledgement of Requirements</b>		
Gas Tax-funded projects aim to achieve national objectives: a clean environment; strong cities and communities; and productivity and economic growth.		
By signing below, the recipient agrees to prepare and submit a Project completion report outlining Project outcomes that were achieved and information on the degree to which the Project has contributed to the above mentioned objectives. The Project completion report must include details of project revenue s and expenses and copies of invoices or receipts that support funding expenditures. In addition, an annual report (for 5 years) is to be submitted to the RDCK prior to October 31 <sup>st</sup> of each year detailing the beneficial impacts on the community as a result of the completed Project.		
Authorized Signature for Proponent	Name	Date



# CSLAC Committee Report

**Date of Report:** April 29, 2024  
**Date & Type of Meeting:** June 18, 2024, Community Sustainable Living Advisory Committee  
**Author:** Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner  
**Subject:** FUNDING APPLICATION TO WATER SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT IN YAQAN NU?KIY ?AMAK?IS - CRESTON VALLEY  
**File:** 10-5200-20-WGI  
**Electoral Area/Municipality** RDCK

## SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the water sustainability project for yaqan nu?kiy ?amak?is - Creston Valley and request approval for an application to the Watershed Security Fund.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board direct staff to submit an application to the Watershed Security Fund for water sustainability for yaqan nu?kiy ?amak?is - Creston Valley in the amount of \$150,000 and that if successful, grant funds be allocated to the S105 Community Sustainable Living Service.

## SECTION 2: BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In April, staff provided an update on the entire Watershed Governance Initiative (WGI) project. This report provides the progress on the Board direction (258/22) *to send a request to Yaqan Nukiy Chief and Council for their participation on developing a Water Sustainability Plan for the Creston Valley; AND FURTHER, request that the Province order a Water Sustainability Plan be developed in the Creston Valley in partnership with RDCK and Yaqan Nukiy SUBJECT TO agreement from Yaqan Nukiy.*

- June 2023 – Staff and Directors Aimee Watson and Garry Jackman met with Yaqan Nukiy Nasookin, Council and senior staff to discuss a partnership. There was interest to work together and the RDCK was asked to wait while Yaqan Nukiy organized on their end.
- March 2024 – Yaqan Nukiy have responded to the RDCK to say they are now ready to proceed with preparing Water Objectives and a Water Sustainability Plan for the Valley.
- May 2024 – A letter from Chair Watson and Nasu?kin Louie was sent to the Ministry of Water Lands and Resource Stewardship requesting to work together on water sustainability for yaqan nu?kiy ?amak?is - Creston Valley.
- June 2024 – The [Watershed Strategy Fund](#) opens for applications. Staff are recommending an application be submitted to support the initial phases of work with yaqan nu?kiy on water sustainability for yaqan nu?kiy ?amak?is - Creston Valley including development of Terms of Reference, Scope, relationship building, initial engagement on [Water Objectives](#) and working towards a [Water Sustainability Plan](#).

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ANALYSIS

### 3.1 Financial Considerations – Cost and Resource Allocations:

Included in Financial Plan:  Yes  No      Financial Plan Amendment:  Yes  No  
Debt Bylaw Required:  Yes  No      Public/Gov't Approvals Required:  Yes  No

Staff are working with yaqan nu?kiy staff to prepare an application for \$150,000 that will be allocated to Service 105. Details of the application are in process and can be provided verbally at the June 18, 2024 CSLAC meeting.

### 3.2 Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws):

None at this time

### 3.3 Environmental Considerations

This project supports whole watershed/ecosystem-based planning approach that includes consideration of the land (trees and soil), water (surface and ground) and the humans and animal uses of the land. This data collated will provide communities with information to more accurately understand the impacts of climate change, industry, recreational, natural hazards, development and also the compounded and unknown. Furthermore, this will enable communities to prepare for the anticipated events related to climate change: wildfire, drought, flooding, debris flows.

### 3.4 Social Considerations:

This project will support the Creston Valley with tangible tools to pursue collaborative decision making with regards to watersheds.

### 3.5 Economic Considerations:

Economic development is significantly dependent on healthy and intact watersheds that enable sustainable regional growth. By prioritizing watershed health, effective watershed governance will support long term economic planning related to industries such as recreation, forestry, fishing, mining, agriculture, tourism, and the health and wellness industry.

### 3.6 Communication Considerations:

The communication strategy reflects the components and priorities of Phase 3.

### 3.7 Staffing/Departmental Workplace Considerations:

The current actions are included in staff work plans: Sustainability Planner, General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Services, Community Sustainability Manager and Water Services Liaison to support the project.

### 3.8 Board Strategic Plan/Priorities Considerations:

The Watershed Governance Initiative aligns with the following Board priorities:

- 1. Seek opportunities for partnerships with local communities:**
  - Moving towards reconciliation with First Nations through respectful interactions and exploring partnerships

- Achieve better coordination between the RDCK and local municipalities on common strategic priorities
2. **Protect our water sources**
    - Develop comprehensive watershed management plan with all stakeholders and include them in OCP
    - Crown land logging and private land logging have limited impact on the quality and quantity of water available to RD residents for drinking and recreation
  3. **Establish a governance model for watershed management in the RDCK**
    - The RDCK determines what available tools it has to protect watersheds

## SECTION 4: OPTIONS & PROS / CONS

That the Board direct staff to submit an application to the Watershed Security Fund for water sustainability in yaqan nu?kiy ?amak?is - Creston Valley in the amount of \$150,000.

### OPTION 1 – APPROVE

PRO:

- This application could provide significant funding to support water sustainability for yaqan nu?kiy ?amak?is - Creston Valley.

CON:

- None at this time

### OPTION 2 – SEEK ALTERNATE SOURCE OF FUNDING

PRO:

- If there is concern with preparing an application to the Watershed Security Fund, staff can seek funding from alternate sources.

CON:

- An alternate source of funding is unknown at this time.

### OPTION 3 - DO NOT APPROVE

PRO:

- None at this time

CON:

- This application could provide significant funding to support water sustainability for yaqan nu?kiy ?amak?is - Creston Valley, staff will have be challenged to find a similar scale of funding.

## **SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Board direct staff to submit an application to the Watershed Security Fund for water sustainability for yaqan nuʔkiy ʔamakʔis - Creston Valley in the amount of \$150,000 and that if successful, grant funds be allocated to S105 Community Sustainable Living Service.

Respectfully submitted,

Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability Planner

## **CONCURRENCE**

Chief Administrative Officer – Stuart Horn

General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Services – Sangita Sudan

Manager of Community Sustainability Services – Daniel Seguin