



June 16, 2016

JUNE 16 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Support for Search and Rescue; Annual Cultural Report presented; Update from PG Airport Authority; Regional District proposes UBCM resolution for community-based agricultural program

Support for Search and Rescue

The Regional District will be providing a grant of \$32,000 to the Search and Rescue agencies in Prince George, Mackenzie and Robson Valley. Earlier this year the SAR agencies requested \$32,000 for the purchase of iPads for an internal mapping system to aid in their work. The iPads will provide high quality, upgradable, ortho-based maps on site using online mapping platforms such as Google Earth. Technology also makes it possible to overlay information to these maps such as recreational trails, forest roads, avalanche assessments and important features such as road closures, cabin sites, river launches and many others.

Annual Cultural Report presented

The 2015 Regional Annual Cultural Report was presented to the Regional District Board. The Annual Cultural Report contains data on visitors, staff, volunteers, and operating budgets. Overall attendance for the eight RDFFG-funded sites increased by 16 per cent over 2014. Total visitation was over 208,000 with 61 staff and 35 summer students employed, 455 volunteers donating their time and almost 8,000 school children visits.

Update from PG Airport Authority

Representatives from the PG Airport Authority were on hand to deliver their 2015 Annual Report. In 2015, the airport saw an increase of 5.6% in passenger traffic, largely attributed to the 2015 Canada Games. Over the last year, a new crossdock facility was completed as well as improvements to runway surfacing and lighting.

Regional District proposes UBCM resolution for community-based agricultural program

The Regional District will be forwarding a resolution to UBCM that calls on the Province to deliver a province-wide community-based agricultural extension program to support knowledge enhancement for new, prospective and existing farmers. Community Futures Fraser-Fort George has provided the highly successful 'Beyond the Market' agricultural extension program since 2010 in partnership with OBAC and local governments in the region including an annual contribution of \$20,000 from the Regional District. Community Futures has submitted a proposal to the Provincial Government to provide a similar extension program for the benefit of all of BC, but it has not had a response to that proposal.

Community Grants

The Board approved the following requests for Community and Recreation Grants:

- \$650 to the Reid Lake Community Association for insurance
- \$740 to the Salmon Valley Community Association for insurance
- \$9000 to the Nadsilnich Lake Community Association for hall maintenance, utilities and activities
- \$3000 to the Ferndale Tabor Volunteer Fire Rescue Society for parking lot expenses
- \$10,860 to the Pineview Recreation Commission for summer festival expenses and seniors event
- \$5000 to the Pineview Funtimers Slo Pitch League for property improvements
- \$15,000 to the Red Rock/Stoner Volunteer Fire fighters Association for construction of a training facility
- \$2000 to the Ferndale Tabor Volunteer Fire Rescue Society for parking lot expenses
- \$500 to the Sinclair Mills Education and Recreational Club for a first aid course
- \$500 to the Bear Lake Recreation Association for volunteer appreciation event
- \$10,000 to the McLeod's Lake Centennial Club for operating expenses and volunteer dinner
- \$2000 to the McLeod Lake Indian Band for youth appreciation awards
- \$4500 to the McLeod's Lake Post Historical Society for operating expenses
- \$1850 to the Robson Valley Arts and Culture Council for Open Gate Garden expenses
- \$5000 to the Robson Valley Mountain Bike Association for trail development
- \$500 to the Valemount Arts and Cultural Society for insurance and membership fee
- \$8500 to the Valemount Curling Club for insurance and building maintenance
- \$21,000 to the Prince George Agricultural and Historical Association for the BCNE Fair
- \$14,000 to Prince George Search and Rescue for an iPad-based mapping program (grant combined with a Regional Grant-in-Aid for a total of \$32,000)

For further information, please contact

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REGIONAL DISTRICT
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