



JUNE 15 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Board sends Graymont application to Agricultural Land Commission; Airport Authority update; Annual Cultural Report presented

Board sends Graymont application to Agricultural Land Commission

The Regional District Board considered an Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Non-Farm Use application from Graymont Western Canada Inc. asking the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to allow for the construction and use of a conveyor corridor across ALR lands. Graymont has proposed to develop a limestone quarry and lime-processing facility south of Eaglet Lake in Giscome and has applied to the ALC to allow the construction and use of a conveyor corridor across ALR lands. The intended use for the conveyor is for the transportation of limestone from the rock quarry to the processing plant for processing. The application only applies to the conveyor, not the processing plant which was subject to a previous ALR exclusion application.

The Board approved forwarding the application to the ALC with a recommendation to approve.

Airport Authority update

Representatives from the Prince George Airport Authority provided an update on operations and capital plans. Passenger count was down slightly in 2016 from 2015, which is attributed to the additional passenger traffic resulting from the 2015 Canada Games. When comparing 2016 traffic to 2014, the passenger traffic is up 3.5%. Financially, the airport has operated in the black for the past six years, with surplus going to offset costs of capital projects. Over the next 10 years, the Airport Authority has \$50-60 million of capital projects planned, including improvements to onsite parking that will see the installation of an elevator from long term parking to the departures level.

Annual Cultural Report presented

The Annual Cultural Report was presented to the Board. The report contains 2015 and 2016 data on visitors, staff, volunteers, and operating budgets from the eight museums and galleries in the region supported by the Regional District. The overall attendance for the eight funded sites was down 11 per cent over 2015. Total visitation was over 184,000 with 66 staff and 34 summer students employed, 413 volunteers donating their time and over 8,700 school children visits. Plans for 2017 are also included in the report as the cultural organizations continue to improve their sites and offer engaging exhibits and help celebrate milestones such as Canada 150.

The Board gave approval to the establishment of new grant programs to support cultural sites with funding for emergency repairs and organizations with arts, cultural and heritage projects. The programs are supported with interest revenue from an endowment fund that was established in 2006.

Community Grants

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

- \$372 to the Salmon Valley Community Association for a children's Easter party
- \$660 to the Reid Lake Community Association for insurance
- \$5000 to the Buckhorn Volunteer Firefighters Association for dryer installation costs
- \$1000 to the Pineview Fire Department Association for field rental
- \$88,242 to the Pineview Recreation Commission for building expansion, driveway and parking lot maintenance and Summerfest 2017.
- \$5500 to the Cariboo Ferndale Community Association for insurance and programs
- \$1500 to the Penny Community Historical Association for insurance, hall and grounds maintenance
- \$500 to the Bear Lake Recreation Association for workshop travel expenses
- \$2000 to the McLeod Lake Indian Band for youth appreciation awards
- \$250 to the Canoe Valley Community Association for workshop travel expenses
- \$2000 to the McBride and District Hospital Auxiliary for electric lift costs
- \$3000 to the Robson Valley Spay & Neuter Society for program costs
- \$1000 to the Valemount Community Sports Day Association for insurance and venue costs
- \$5000 to the Valemount Public Library for automatic door costs.

For further information, please contact

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