

WHISTLER

REPORT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: February 18, 2020 REPORT: 20-021

FROM: Infrastructure Services FILE: 155

SUBJECT: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY GRANT APPLICATION

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Infrastructure Services be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council support the Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality grant application for the design and construction of necessary water, sewer, and district energy utilities and road access to future employee housing developments in Cheakamus Crossing.

REFERENCES

Link - Green Infrastructure - Environmental Quality Grant Program

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/investing-in-canada-infrastructure-program/green-infrastructure/environmental-quality

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The second application intake for the Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Program is now open for applications from BC municipalities and regional districts. The deadline for submission is February 26, 2020. This grant application requires a Council resolution as proof of support for this project to proceed if a grant was awarded.

DISCUSSION

During the bid for the 2010 Winter Olympics, the concept emerged for the provision of an Olympic and Paralympic Village that would also serve as a permanent resident housing legacy for the community of Whistler. With funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments and a land grant from the Province, the RMOW developed an Athletes' Village for Games use that transitioned into a permanent legacy of resident housing for the Whistler community following the Games.

The Provincial Government provided a land grant of a total of 136 hectares to the RMOW to support resident housing. The current Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood occupies approximately 37 hectares of this land grant leaving the balance available for possible development.

This land bank is critical to Whistler's long-term health and ability to house employees and residents, as it designates land to be used for resident housing at no cost to the community. The RMOW and its subsidiary Whistler 2020 Development Corporation (WDC) are in the process of planning for the next step in developing more employee housing in Cheakamus Crossing. If successful, this grant application

will support the development by providing external funding of up to 73 per cent of the total costs for installation of utility and road connections to the new employee housing development.

WHISTLER 2020 ANALYSIS

W2020 Strategy	TOWARD Descriptions of success that resolution moves us toward	Comments
Economic	Resort community partners work together to identify shared spending priorities, share resources, and leverage funds and financing opportunities.	Funding from senior levels of government will help to make the next step in developing more employee housing more affordable.
Energy	The energy system is continuously moving towards a state whereby a buildup of emissions and waste into air, land and water is eliminated.	New employee housing developments in Cheakamus Crossing will be able to take advantage of the extremely low GHG district energy system.

OTHER POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Advancing employee housing is one of Council's three focus areas and this grant application is being made to help finance the next step in creating more employee housing in the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

If this grant application is successful, the grant funding will help to pay for the utilities and road connections required for the next step in creating more employee housing in Cheakamus Crossing. The results of this grant application process are anticipated in early 2021, and could impact the 2021 or 2022 municipal budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

n/a.

SUMMARY

Creating more employee housing in Whistler is one of Council's three focus areas and this grant application is being made to help finance the next step in creating more employee housing in the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood.

This grant application requires a Council resolution as proof of support for this project.

Respectfully submitted,

James Hallisey, P.Eng. GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES