



WHISTLER

REPORT | ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: August 17, 2021
FROM: Resort Experience
SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

REPORT: 21-091
FILE: 8368

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Resort Experience be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the submission of the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program application attached as Appendix A to Administrative Report 21-091.

REFERENCES

Appendix A – Supplemental information provided to Infrastructure Planning Grant Program

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information about the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program funding application and request its support.

DISCUSSION

Background

The Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) is partnering with the [Municipal Natural Assets Initiative](#) (MNAI) to include municipal natural assets in the overall asset management program. Council supported a request from staff last year to support the UBCM funding application to carry out the readiness assessment and inventory work. That project is currently underway and progressing on track.

Natural asset management enables local governments to provide core services in a cost effective manner using natural ecosystems. They deliver services such as storm water management, water filtration, and protection from flooding and erosion, as well as additional services such as those related to recreation, carbon storage and sequestration, biodiversity, health and culture. Natural asset management service delivery rests on healthy, biodiverse ecosystems and thus progress in this domain supports the delivery of ecological services and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Recently, the MNAI approached the Environmental Stewardship Manager with a request to co-submit an application to the provincial [Infrastructure Planning Grant Program](#) (IPGP). MNAI has completed work with Engineers and Geoscientists of BC and Asset Management BC to integrate natural asset management into professional engineering norms. The application to IPGP is to develop a “roadmap” that builds on the work already completed and to extend it to sectors beyond engineering. Developing professional norms or standards will make it clearer for professions to include natural assets in land

use planning and infrastructure designs.

The RMOW will be able to benefit from this work in the future as it delivers on OCP policies related to protecting the environment, adapting to climate change and reducing the cost of infrastructure development and maintenance.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Official Community Plan

Community Vision

Goals, Objectives and Policies

Objective 5.4.1: Encourage environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient design, construction and renovation standards for both new development and redevelopment of residential areas.

Policy 7.1.2.5: Investigate the application and integration of natural capital and municipal natural assets into the municipality's asset management program to recognize and assign value to the role of ecosystem services in the functioning of Whistler's infrastructure.

Other Relevant Policies

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

There are no budget considerations. The Environmental Stewardship Manager will provide a limited amount of in-kind contribution to deliver this project. The funding application is for a maximum of \$10,000 and requires no RMOW funds.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

No community consultation is required for this funding application.

SUMMARY

The RMOW and MNAI are collaborating on a project that will integrate municipal natural assets into the asset management program. The current application to the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program will move this evolving field forward and benefit the RMOW in the future. The roadmap, once completed, will improve knowledge of the extent to which a variety of professions can begin to deliver core services through natural asset management.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Beresford
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MANAGER
for
Jessie Gresley-Jones
GENERAL MANAGER OF RESORT EXPERIENCE