



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2009

August 20 Board Meeting Highlights

Regional District Considers Community Forest; McBride Looks to RDFFG for Support for Waste Water Expansion Project; RDFFG Contracts with Sharp Construction for Summit Lake Sewer Construction;

Regional District Considers Community Forest

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is looking at opportunities that Community Forests may provide. Community forests provide the means for an organization to enter into an agreement with the Province for tenure over Crown Land for the purpose of maintaining and harvesting forest lands. Community Forest Agreements serve a number of needs such as local job creation, economic diversification, local control for the protection of sensitive areas and recreation sites and opportunities for greater control in mitigating the risks associated with forest interface areas.

Six areas within the Regional District are already in the process of operating or have applied for a Community Forest, including McBride, Prince George, Valemount, Lheidli T'enneh, Mackenzie in partnership with McLeod Lake Indian Band and the community of Dunster.

The Board approved allocating \$25,000 to further explore the feasibility of pursuing a Community Forest Agreement.

McBride Looks to RDFFG for Support for Waste Water Expansion Project

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George has been requested by the Village of McBride to partner in a new waste water expansion project. The Board heard that the current system in McBride is at capacity, and the Village is looking to secure funding for a new eco-friendly system that would see a second lagoon constructed, an established wetland and irrigated woodlot. As part of the project, there would also be construction of a series of multi sport trails, visitor stop and information and provide for wildlife viewing opportunities. It's a three phased project with a total cost of about 4.2 million, some of which has already been secured through various grant programs and the Village of McBride. The Village of McBride is requesting \$150,000 in funding from the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

RDFFG Contracts with Sharp Construction for Summit Lake Sewer Construction

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George has entered into a contract with Sharp Construction Ltd for the Summit Lake Sewer Construction. The contract will cover the construction of a lagoon, installation of a lagoon liner and sewer lines and a lagoon access road. The total value of the project was originally estimated to be \$2.5 million but as a result of recent decreases experienced in the construction market, the project is now estimated to come in around \$1.9 million. The project is expected to be complete in 2010.

Community Grants

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

- \$860 to the Upper Mud River/McBride Timber Road South Rural Watch for Crime Watch signs
- \$4000 to the Hixon Community Association for the Olympic Torch Relay Celebrations
- \$3000 to the Hixon Community Association for Community Hall tables
- \$8000 to the Willow River Recreation Association for Ball diamond concession repairs, park additions and site preparation for trails
- \$2500 to the Penny Historical Society for Hall insurance and heating costs and Red Mountain cabin and trail maintenance
- \$4000 to the District of Mackenzie for services and facilities costs
- \$500 to the Summit Lake Community Association for Volunteer Appreciation
- \$500 to the McBride Secondary School for Girls Conference expenses
- \$2500 to the Valemout and Area Museum for roof repairs

For further information, please contact
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