



NOV. 19 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

RDDFG Board Chair and Vice Chair elected; Regional District allocates Northern Capital and Planning Grant; RHD approves 2021 provisional budget; COVID-19 Safe Restart funding received; Cultural plan for 2021-2022 approved; Changes coming to Cummings Road Transfer Station

RDDFG Board Chair and Vice Chair elected

Directors with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George have re-elected Art Kaehn (Electoral Area E, Hixon-Woodpecker) as the Board Chair. Director Kaehn was elected by acclamation and has served as Chair of the Regional District Board since 2007. Director Lara Beckett (Electoral Area C, Chilako River-Nechako) was also re-elected by acclamation to the position of Vice Chair. This is Director Beckett's third term as Vice Chair.

Regional District allocates Northern Capital and Planning Grant

The Regional District Board approved the allocation of more than \$1.3 million in funding received through the provincial Northern Capital and Planning Grant. Funding will go to 12 different projects, operations and studies. Some of the projects include Regional Broadband connectivity study, construction of a new Emergency Operations Centre and contributions to reserve funds for RDDFG facilities and services.

RHD approves 2021 provisional budget

The Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District approved the provisional budget for 2021. The provisional budget is \$17,641,305 which is up approximately \$3.6 million over the 2020 budget in order to meet the projected capital needs identified by the Northern Health Authority (NHA) for future years. Regional hospital districts are required, under the Hospital District Act, to pass a provisional budget prior to the end of the calendar year. The provisional budget is in place until the Board adopts the Annual Budget, prior to the March 31, 2021 statutory deadline.

COVID-19 Safe Restart funding received

The Regional District has received \$747,000 from the province-wide COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments program. The funding is intended to support the various services provided by local governments as they adapt and continue to respond to the pandemic. Funds may go to a variety of areas including addressing revenue shortfalls, facility re-opening and operating costs, emergency planning and response costs, computer and other electronic costs and other costs related to responding to COVID-19.

Cultural Plan for 2021-2022 approved

The Regional District has approved a new Regional Cultural Plan for 2021-2022. The plan is focused on identifying support and actions to help regional cultural facilities in their response and ongoing operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan includes 22 specific actions to address common challenges and advance ongoing work that will support the regional cultural facilities through COVID.

Changes coming to Cummings Road Transfer Station

The Cummings Road Regional Transfer Station constructed in 1991 requires redevelopment as it has outgrown the current design. The site requires upgrades and expansion to improve waste diversion opportunities for rural residents and improve site safety for customers, haulers and onsite staff. The design and geotechnical work is currently underway. The next phase of the project is obtaining construction services. Construction is expected to begin after a contract is awarded in Spring of 2021, with the completion of the project Fall 2021.

Community Grants

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

- \$8255 to the Miworth Community Association for hall clean up, rink shelter upgrades and basketball equipment
- \$20,000 to Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society for ecological restoration
- \$15,000 to the Buckhorn Volunteer Firefighters Association for tires and equipment
- \$52,000 to the Pineview Funtimers Slow Pitch for maintenance and equipment, electrical service to field, storage building
- \$45,000 to the Pineview Volunteer Firefighters Association for hydrant maintenance and hydraulic pump replacement
- \$3000 to the Pineview Elementary PAC for snowshoes
- \$1396 to the Bear Lake Recreation Association for insurance and a printer
- \$4500 to the Dunster Fine Arts School Society for insurance
- \$263 to the McBride Secondary School for facility rental fees
- \$6800 to Wildsight for Beyond Recycling education program

For further information, please contact

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