

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: May 8, 2023

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Blake McIntosh, Director, Civic Operations

SUBJECT: Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) funding to City of Prince George

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council **AUTHORIZES** the Director of Civic Operations to sign an agreement to accept grant funding of \$165,000 from the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) as detailed in the report dated May 8, 2023, from the Director of Civic Operations titled “Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) funding to City of Prince George.”

PURPOSE:

Administration is seeking Council approval to sign an agreement with the Province of British Columbia to accept funding of \$165,000. This funding is for the development of a Pidherny Recreation Area Master Plan.

BACKGROUND:

In January 2023, Civic Operations staff applied jointly with the Prince George Cycling Club (PGCC), and with support of Recreation Sites & Trails BC (RSTBC), for a grant under the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP), Forest Impact Transition stream, for the development of a Pidherny Recreation Area Master Plan. This plan is intended to include access management and long-term infrastructure development with comprehensive public and First Nations engagement.

On March 14, 2023, the City was advised that we were successful in our grant application, to a maximum provincial contribution of \$165,000.

The Pidherny Recreation Area is a high quality outdoor multi-user recreation site for local community groups, residents, and tourists. The recreation area was established by the Province in 2009 and has continued to grow and attract users since that time, and is now needing a plan to direct and manage future growth.

The Prince George Cycling Club and the City of Prince George have existing agreements with the Recreation Sites and Trails BC provincial program. The City of Prince George agreement specifically supports access and parking area management while the PGCC agreement includes commitments

and responsibilities to all aspects of the sites management including both access and parking infrastructure, trail development and maintenance and accessibility infrastructure.

The PGCC (with support from both the City and the Recreation Sites and Trails Program) will take the lead on the contract procurement and contract management. This will include developing the contract with the specific objectives (consulting services, public engagement, First Nations consultation, engineering survey, environmental reviews etc.) and outcomes (comprehensive publicly available document with site specific recommendations and estimates) of the Master Plan.

A Master Plan is required for this recreation area to progress meaningful development to provide outdoor recreation infrastructure for the community. This will consider stakeholders within the community to ensure all users have input on the development. The plan will be used in the long-term development of access points and parking (including feasibility study for locations identified), trail assessment of existing facilities and long-term development of the trail network.

The City (with support of RSTBC) will assist in managing this application to ensure all terms and conditions outlined in the funding agreement are to the satisfaction of the Province.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This funding supports Council Strategic Priorities for economic diversity and growth by maximizing the quality of life for all residents, along with marketing Prince George as a place to invest, live and visit.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The funding, to a maximum provincial contribution of \$165,000 under the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP), will be used for the development of a Pidherny Recreation Area Master Plan.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Administration is seeking Council approval to sign an agreement with the Province of British Columbia to accept funding of \$165,000. This funding is for the development of a Pidherny Recreation Area Master Plan. This project will contribute to economic diversity and market Prince George as a place to invest, live and visit. The City will work with its partners to ensure a successful development and implementation of the area master plan.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Blake McIntosh, Director, Civic Operations

PREPARED BY: Dave Bradshaw, Manager, Transportation & Technical Services

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2023/05/08