



UBCM Community Excellence Award Submission
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

Title: Sustainability in a Rural Environment

Category: Leadership & Innovation, Regional District

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REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES:

CITY OF ARMSTRONG
DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM
CITY OF ENDERBY

VILLAGE OF LUMBY
TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN
CITY OF VERNON

ELECTORAL AREAS:

"B" – SWAN LAKE
"C" – B.X. DISTRICT
"D" – LUMBY (RURAL)

"E" – CHERRYVILLE
"F" – ENDERBY (RURAL)

OFFICE OF: ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES

YOUR FILE No.:
OUR FILE No.: 530.01

July 30, 2008

2008 Community Excellence Awards
Union of BC Municipalities
60 - 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9
Attn: Joslyn Young, Executive Coordinator

Dear Selection Committee Members:

Re: UBCM Community Excellence Award Submission

Title: Sustainability in a Rural Environment
Category: Leadership & Innovation, Regional District

Summary

We submit this application from the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) for a UBCM Excellence Award in Leadership and Innovation to recognize and acknowledge the visionary leadership demonstrated by Directors in the Electoral Areas of the RDNO.

In this regard, we highlight what we believe are demonstrated examples of excellence in the successful implementation of programs, policies and plans which have benefitted the residents of the Electoral Areas in the RDNO.

We believe that in a number of specific areas, the RDNO and its Rural Directors have demonstrated visionary governance leadership. From a broad perspective, all of these initiatives, many of which began more than three years ago, have in one way or another contributed to the ultimate goal of making their rural communities more sustainable from an environmental perspective.

Context for Evaluation of this Award Submission

While the general criteria for these awards speak of environmental excellence in the area of natural resource protection, this submission proposes that equal consideration and acknowledgement be given to efforts that assist in building a socially and culturally sustainable environment.

It is our view that, if the basic needs of rural residents in terms of housing, safety, security and stability of their social and cultural environment are not met; it is difficult to turn their attention to protection of the natural environment. It must be further recognized that in the rural areas of British Columbia, it is far more difficult to provide the levels of service for residents to meet these basic needs than it is in the urban areas.

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Therefore, it is our contention that from the perspectives of leadership, being committed to principles of sustainability over time, and innovation in terms of offering non-traditional services in rural areas, this submission merits serious and favorable consideration. In order to fairly and favorably evaluate the significance and success of the RDNO initiatives for purposes of these awards, it is important to:

1. acknowledge the inherent challenges in governance structure of Regional Districts and the level of sustained effort required to develop, establish and deliver programs and policies aimed at environmental excellence in rural areas;
2. consider the term "environmental" and "sustainable" in their broadest context;
3. consider the significance and leadership shown by the electoral area directors over a sustained period of time in participating in services which are intended to promote and maintain the sustainability of the larger community in which they are a part and their voluntary participation in many services, which is uncommon throughout the province.

Background

For many years, the RDNO has been recognized by the Ministry of Community Development as a leader in the area of regional district governance, administration and service delivery.

Specifically, in 2002, recognizing the increasing challenges to long term sustainability, the RDNO embarked on a number of initiatives to provide a better framework for governance and service delivery within the RDNO. One of the key initiatives was the Electoral Area Services Initiative which proposed the development of a new framework for governance and the delivery of electoral area services.

This initiative came to fruition in 2005 and provided a new governance structure and framework for existing services in which all five electoral areas participated as well as those services in which only some areas participate and also those services provided on a localized, specified area basis.

In addition to providing the basic services which previously existed, (which will be discussed briefly to illustrate the Rural Directors' historical leadership in support of a sustainable community), this new structure and forum for debate prompted a number of new initiatives aimed at making the rural communities more sustainable for rural residents. Highlighted below are three key sustainability initiatives supported by the Electoral Area Director and facilitated through the RDNO, as well as selected highlights of long-term sustainability programs which demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.

New Sustainability Initiatives

1. In-house Sustainability Coordinator

In 2006 the RDNO submitted a proposal to the UBCM outlining the RDNO's rationale (attached) for hiring an in-house sustainability coordinator through the New Deal Funds. Initially this proposal was rejected as the program in general did not support use of these funds for in-house staff. After several further submissions, the UBCM Program Management Committee again reviewed the program eligibility criteria and determined that this was an acceptable application of funds as it met the overall objectives of the program.

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The RDNO then hired the Coordinator beginning in January 2008 and since that time the Coordinator has made extraordinary progress towards many of the objectives anticipated for this service. Below are highlights of some of the projects and initiatives which have been supported by the Electoral Area Directors which have, in a very short time made an impact on our organization, specifically promoting the principles of sustainability:

- Community education and empowerment - April 2008 - Education and Awareness campaign through presentations to RDNO Board and through meetings with numerous rural community groups to discuss opportunities for introducing sustainability initiatives within their respective communities
- Climate change initiative - April 2008 – Recommendation to the Electoral Area Directors to propose to the Regional Board that the RDNO become a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter – approved by the RDNO Board April 9, 2008
- May 2008 – Implementation of the “Biggest Loser Challenge” – a staff based challenge to reduce greenhouse emissions associated with commuting to and from work; education on action that can reduce energy use within the RDNO buildings; and a “Sustainability Strategy” for all RDNO operations
- May 2008 – establish policy framework for evaluating applications and allocating funds under community Works Program – award of first capital project related thereto
- July 2008 – received Board approval to invite proposals for a study on “Transport Options for Rural Residents”. The terms of reference for the proposal call are attached. The purpose of the study is to build on the information available from other transportation studies, and in the milieu of goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, rising air quality concerns as well as the provincial initiative to invest more in public transit. Specifically, to analyze and explore what viable transportation options are available to the residents in small communities and rural areas to achieve some of the sustainability objectives which have been generally promoted and applied in urban settings.
- On-going – for term of five year funding program to continue to promote and initiate actions which are consistent with the sustainability initiatives of the Gas Tax Program.

2. Fire Education and Awareness Program

Following the 2003 Kelowna Fire and the recommendations from Mr. Filmon's report, the RDNO, on recommendations from Electoral Area Directors, implemented a series of initiatives designed to improve the safety and ultimately the long term sustainability of their rural communities.

The steps taken by the RDNO through recommendation of the Electoral Area Directors included but were not limited to:

- Development of Emergency Response Plans for fire events in rural areas beginning in 2005
- Incorporation of key elements of the Fire Smart Manual by amending the rural Official Community Plans of the RDNO
- Establishment in 2006 of a Fire Education and Awareness Service for portions of the RDNO not covered with fire protection to increase awareness and understanding from both a structural and wildfire interface perspective – As part of the service delivered through this program their have been a number of information mail outs as well as on-going meetings to disseminate information to community groups on both fire preparedness and emergency response.

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3. Safe Communities Program

In 2005 the Electoral Area Directors and elected officials from four smaller communities in the RDNO received a presentation from the RCMP regarding the rationale and contribution to community safety and sustainability through the implementation of a Safe Communities Coordinator to complement the efforts of the RCMP members. Specifically the purpose of this initiative is to develop, promote and implement the philosophy of Community-based Policing through programs of Crime Prevention and Safe communities by educating and assisting the residents in effectively reducing the fear of incidents and to create safe homes and safe communities.

Following a number of deliberations, the five Electoral Areas, facilitated by the RDNO, embarked on establishing a Safe Communities service for their rural residents. The Rural Safe Communities Coordinator began in January 2008 and has undertaken some of the following activities for electoral area residents designed to improve the safety and ultimately, the long-term sustainability of their rural communities:

- Education and Awareness - attended many community association and other meetings and events to provide education and awareness of the program and the services available, including joint presentation with Sustainability Coordinator and Protective Services staff
- Program Development – facilitated the introduction and initiation of some of the following
 - Block Watch start up meetings
 - Speed Watch programs
 - Various Parents and Tots safety programs and Keeping Our Kids Safe presentations
 - Various seniors Personal Safety and Safe Driving programs
 - Facilitated many and varied neighbourhood meetings with residents on crime related matters with RCMP and other agencies
- Liaison - acted as liaison and information resource for communications between RCMP members and residents

Pre-existing Programs Supporting Long-Term Sustainability

In addition to the new initiatives noted above, the RDNO, and its Electoral Area Directors in particular, have been leaders in the promotion of sustainable communities for decades. In addition, the Rural Directors have demonstrated their progressive leadership through their willingness to voluntarily participate in services and explore innovative approaches to provide and deliver services in the rural areas. They have shown a commitment to regional partnerships which is the envy of most regional districts particularly in their responsible and progressive approach to participate in services with their urban partners.

Selected highlights and examples of the RDNO Rural Directors commitment to leadership:

- Water and sewer utilities – within the rural areas of the RDNO there are a number of small water and sewer utilities operated and administered by the RDNO. In addition to providing sustainability to the communities they serve in terms of water and sewer, the existence of these services in the rural areas provide the opportunity to raise awareness

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to the impacts of human settlement and its negative impact on the environment and to educate residents about environmental stewardship.

- Sustainability Planning - Building Inspection – all Electoral Areas participate, with four of the six municipalities in the RDNO, in the Building Inspection service and have since the inception of the RDNO. The Directors have acknowledged the benefits in terms of safety and long term community sustainability to their residents of participating in this service.
- Parks, Recreation and Culture function – since 1976, all Electoral Area within the RDNO have participated with one of three sub regional services adjacent to their respective areas. The Directors have recognized that one of the keys to long term community sustainability, essential to sustaining the fiber of the community, is recreation and culture. This regional function is responsible for delivery of most aspects of park and recreation planning, administration, programming and operations of all parks and recreation facilities.
- Economic Development – since 1991, two of the electoral areas adjacent to the City of Vernon have been participants in a sub-regional economic development/tourism service and there has been general support from the other electoral areas to make the economic development service fully regional.

Summary

While we recognize that this submission may not precisely fit the specific excellence award criteria, we do believe that it is worthy of your serious and favorable consideration in the broadest terms of excellence in leadership and innovation in governance and service delivery to rural residents.

We further believe that there are sufficient programs and policies which have been implemented and which do meet the specific program eligibility criteria to give this submission favorable consideration. Some of the program and policy initiatives which we believe meet the eligibility criteria for originality, relevancy to current environmental issues and feasibility for other Electoral Areas to achieve similar results, include but are not limited the areas of:

- community education and empowerment
- sustainability planning
- climate change initiatives
- land use and planning

We respectfully submit this proposal for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Greg Betts
General Manager, Electoral Area Services

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Submission to UBCM Management Committee from the RDNO - August 18, 2006

Proposal to Hire Sustainability Planner under Provisions of the New Deal Funds

This proposal is being submitted for approval by the Committee pursuant to the provisions of the Community Works Fund Agreement.

Request

Specifically, the RDNO is asking for favorable consideration of a proposal to hire a Sustainability Planner. We believe that this position would enable the RDNO increase the capacity of our local government to undertake an **integrated approach to sustainability planning**. Outlined below is the rationale for our proposal and what we believe are its essential elements.

Overview

We recognize the need to optimize the use of scarce resources in general, and the expectations of the Community Works Fund Initiative to judiciously apply the funds that are available under this unique program. We further recognize that truly planning for sustainability encompasses a wide range of economic, social, cultural, environmental and infrastructure factors which must be carefully integrated to achieve the objective of maintaining the desirable lifestyle of our region for future generations.

As an example of the challenges being faced with this context, we note that the provincial government has advanced a number of legislative and other policy initiative changes in the area of Environmental Protection which we understand are intended to support the goals of long term sustainability of natural resources.

In advancing these initiatives the provincial government is relying heavily on local governments to develop and implement specific regulations to achieve these provincial objectives. If local governments are to be successful in the development and implementation of policies in such divergent areas as **riparian area regulations, groundwater protection, sewerage regulations and fire smart planning**, there is a need for in-house human resources whose primary focus is to champion and integrate the various elements of these initiatives into a comprehensive, effective and affordable sustainability strategy.

Rationale for Position

It is our view, that given the complexity of this planning challenge and the breadth of the scope of its various elements, to achieve the multiple objectives outlined for these funds, the following are essential to its success:

1. the initiative must have a single point of contact
2. the planning of the projects must be integrated and coordinated
3. the initiative must have a high profile
4. there must be sufficient organizational capacity to implement and monitor the projects
5. there must be organizational continuity

Our conclusion is therefore, that the best strategy to achieve these multiple objectives is to have an in-house "Sustainability Planner". The timing for the establishment of the position would be opportune in that the RDNO has recently given approval to proceed with a regional growth strategies initiative, which we believe would incorporate or complement the integration of many of the elements of sustainability planning.

Rationale for In-house Position Rather than Outsourcing

Schedule B of the Community Works Fund Agreement indicates that a Local Government's employees or equipment may be included in its Eligible Costs under the following conditions:

1. the Local Government has determined that it is not economically feasible to tender a contract;
2. employees or equipment are employed directly in respect of the work that would have been the subject of the contract; and
3. the arrangement is approved in advance and in writing by the Management Committee.

We believe that, as this would be a new position with duties fully committed to coordinating, integrating and advancing initiatives which advance the goals of regional sustainability, condition number two would be satisfied.

As discussed in the **Overview**, the scope of this initiative is broad, multidisciplinary and integral, on a daily basis, to the activities of a variety of regional district staff members. It is expected that this position would have a high degree of communications and interaction with the staff members of many departments as the contact, conduit and person accountable for integrating a wide range of interrelated projects.

In light of the scope of the position, and the nature of the complex, and to some extent, unknown daily interactions, it would be difficult, if not impossible to reasonably and appropriately embed these requirements in the terms of reference to meaningfully tender a contract to outsource.

If, however, it were possible to draft meaningful terms of reference for such a contract, it is our expectation that the contractor or contracting firm would be bidding on being with the District on a full time, daily basis and, based on our experience with consultant's, the cost of outsourcing the work would be at least 200% of the cost of an in-house staff member. There may be many other costs which are unknown that may have to be incorporated in such an agreement to attract a consultant to bid, and even if the economics were favorable, on balance even such an agreement would result in a significant cost in terms of long term effectiveness and continuity of effort.

We do not believe therefore that it would be economically feasible to tender a contract in this case and from an effectiveness perspective, noting what we consider the essential elements for success of the position, that it would be a wise decision from any perspective.

Proposed Duties and Responsibilities

The following is a synopsis of the specific duties and responsibilities which we believe would be included in this position:

1. coordinator/manager of the regional growth strategies initiative overseeing consultants and the completion of the Plan etc.
2. coordinating the development of a comprehensive Electoral Area Sustainability Plan
3. facilitator for implementation and integration of other elements of sustainability planning including but not limited to: transportation plans; infrastructure development plans; liquid waste management plans; and implementing and planning innovative environmental technologies that support sustainability
4. monitoring and reporting on the progress of the Plan and projects implemented as part of the funding and ensuring overall accountability for and compliance with the provisions of the Agreement
5. identifying potential Environmentally Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure projects meeting the eligibility criteria of the Community Works Fund Agreement and making recommendations on prioritization
6. assisting in the preparation of infrastructure funds applications in accordance with identified projects

Summary/Conclusion

In summary, the RDNO, at present, does not have the necessary in-house resources to focus on and build the capacity requisite to achieve the objectives of a Sustainability Plan.

One of the core Principles of the New Deal Agreement is “Focus on long-term solutions” and we believe the approach of having an in-house Sustainability Planner would be the best strategy for promoting the vision of permanent collaboration between all orders of government.

In addition, at a time when the Electoral Areas are facing unprecedented pressures from development and urbanization, and the expectation for the provision of more and higher levels of services, it is apparent that they have a great need to establish comprehensive strategic plans which has not been necessary in the past. The Sustainability Planner will identify and lead the evaluation, development and implementation plans designed to establish a framework for this specific sustainability challenge.

Further, beyond year one of the funding for regionally significant projects, we would expect the Sustainability Planner to identify and make recommendations on eligible projects that would qualify and include an evaluation of their respective priority relative to the Plan.

To reiterate, the RDNO is asking for favorable consideration of this proposal to hire a Sustainability Planner. We believe that this position would enable the RDNO increase the capacity of our local government to undertake an integrated approach to sustainability planning. We further trust that our submission on the economics and merits of providing the sustainability planning capacity in-house rather than by outsourcing, satisfactorily address the program criteria, and support long term solutions.

This proposal is respectfully submitted for your early and favorable consideration.

Transport Options for Rural Residents Study

Terms of Reference

The Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) is seeking consultant services to conduct a study of alternative transport opportunities for the North Okanagan. Transportation of people and goods is increasingly becoming an issue of concern and relevance. Greenhouse gas emissions, rising fuel costs, air quality concerns, increasing numbers of rural residents and recreational activities are all driving a need to look at alternative transportation options.

Numerous studies have been conducted and are proposed to look at options for Okanagan valley-wide transportation options. This work is important in examining how people and goods can move throughout the Okanagan Valley and to explore ways to reduce reliance on individual vehicles. To complement these studies, examination of opportunities to link residents of the small communities and rural areas of the North Okanagan into major centers and transportation networks is needed.

Background

The topic of transportation options is regularly raised in discussions of sustainability, greenhouse gas emission reductions, community services, and accessing employment and/or employees.

RDNO has recently begun a Sustainability Project within the Electoral Areas of the Regional District funded through the Community Works Fund and initiated the development of its Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Transport is an important component in the RGS as well as in addressing sustainability in North Okanagan and is identified as one of the five key project categories for the Community Works Fund.

Improved public transit and utilizing alternative forms of transport such as walking and cycling are generally promoted in urban areas as a means to combat transport related environmental concerns. In small communities and rural areas this is not so common with population densities seldom great enough to support transit and trail systems being limited. Due to these restrictions it is difficult for rural residents to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and with the rising cost of fossil fuels, access more affordable transportation.

Providing public transport services to rural communities is a challenge and often not cost effective. However, the need to reduce single occupancy vehicle use is great. Use of private motor vehicles makes up 44% of BC households total carbon footprint, providing a great opportunity for potential emission reductions if driving behaviour is changed.

An examination of alternative transportation options is required to identify potential options for residents living in small communities and rural areas to access employment, services, recreation, school and link into valley-wide transportation networks.

As a signatory to the BC Climate Action Charter, RDNO has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with its own operations and in the community.

RDNO is also in the process of developing a RGS which is required to include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and policies and actions to achieve these targets. With transport making up such a large component of household carbon footprints, it is an obvious area to address with respect to greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

General scope of work

The general scope of the Transport Options for Rural Residents (TORRS) will include a review of existing transportation studies which include the North Okanagan and the development of a bibliography of transportation material to support future transportation projects. The study will also include a search for and review of, any studies similar to the TORRS that have been carried out elsewhere in Canada and/or internationally which may inform the development of alternative transport options for rural communities.

The second component of the TORRS will include identification and assessment of alternative transport options for the North Okanagan and an exploration of what steps would be required to implement them such as;

- what parties would need to be involved
- public consultation
- surveys
- whether land would need to be secured
- funding sources
- cost benefit analysis – including cost ranges and estimates of carbon emission reductions.

This component of the study would need to include an assessment of existing alternative transport systems and the potential to either expand these or link them to other forms of transport e.g. Park and Rides linking into existing transit systems.

While the focus of much of past analysis has been on work and business travel, a significant component in which increasing investment has been made is the recreation component of travel i.e. off-road trails. This study could include consideration of the existing inventory and how it fits in the overall context as well as potential opportunities to enhance existing assets.

The third component of the TORRS would consist of a set of recommendations for the Regional Board and member Municipalities on how to progress the most viable alternative transport options which achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through collaboration and cooperative initiatives.

Consistencies

A number of strategies are in the process of being developed which may inform the TORRS or be informed by it. Therefore it is important in preparing the TORRS that it is consistent and/or compatible with these strategies to ensure ease of implementation and avoid duplication. The three major strategies that need to be considered are the

proposed Okanagan Similkameen Transportation Strategy (OSTS), the Regional District of North Okanagan RGS and the City of Vernon Transportation Plan.

Okanagan Similkameen Transportation Strategy

The goal of the Okanagan Similkameen Transportation Strategy is to undertake a major first step for the delivery of an integrated intra-regional transportation system for the three regional districts and the communities of the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys. The project will establish consensus for a vision of intra-regional transportation and recommend what funding and governance is appropriate to support the vision, and which jurisdiction(s) will be responsible for advancing elements of the plan.

The TORRS needs to be configured in a way that is consistent with the proposed Okanagan Similkameen Transportation Strategy, but also ensures that implementation of recommendations can be carried out independent of the Okanagan Similkameen Strategy if required.

Regional Growth Strategy

The Regional District of North Okanagan has recently begun the process of developing a RGS. The RGS is a local government strategic plan to promote healthy human settlement that is socially, economically and environmentally healthy and that makes efficient use of public facilities, land and other resources. The RGS will provide long range planning direction for the Regional District and member Municipalities' Official Community Plans and will provide a basis for decisions regarding implementation of provincial programs in the area.

Transportation has been identified as one of the key growth issues in the North Okanagan in a preliminary assessment carried out at the inception of the RGS development process. It is stressed within the Draft RGS Terms of Reference that transport management strategies need to be multi-modal and support principles of sustainability.

The TORRS needs to be developed in a manner that will be consistent with the RGS Goals and will inform the development of transport management strategies to be included in the RGS.

City of Vernon Transportation Plan

Development of the City of Vernon Transportation Plan (CVTP) has included transportation data collection, monitoring and preparation of a travel demand model in cooperation with RDNO, neighbouring municipalities, the Okanagan Indian Band and the Ministry of Transportation. The information collected will be used to evaluate and select the preferred multi-modal strategy for Vernon that is sustainable and is integrated with land-use planning. These findings will be incorporated in the Official Community Plan review process and in the development of the Regional Growth Strategy.

The TORRS needs to take into consideration the findings of the CVTP and identify how recommended transportation options would link into the preferred strategy for Vernon.

Possible Transport Options

The types of options that may be viable within the RDNO include;

- Carpooling, linking commuters going to and from similar locations.
- Transit, extension of existing services
- Park and Ride, to link into existing transit services and to provide legitimate car-pooling meeting points.
- Trails, further development within and between rural communities for both commuting and recreational purposes.
- 'Beyond Roads' – utilization of railways for more than just freight, rails and trails, rail based bus service..
- Large employer transport systems – provision of bus/van service for staff, incentives for staff car pooling etc.
- Community transport – i.e. a van that provides transport from rural communities to population centers. Such an enterprise could be owned and run by a community trust, foundation, private company or government.

Deliverables

The North Okanagan Transportation Study needs to include a number of components.

1. Review and collation of existing studies on
 - Transportation options in the North Okanagan or including the North Okanagan
 - Plans for trail networks
 - Similar studies conducted outside of the North Okanagan which look at rural transport options.
2. Identification and assessment of alternative transport options for North Okanagan residents and steps required to implement them.
3. Recommendations for the Regional Board and member municipalities on the most viable options.

Timing:

Commitment by the Regional District:

The Regional District will make available at no cost to the consultant the following:

- Existing maps, plans, copies of relevant bylaws, etc.
- Regional District meeting rooms, when available, may be used at no charge by consultant. To be arranged through Regional District administration.

The consultant may be required to sign non disclosure, confidentiality or other documents which RDNO provides when using RDNO information.

Consultant's Proposal:

Consultants are requested to submit two copies of their proposal with the following support information:

- Full name, address and telephone number of the consultant.
- Consultant's fixed fee proposal to include the following consulting related services as required;
 - Hourly rate including all taxes
 1. travel, phone/fax reimbursement rates
 2. any other costs not included in the above
 3. expected payment schedule
 - Indicate breakdown of fees assigned to each of these categories. Also include the cost for any specialized consultants proposed as part of the project team.
- A statement of previous experience. Identify experience in the completion of similar projects and include references.
- Identify any other person or contracted service to be assigned to this project. Include any affiliates or sub-consultant(s) and a statement of their responsibilities, experience and expected involvement. Your proposal must contain the following endorsement;

"Identified Key Project Team members shall only be replaced with written approval of the Regional District's Project Manager."
- The Consultant must include the following endorsement in their proposal:

"We (name of consultant) do hereby confirm that all computer software used by the Consultant in the execution of this assignment, is directly licensed to the Consultant and the Sub-Consultants."
- Any other information that may enhance your submission, especially that which pertains to similar projects completed by the proponent.

Standard Requirements:

The following North Okanagan Regional District standard requirements are applicable to this assignment:

- Upon the award of this assignment, the Regional District shall prepare a Standard Form of Agreement between client and Consultant for execution.
- The originals of all surveys, drawings, specifications, reports and any other documentation produced by the Consultant for the Regional District during the course of this assignment, shall upon completion of this assignment become the

property of the Regional District. This information shall also be provided in electronic disc format.

- The Regional District reserves the right:
 1. to reject any or all proposals, or any part thereof.
 2. to accept the proposal that is in the best interest of the Regional District.
 3. to negotiate the terms of any proposal.
 4. to select a Consultant based on a combination of relevant experience, expertise, cost, schedule, and completeness and clarity of submission.
- The Regional District will not necessarily select a submission based solely on lowest cost.
- The Regional District is subject to the British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and as such, any reports and or documents produced on the behalf of the Regional District are subject to public review under the Act.
- Sealed proposals, identified on the outside of the envelope with the words "Transport Options for Rural Residents Study" will be received at the Regional District Office located at 9848 Aberdeen Road, Coldstream BC, V1B 2K9, until 2:00 pm, local time ???. **NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS TIME AND DATE.**
- Contact the project manager, Ms Anna Page – Sustainability Coordinator (phone: 550-3789), for additional information or clarification of tasks.

RDNO Sustainability Project

The Regional District of North Okanagan Sustainability Project is being funded through the Community Works Fund (CWF). This fund is the result of an agreement between the Government of Canada, Government of British Columbia and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) to distribute Federal Gas Tax Revenues in British Columbia. The CWF disperses funds directly to be used by local governments for environmental sustainability priorities that reflect local needs.

The key sustainability outcomes identified in the funding agreement are:

- reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- cleaner air
- cleaner water.

Funding

The funding received by RDNO through the Community Works Fund Agreement is tagged to the Electoral Areas only. Not member municipalities.

Community Works Fund Agreement

- Fully funds the position of the Sustainability Coordinator, and
- includes funds to be allocated for sustainability projects each year. With approximately \$150 000 available in the first year, rising to over \$250 000 in the third year and \$500 000 by the final year.

Sustainability Co-ordinator position sits within the Development Services Department and I report to the Electoral Area Services Committee.

At this point this is a five year project.

Sustainability

So what do we mean when we talk about “Sustainability”?

"Sustainability" and sustainable development are concepts that are readily tossed around in the current political, economic and social rhetoric and are interpreted in different ways by different people.

A useful definition of sustainability that is used by the Fraser Basin Council is "living and managing activities in a way that balances social, economic, environmental and institutional considerations to meet our needs and those of future generations."

So when we talk about Sustainable Communities we need to broaden the objectives of sustainability beyond the individual or organisational level and empower communities to provide for their collective needs while not compromising the ability of future generations to do so.

Principles of sustainability guide communities to favor projects and development that deliver basic services to all, without threatening the viability of the communities on which these services depend (human and ecological).

It has also been suggested by the Fraser Basin Council that sustainability is about change that rejects the status quo. It requires that we all work together to find the common ground upon which constructive solutions will be crafted. Perhaps we should stop trying to define the word and just think of sustainability as working together to build a better future for our children and their children.

Sustainable Communities

So what are some characteristics of a sustainable community? There are many elements that characterise a sustainable community that fall under one or more of the pillars of sustainability – economic, social and environmental. Some examples include:

- Managing resources **within** ecological limits.
- Maintaining representative levels of biodiversity.
- Adequate space for recreation.
- Access to low polluting modes of transport.
- Use of water and energy efficiencies
- Engaged community involved in planning processes.

- Celebration and cultivation of diversity within the community.
- Socially just and inclusive communities.
- Economically viable communities

Of particular relevance right now are

- Greenhouse Gas emissions
- Impacts of and preparedness for, Climate Change.

In the context of this Sustainability Project, I believe it is important to identify what the **local** long-term sustainability goals are and to work with communities to achieve them. In enabling this to happen I would value working through forums such as this one to gain local input and approval for projects.

As I mentioned earlier the RDNO sustainability project will work across all five Electoral Areas. It is likely that there will be common sustainability goals across the five areas and goals or projects that are unique to one or more areas. Therefore the project will need to be flexible enough to accommodate the differences while being broad enough to ensure benefits are realised throughout the Electoral Areas.

How is the RDNO Sustainability Project going to work?

Two major components to the project:

- Work with the communities within the Electoral Areas to develop and implement sustainability initiatives in their vicinity.
- Integrate sustainability principles into the operations of the RDNO.

The first of these is what I am introducing to you here today.

Potential Use of Funds

As I mentioned earlier, the funding we are receiving for this project includes allocated funding for sustainability initiatives in our communities.

The types of projects eligible for the Community Works Fund are broad in their scope and type and fall under the following categories:

- Public Transit
 - This doesn't have to be buses and sky-train type transit which are often not viable in our rural communities. Projects that fall under this category can include paths and trails, bike paths etc.
- Community Energy Systems
 - Use of alternative energy sources at a community level
- Water and wastewater
 - Upgrades to water systems to improve water quality, reduce waste, increase energy efficiencies.
 - Habitat protection to improve water quality and aquatic habitats – riparian restoration.
- Solid waste management
- Capacity building

All of these categories include a catch-all sub-category of 'implementing innovative technologies that support environmental sustainability', so we can be very creative in how we utilise the funds.

In funding projects we need to be able to show that they work towards achieving one of the key sustainability outcomes identified in the funding agreement

- reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- cleaner air
- cleaner water.

That they fall under one of the project categories

- Public transit
- Community energy systems
- Water and wastewater
- Solid waste management
- Capacity building

Access to other Provincial and Federal programs and funds.

What are sustainability issues in your community?

How can I help this community tackle

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Access to, and protection of, water and associated eco-systems.
- Air quality

Issues that have come to my attention

- Impact of stock accessing waterways
- Powerboats on river = erosion, habitat destruction etc
- Bike trails on roadways?
- Water use and allocation
- Air quality – no by-law, opportunity for education??? Firesmart.

I welcome ideas and input into this project so please feel free to contact me. If you know others who would be interested in this project and/or have ideas, please pass on my contact details.

Contact Information

Anna Page

Sustainability Coordinator

Regional District North Okanagan

Email: anna.page@rdno.ca

Phone: (250) 550 3789, Cell (250) 306 0047



RDNO Sustainability Project

Funded through the Community Works Fund – Federal gas tax revenues

The key sustainability outcomes identified in the funding agreement are:

- reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- cleaner air
- cleaner water.

Funding

The funding received by RDNO through the Community Works Fund Agreement is tagged to the Electoral Areas only.

Community Works Fund Agreement

- fully funds the position of the Sustainability Coordinator, and
- includes funds to be allocated for sustainability projects each year. Approximately \$150 000 available in the first year, rising to over \$250 000 in the third year and \$500 000 by the final year.

Five year project.

Sustainability

"living and managing activities in a way that balances social, economic, environmental and institutional considerations to meet our needs and those of future generations" (Fraser Basin Council).

Principles of sustainability guide communities to favor projects and development that deliver basic services to all, without threatening the viability of the communities on which these services depend (human and ecological).

So what are some characteristics of a sustainable community?

- Managing resources **within** ecological limits.
- Maintaining representative levels of biodiversity.
- Adequate space for recreation.

- Access to low polluting modes of transport.
- Use of water and energy efficiencies
- Engaged community involved in planning processes.
- Celebration and cultivation of diversity within the community.
- Socially just and inclusive communities.
- Economically viable communities

Of particular relevance currently

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Impacts of, and preparedness for, Climate Change.

It is important to identify what the **local** long-term sustainability goals are and to work with communities to achieve them.

How is the RDNO Sustainability Project going to work?

Two major components to the project:

- Work with the communities within the Electoral Areas to develop and implement sustainability initiatives in their vicinity.
- Integrate sustainability principles into the operations of the RDNO.

Potential Use of Funds

Types of projects eligible for the Community Works Fund are broad in their scope and type and fall under the following categories:

- Public Transit
- Community Energy Systems
- Water and wastewater
- Solid waste management
- Capacity building

Within these categories the types of projects range extensively so we can be creative in how we utilize the funds.

In funding projects we need to be able to show that they work towards achieving one of the key sustainability outcomes identified in the funding agreement

- reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- cleaner air
- cleaner water

I welcome ideas and input into this project so please feel free to contact me. If you know others who would be interested in this project and/or have ideas, please pass on my contact details.

Contact Information

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