

Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting

From: **Development and Engineering Services**

Date: December 11, 2017

Subject: Application for additional Rural Dividend Fund grant for an Employment Lands Plan

Recommendation: **RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to apply for the December 2017 intake of the Rural Dividend Fund grant for \$100,000 with the City's contribution being \$20,000 from the Property Management and Holding budget.**

Background

The BC Rural Dividend assists rural communities with a population of 25,000 or less in strengthening their community resilience, and supporting their social, cultural and economic viability. The Program is providing \$25 million a year over three years, beginning in 2016, to help rural communities across British Columbia reinvigorate and diversify their local economies, making them more attractive places to live and work.

The City successfully applied for funding in the May 2016 intake as an extension of the Land Development Showcase project. The Land Development Showcase started in 2014 and has realized the sales of several municipally held properties which will generate economic development in our community. To date there is interest in multiple City-owned properties.

The BC Rural Dividend is currently accepting applications. The current RDF project will be finished by the end of 2017 and focused on determining the best use for three land types in Grand Forks as well as an overview of their marketability. While the City intends to use this information to support decision making for determining the best use of City owned parcels, much of the information is applicable across the community and will be made available for the general promotion of development in Grand Forks.

For the next phase of this project, this grant application aims to facilitate the strategic development of 'employment lands' by engaging community stakeholders, defining the vision of the land nodes and major investment zones of the City, pursue a process where the employment lands are identified / secured and utilized more effectively and efficiently, and define specific strategic actions to increase value and development potential. The project budget would be \$100,000 with the City's portion being \$20,000.

This project is intended to explicitly link priorities in the Strategic Plan with updates to the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw that will enable the development and diversification of the economic base, specifically development of industrial properties, commercial sectors, and multi-family residential properties.

Benefits or Impacts

Strategic Impact



Economic Growth

- Work closely with Community Futures, RDI, BCRCC, Province and Federal Gov't in order to access economic development opportunities.
- Ensure that all development is in line with visions and guiding principles of the SCP and current best practices.



Fiscal Responsibility

- Ensure that City owned land is sold at fair market value and considers the best overall impact to the city (organizational action).

Policy/Legislation

- Official Community Plan; Zoning Bylaw; Community Charter

Attachments

Memorandum from Urban System

Recommendation

RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to apply for the December 2017 intake of the Rural Dividend Fund grant for \$100,000 with the City's contribution being \$20,000 from the Property Management and Holding budget.

Options

1. RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the report.
2. RESOLVED THAT Council does not accept the report.
3. RESOLVED THAT Council refers the matter back to staff for further information.