



BOARD REPORT

TO: Chair and Directors

File No: 5360 11

SUBJECT: Electoral Area Feasibility Fund - Nicholson Community Water

DESCRIPTION: Report from Ben Van Nostrand, Team Leader, Environmental Health Services, dated August 29, 2019. Access to Electoral Area Feasibility Fund for a Community Water System in Nicholson.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: access to the Electoral Area Feasibility Fund be approved in the amount of \$25,000 to conduct a feasibility study to determine if sufficient community support exists to establish a new service to implement a community water system in the community of Nicholson in Electoral Area A, this 19th day of September, 2019.

SHORT SUMMARY:

At the August 2019 regular Board meeting, the Board endorsed Policy W-13, *Nicholson Aquifer Water Quality Monitoring*. The policy states that the CSR D will undertake a feasibility study to identify the costs associated with establishment of a community water system for the Nicholson community. A senior government grant has been applied for to fund the aforementioned feasibility study, however given that the CSR D is planning a community meeting once the 2019 ground water monitoring sampling has concluded, staff is recommending that feasibility funds be allocated to initiate the study immediately. Although use of feasibility study funds for this project is inconsistent with CSR D Procedure PR-17, *Consideration of a New Service* (which requires an initial request from the community for a new service), the Electoral Area Director supports the initiative. Given recent Board discussions and the approval of Policy W-13, the use of feasibility funds in this occurrence is appropriate. Any grant monies received will be used to offset the feasibility funds utilized.

VOTING:	Unweighted Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/>	LGA Part 14 (Unweighted)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weighted Corporate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholder (Weighted)	<input type="checkbox"/>
----------------	-------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

BACKGROUND:

At the June 20, 2019 regular Board meeting, the Board endorsed staff's recommendation to apply for an Infrastructure Planning Grant for the maximum available amount of \$10,000 from the Province of BC to conduct a community water system feasibility study for the community of Nicholson. The results of the feasibility study will provide information such as treatment options and costs projections for CSR D staff to bring forward to the community in consideration of establishing a service area to fund a community water system as an option.

The CSR D has not received confirmation on the grant and is interested in advancing the feasibility study work in order to obtain information related to the feasibility of initiating a community water system in Nicholson. The CSR D is currently engaged in a ground water sampling program for 2019 only and intends to present the monitoring results along with costing information on a community water system to the community as soon as the information is available.

POLICY:

Funds from the Electoral Area Feasibility Fund will be used to support Policy W-13, which provides clarification and direction of the CSRD's role in continued monitoring of the Nicholson Aquifer only once a local service area has been established, funded by the properties from within the benefiting area. The results of the Nicholson Feasibility Study will be shared with residents at a public meeting once the feasibility study is complete.

FINANCIAL:

Section 379 of the Local Government Act indicates if a regional district undertakes a service after conducting a feasibility study in respect of that service, the costs of that study are deemed to be costs of that service. Therefore, if the service proceeds, the feasibility fund will be repaid, however, if the service does not become established the feasibility fund will not be replenished.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

Board authorization for access to feasibility funds for the Nicholson Community Water System Feasibility Study will allow staff to proceed immediately, rather than waiting for senior government grant funding. The Electoral Area A Director is supportive of this request.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Staff will engage Gentech Engineering Inc. to proceed with the study upon approval.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

The Board approve access to the Electoral Area Feasibility Fund to conduct the Nicholson Community Water System Feasibility Study.

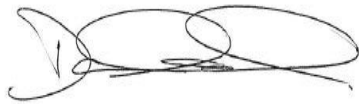
BOARD'S OPTIONS:

1. *Endorse the Recommendation.*
2. *Deny the Recommendation.*
3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2019-09-19_Board_OM_Nicholson_Aquifer_Feasibility_Study_Funds.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 9, 2019

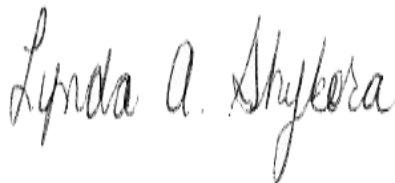
This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Darcy Mooney

No Signature - Task assigned to Jodi Pierce was completed by assistant Sheena Haines

Jodi Pierce



Lynda Shykora



Charles Hamilton