



BOARD REPORT

TO: Chair and Directors

SUBJECT: Electoral Areas C, D, F, G: Road Rescue Service Establishment Process

DESCRIPTION: Report from Sean Coubrough, Manager, Protective Services (Regional Fire Chief), dated February 1, 2025. Service Area Establishment Bylaw, Assent by Alternative Approval Process for the provision of road rescue services in Area F, Area G/C, and Falkland.

RECOMMENDATION #1: THAT: "North Shuswap Sub-Regional Road Rescue Service Establishment Bylaw No. 5898, 2025", be read the first, second, and third time, this 20th day of March, 2025.

Corporate Vote Unweighted Majority

RECOMMENDATION #2: THAT: "South Shuswap Sub-Regional Road Rescue Service Establishment Bylaw No. 5899, 2025" be read the first, second, and third time, this 20th day of March, 2025.

Corporate Vote Unweighted Majority

RECOMMENDATION #3: THAT: "Falkland Road Rescue Service Establishment Bylaw No. 5900, 2025" be read the first, second, and third time, this 20th day of March, 2025.

Corporate Vote Unweighted Majority

RECOMMENDATION #4: THAT: in accordance with the Local Government Act, the Board endorse alternative approval process as a method to obtain the elector’s approval on the establishment of road rescue services in all three proposed road rescue service areas.

Corporate Vote Unweighted Majority

SUMMARY:

Staff is requesting a resolution to engage in the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) to seek assent for the use of taxation funds for the delivery of road rescue services in the North Shuswap sub-regional fire service area, the South Shuswap sub-regional fire service area, and Falkland. Each assent process will be separate to ensure local electors have a say in the use of their tax dollars.

The North Shuswap sub-regional road rescue service will be a single service based out of the Celistra fire hall. The team will be comprised of members of the Celistra, Anglemont, and Scotch Creek Lee Creek fire departments.

The South Shuswap sub-regional road rescue service will be a single service based out of the Shuswap Fire Department and will respond in most sections of Area G with coverage extending to under serviced portions of Area C including Eagle Bay.

The Falkland road rescue service will be based out of the Falkland Fire Department and will respond in Falkland and to under-serviced portions of Area D and the Regional District of the North Okanagan.

Road rescue responses to any area outside the service areas identified in the bylaws will be reimbursed to the service area by the Province through the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

BACKGROUND:

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) has been investigating options for the delivery of road rescue services in our under-serviced areas of Falkland, Electoral Area F, Area G and Eagle Bay dating back to 2014. Three separate reports commissioned by the CSRD have determined that while there is no legislative requirement for any governing body to provide road rescue in the province, this legislative void has not eliminated the need for road rescue as a matter of public safety. These reports have highlighted the need for select CSRD fire departments to provide road rescue services in underserved areas. The areas determined to be most in need of improved road rescue services are Area F, Area G and Eagle Bay, and Falkland.

At the [October 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting](#), the CSRD Board approved allocating up to \$40,000 to conduct a public assent process to allow electors in the affected areas to determine whether they want to use tax dollars for this program.

POLICY:

Policy A-52 (1996) prohibits CSRD Fire Departments from assuming responsibility for road rescue services. If assent is attained to deliver these services an amendment to policy A-52 will be required.

[A-52 Volunteer Fire Department Involvement in Non-Fire Suppression Activities](#)

Section 345 of the [Local Government Act](#) allows for AAP process as a form of assent for service establishment for services with a tax rate of less than \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessment.

FINANCIAL:

\$40,000 was approved by Board at the October 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting for participating area approval.

The tax requisition rate for the North Shuswap Sub-Regional Road Rescue Service is not to exceed \$0.10 per \$1000 of assessed land and improvements. At maximum, the tax rate would equate to the average residential property paying estimated taxes of approximately \$51.41, however the year 1 budget would anticipate the tax requisition to be \$28.27 per average residential taxpayer.

The tax requisition rate for the Falkland Road Rescue Service is not to exceed \$0.45 per \$1000 of assessed land and improvements. At maximum, the tax rate would equate to the average residential property paying estimated taxes of approximately \$232.79, however the year 1 budget would anticipate the tax requisition to be \$201.18 per average residential taxpayer.

The tax requisition rate for the South Shuswap Sub-Regional Road Rescue Service is not to exceed \$0.08 per \$1000 of assessed land and improvements. At maximum, the tax rate would equate to the average residential property paying estimated taxes of approximately \$53.64, however the year 1 budget would anticipate the tax requisition to be \$20.45 per average residential taxpayer.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

During the October 2024 Board Meeting, staff were requested to explore the elector assent process for road rescue in the identified gap areas. At that meeting, the participating electoral area directors expressed an interest in using AAP for the assent. The AAP is a less expensive and less time-consuming alternative to a referendum/assent voting.

The [CSRD Road Rescue Feasibility Study](#) by Tim Pley and Associates Ltd. completed in November 2023 highlighted the need for improved road rescue services in Area F, Area G, and Falkland.

The inclusion of portions of Area C in the South Shuswap Sub Regional Road Rescue Service area is at the request of the CSRD Electoral Area C representative.

Taxation for the South Shuswap Sub Regional Road Rescue Service will be apportioned among residents in Area G and C based on converted value of the land and improvements in the area.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Upon Board approval, Protective Services staff will engage with Corporate Services to undertake the assent process in each area.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications staff will be asked to prepare a press release following the Board's decision. Communications staff will be engaged throughout the process.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

That the Board endorse the staff recommendation(s).

BOARD'S OPTIONS:

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

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2025-02-20_Board_CPS_Road_Rescue_Service_Establishment_Alternative_Approval_Process.docx
Attachments:	- South Shuswap Sub-Regional Road Rescue Service Establishment Bylaw No. 5899, 2025.pdf - North Shuswap Sub-regional Road Rescue Service Establishment Bylaw No. 5898, 2025.pdf - Falkland Road Rescue Service Establishment Bylaw No. 5900, 2025.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 11, 2025

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



Derek Sutherland



Jodi Pierce



Jennifer Sham

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John MacLean', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John MacLean