



BOARD REPORT

TO:

Chair and Directors

File No: 1840 02**SUBJECT:**

Regional Feasibility Study Fund – Golden Aquatic Centre

DESCRIPTION:

Report from Jodi Pierce, Manager, Financial Services dated March 15, 2018. Access to the Regional Feasibility Study Funds.

**RECOMMENDATION
#1:**

THAT: access to the Regional Feasibility Study Fund be approved in the amount of \$80,000 subject to the concurrence of the Town of Golden for a feasibility study to determine the capital and operating costs of an indoor aquatic facility; and, to determine if sufficient community support for establishing a new service to own and operate a community aquatic centre exists.

SHORT SUMMARY:

One of the key determinants in undertaking a feasibility study is demonstrated wide-spread support of a proposed study. The Electoral Area A Director has advised that there is a "champion" group in Golden and area who are pushing to move forward with another study. Additionally, she has received many emails from those who are also in support of a feasibility study. Both the Electoral Area Director and the Mayor of the Town of Golden have met with the champion group to discuss the opportunity and the Area Director recommends proceeding with a feasibility study.

This study will not go forward without support from the Town of Golden as the proposed service would benefit residents of both the Town and the rural area and the cost of owning and operating an aquatic centre would not be feasible without the financial and operational support of the Town.

VOTING:Unweighted
Corporate☐LGA Part 14
(Unweighted)☐Weighted
Corporate☒Stakeholder
(Weighted)☐**BACKGROUND:**

This is not the first time this potential service has been studied. In 2006, a similar request was made and a consultant was hired to conduct the study. The final report, dated July 26, 2007 was received by the Board in the fall of 2007. The study, which included research with the public, user groups, and staff of the CSR D and the Town of Golden, came up with a proposed plan for the construction of an indoor aquatic facility. The report identified potential construction costs of \$11.3 to \$12.4 million dollars with an annual operating subsidy, not including debt financing in the neighbourhood of \$500,000 to \$600,000. The report also identified the need to pursue grant funding for part of the construction costs. The study did move forward to referendum but was narrowly defeated at the polls.

POLICY:

PR-17 Consideration of a New Service says that a community request for a new service which receives support from the applicable Director(s), may request the Board to access feasibility study funds for the cost to bring about the service.

FINANCIAL:

Section 379 of the Local Government Act says that “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 study fund will be repaid, however, if the service does not become established the feasibility study fund will not be repaid.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

The purpose of the study would be to investigate the financial and technical viability of constructing an indoor aquatic centre that would benefit the residents of Golden and Area A. The study objectives would include: design concepts; population projections; identification of capital and operating costs; impacts on property taxes; identification of service area boundaries; community consultation; identification of potential grant opportunities; and, provide information necessary to proceed to an assent process, if widespread support can be demonstrated.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Upon Board approval of access to funds, and concurrence from the Town of Golden, a Request for Proposal process would be undertaken with the intent to engage a consultant for the study.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Town of Golden would be advised of the Board’s approval of the motion and a request for a letter of concurrence would be sought.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

That the Board support the recommendation.

BOARD’S OPTIONS:

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

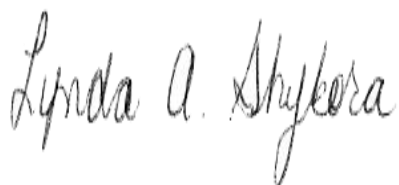
LIST NAME OF REPORT(S) / DOCUMENT(S) AVAILABLE FROM STAFF:

1. Golden Aquatic Centre – Feasibility Study, dated July 26, 2007

Report Approval Details

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Document Title: | 2018-03-29_Board_FIN_Feasibility Study Funds - Golden Aquatic Centre.docx |
| Attachments: | |
| Final Approval Date: | Mar 16, 2018 |

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



Lynda Shykora - Mar 15, 2018 - 9:34 AM



Charles Hamilton - Mar 16, 2018 - 8:11 AM