



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: March 26, 2024

From: Ron Mattiussi, Interim CAO

Subject: **Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation Grant Application**

Report Prepared by: Allen Fillion, Director of Engineering & Operations

RECOMMENDATION to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council direct staff to apply to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund seeking funding under the Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Adaptation stream to construct flood mitigation measures along McDougall Creek; and,

THAT Council agree to amend the 2024 to 2028 Financial Plan, as may be required, to reflect grant funding; and,

THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer to execute the required contribution agreement, in the event of a successful application.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure – We will invest in building, improving and maintaining infrastructure to meet the needs of, and to provide a high quality of life for, current and future generations.

Foster Safety and Well-Being – We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and collaboration with local and regional service providers, investments in community health, needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.

BACKGROUND

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams intended to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies and to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks.

Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

Through the Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation stream – Category 3: Small-Scale Structural Projects there is a \$5M per application allowance with the potential for 100% funding of eligible costs.

DISCUSSION

McDougall Creek has historical flooding problems due to large flows, shallow channel sections, erosion and sedimentation, and problems at stream crossings. The City experienced flood damages from the 2017 and 2018 freshet events and required significant resources to limit damages. The section between Hitchner Road and Jennens Road is particularly challenging.

In addition to the historical flooding along McDougall Creek, the 2023 McDougall Creek Wildfire above West Kelowna burned more than 60% of the watershed area. Of the area burned, more than 30% of the area was classified with high burn severity. The impacts of the wildfire significantly increase the likelihood of flooding over the next several years.

The City has completed a Flood Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan with CEPF funding support. The plan identifies a structural mitigation project on McDougall Creek in the Hitchner/Jennens area valued at approximately \$5M. This project is a suitable candidate for funding under the Category 3: Small-Scale Structural Projects funding stream.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The project cost is estimated at \$5M and is eligible for 100% funding should our grant application be successful.

Alternate Recommendation to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council direct staff not to apply to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

REVIEWED BY

Lisa Siavashi, Financial Services Manager / Deputy CFO

Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Ron Mattiussi, Interim CAO

Powerpoint: Yes No