



Electoral Area Director's & RTAG Committee

MINUTES

February 16, 2021

RDMW Office – 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC

CALL TO ORDER: 11:04 pm

Attendance:

EA/PA Directors: Chair Andrew Hory, Kevin Cameron (Zoom 11:13), James Furney (Zoom);
Rod Sherrell

Not present: Sandra Daniels

Staff: Greg Fletcher, Administrator; Pat English, Economic Development Manager;
Nicole McDowell, Recording Secretary

Other: Amanda Cooy (Contractor) and Calum Matthews, VIT
Natalie Stewart and Jolie White, VINT

Agenda

21-05

It was moved and seconded, that the agenda dated February 16, 2021 be approved.

CARRIED

Delegation

- A. Vancouver Island Tourism, MRDT Consultation Session Brief**
Presented by Calum Matthews

Also noted:

- *Directive with Ministry of Finance to consult with stakeholders and present ideas of how to use the additional 1% tax*
- *This takes place every five years; therefore, renewal process usually starts every 4 years*
- *Looking to bring RDMW Electoral Areas and Municipalities onto the same renewal timeline*
- *Unique opportunity to look at MRDT spending; can be used for tourism recovery planning; silver-linings to renewing now means we can take a 'fresh look'*
- *RDMW is moving to 3%, most areas in province are doing the same; last few years have seen a levelling of the playing field*
- *Current use of MRDT by the RDMW:*
 - *At the moment, we accumulate MRDT at RD levels through RTAG grants collecting \$9-11,000 per year into the fund*
 - *Well established program; Electoral Areas and Village of Port Alice can collect applications; usually marketing events – most are really structured*
 - *Preference is to see money spent in local communities*
 - *Last year paid out \$4,500 in two grants; applications slowed by COVID*
- *Destination BC also takes a percentage of the additional 1%*
- *There have been changes to the Destination BC Guidelines for eligible use of the MRDT; will be reaching out for clarification as there could be opportunities to put into other areas (trails, feasibility and technical studies, etc); fairly broad.*

Delegation asked for comments/opinions from the EA Committee on how they feel about the spending:

- *Programs available now have been depressed; therefore, suggestions brought forward for post pandemic efforts for tourism recovery is a good direction*

- Q: *Who will assess and approve each application?
(The Electoral Area Committee or Destination BC?)*
- *Will depend on the scope of what the program might be; perhaps enhancements to an area (ie: trail head, pit toilets, wheel chair accessibility)*
 - *Looking for any areas of joint projects with BC Parks, etc.*
 - *Destination development piece is new; need clarification; capital projects on approval ... more to figure out ... looks like direction it is going*
- *One year tactical plan update – can then specify what that enhancement will be, if over-subscribed can be moved in another direction*

Delegation thanked the Board for engaging in this discussion.

21-06 THAT the Manager of Economic Development prepare a report, including proposed guidelines, for the revamped Regional Tourism Action Grant Program to accommodate the increased revenue from the 1% lift of the MRDT.

CARRIED

Minutes

21-07 It was moved and seconded, that the minutes dated January 19, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED


Reports - None

Correspondence - None

Next Meeting – To be announced

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:28 pm

CERTIFIED CORRECT



SECRETARY



CHAIR