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BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: December 21, 2018

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

ISSUE: Funding Decisions for the Fifth Intake of the Rural Dividend Program

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

- Approve the Decision Record for the fifth intake applications, new special circumstances applications, and the proposed special circumstances funding hold back.

BACKGROUND:

The Rural Dividend Program (the program) provides a total of \$25 million in funding annually to assist rural communities to reinvigorate and diversify their local economies. The program's fifth intake took place from June 1 – July 31, 2018. A total of 341 applications were received, with a total funding request of \$37,133,894. The fifth intake is the only intake period for FY 18/19.

Eligible project applications have been assessed through a robust multi-stage process. Applications were reviewed against program criteria to determine their eligibility, with a total of 46 applications determined to be ineligible. Program staff completed an evaluation and due-diligence process. Applications were further reviewed by the ADM Rural Dividend Committee, with representation from the Ministries of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

In total, the ADM Rural Dividend Committee has recommended 151 single applicant and partnership projects for the Minister's approval, for a total funding of \$18,779,128. The distribution of recommended/not-recommended projects between applicant types, funding streams, and regions is summarized in Attachment 1. The program also includes a special circumstances funding stream, which enables the program to aid communities facing significant economic challenges resulting from the loss of a main employer or the impacts of a natural disaster. Through this stream, funding can be provided outside of the program's regular parameters, including outside of intake periods. To date, \$3,281,179 in special circumstances funding has been approved in FY 18/19.

An additional six projects, submitted in the fifth intake, have been identified for special circumstances funding, totalling \$520,115. These projects do not fit within the regular parameters of the program, but were submitted by communities impacted by the 2017 or 2018 wildfire seasons. As a result, these projects are recommended for approval under the special circumstances provision (see Attachment 4). This brings the total funding recommended for the Minister's approval to \$19,299,243. This total includes the 151 single applicants and partnerships, as well as the six special circumstances applications, recommended for approval at this time, as listed in the 157 projects in Attachment 2.

For applications in the project development funding stream, Dave Peterson ADM, Rural Development, Lands and Innovation (RDLI) Division serves as the final decision maker. In total, 68 project development applications were approved for \$674,124, see Attachment 8. A package of material is attached that provides detailed information regarding recommended, not-recommended, and ineligible/withdrawn applications (Attachments 3 -7).

A total of 43 applications have not been recommended for funding at this time; details are provided in Attachments 6 and 7. Attachment 6 lists the projects that fit within the scope of the program but received an evaluation score below the cut off of available funding. Attachment 7 includes projects that do not fit within the program scope, or the due diligence feedback has identified significant concerns.

DISCUSSION:

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Following the final funding decisions by the Minister, the program will work with GCPE staff to notify all applicants and publish news releases. Funding decisions for the project development funding stream will be announced first, in mid-January 2019, with a province-wide news release. Funding decisions for the larger single applicant and partnership funding streams will be announced in early February with province-wide and region-specific news releases. This timing will allow for decisions regarding any new special circumstance applications. Requests received later could be funded in FY 19/20.

OPTIONS:


OPTION 1: Approve the Decision Record for fifth intake applications, new special circumstances applications and the proposed special circumstances funding hold back.

Option 2: Revise the Decision Record for fifth intake applications, new special circumstances applications and the proposed special circumstances funding hold back.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1: Approve the Decision Record for fifth intake applications, new special circumstances applications and the proposed special circumstances funding hold back.

Approved / Not Approved


Signature
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

December 27, 2018

Date

Attachments (8):

1. Summary Information for Fifth Intake Applications
2. Decision Record for Fifth Intake Applications
3. Detailed List of Recommended Applications
4. Detailed List of Special Circumstances Applications
5. Detailed List of Not-Recommended, In-Scope Applications
6. Detailed List of Not-Recommended, Out-of-Scope Applications
7. List of Ineligible and Withdrawn Applications
8. List of Approved Project Development Applications

PREPARED BY:

Matthew Scott-Moncrieff
Rural Policy and Programs Branch
Phone: 250-952-0596

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM	JA	2018/12/24
DMO	ET	2018/12/24
ADM	DP	2018/12/20
Program Dir/Mgr.	LH/SF	2018/12/14

BRIEFING NOTE FOR DECISION

DATE: December 18, 2018

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

ISSUE: Funding Decisions for the Fifth Intake of the Rural Dividend Program

RECOMMENDED OPTION:

- Approve the Decision Record for the fifth intake applications, new special circumstances applications, and the proposed special circumstances funding hold back.

BACKGROUND:

The Rural Dividend Program (the program) provides a total of \$25 million in funding annually to assist rural communities to reinvigorate and diversify their local economies. The program's fifth intake took place from June 1 – July 31, 2018. A total of 341 applications were received, with a total funding request of \$37,133,894. The fifth intake is the only intake period for FY 18/19.

Eligible project applications have been reviewed and assessed through a robust multi-stage process. Applications were reviewed against program criteria to determine their eligibility with a total of 46 applications determined to be ineligible. Program staff have now completed an evaluation and due-diligence process. Applications were further reviewed by the ADM Rural Dividend Committee, with representation from the Ministries of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

In total, the ADM Rural Dividend Committee has recommended 157 single applicant and partnership projects for the Minister's approval, for a total funding of \$18,773,714, see Attachment 1. The distribution of recommended/not-recommended projects between applicant types, funding streams, and economic development regions is detailed in Attachment 2. For applications in the project development funding stream, Dave Peterson ADM, Rural Development, Lands and Innovation (RDLI) Division serves as the final decision maker. In total, 68 project development applications were approved for \$674,124, see Attachment 8. A package of material is attached that provides detailed information regarding recommended, not-recommended, and ineligible/withdrawn applications (Attachments 3 -7).

A total of 37 applications have not been recommended for funding at this time; details are provided in Appendices 6 and 7. Attachment 6 lists the projects that fit within the scope of the program but received an evaluation score below the cut off of available funding. Attachment 7 includes projects that do not fit within the scope of the program, or the due diligence feedback has identified significant concerns.

The Rural Dividend Program also includes a special circumstances funding stream, which enables the program to aid communities facing significant economic challenges resulting from the loss of a main employer or the impacts of a natural disaster. Through this stream, funding can be provided outside of the program's regular parameters, including outside of intake periods. To date, \$3,281,179 in special circumstances funding has been approved in FY 18/19.

An additional six projects, submitted in the fifth intake, have been identified for special circumstances funding. These projects do not fit within the regular parameters of the program, but were submitted by communities impacted by the 2017 or 2018 wildfire seasons. As a result, these projects are recommended for approval as special circumstances provisions (see Attachment 4). [This brings the](#)

total funding recommended for Minister approval to \$19,293,829. This total includes all Single Applicant, Partnership, and Special Circumstances applications, recommended for approval at this time, but does not include the \$3,281,179 in Special Circumstances funding previously approved by the Minister to date in FY18/19.

DISCUSSION:

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Following the final funding decisions by the Minister, the program will work with GCPE staff to notify all applicants and publish news releases. Funding decisions for the project development funding stream will be announced first, in mid-January 2019, with a province-wide news release. Funding decisions for the larger single applicant and partnership funding streams will be announced in early February with province-wide and region-specific news releases. This timing will allow for decisions regarding any new special circumstance applications. Requests received later could be funded in FY 19/20.

OPTIONS:

OPTION 1: Approve the Decision Record for fifth intake applications, new special circumstances applications and the proposed special circumstances funding hold back.

Option 2: Revise the Decision Record for fifth intake applications, new special circumstances applications and the proposed special circumstances funding hold back.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1: Approve the Decision Record for fifth intake applications, new special circumstances applications and the proposed special circumstances funding hold back.

Approved / Not Approved

Signature
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development

Date

Attachments (8):

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7. List of Ineligible and Withdrawn Applications
8. List of Approved Project Development Applications

PREPARED BY:

Matthew Scott-Moncrieff
Rural Policy and Programs Branch
Phone: 250-952-0596

REVIEWED BY:

	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
DMO		
ADM		
Program Dir/Mgr.	LH/SF	2018/12/14

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