



Board Highlights

March 20, 2025

RDCK Adopts Five-Year Financial Plan

The Board of Directors adopted the 2025-2029 Financial Plan Bylaw, an annual requirement which must be completed by end of March each year. This year's budget will see a 5.7% average increase in property taxes for RDCK residents, although this is highly variable depending on the Electoral Area or Municipality the resident lives in.

The RDCK hosted nine hybrid public information sessions (in-person and online), one Special Budget Meeting, plus individual budgets were discussed at all commission and committee meetings over the last two months, which allowed the public in our various sub regions to comment and provide feedback on the five-year Financial Plan.

Residents are encouraged to [review the financial plan](#) and reach out to staff or Directors with questions.

Electoral Area I Official Community Plan

The Board adopted the new Electoral Area I Sentinel Mountain Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw No. 2821. The OCP sets out the vision and objectives of a community to guide future development, land use management, character of the community, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, and investment in infrastructure. The plan is the primary tool that provides policy direction that informs the RDCK Board and other government agencies in making land use decisions.

[Read Electoral Area I Official Community Plan](#)

FireSmart Program

The Board directed staff to apply to the 2025 Union of BC Municipalities Community Resiliency Investment FireSmart Community Funding Supports program for \$1,700,000 for the delivery of the 2025 and 2026 FireSmart Programs.

The funding will be used to hire a full-time temporary FireSmart Coordinator, six seasonal Wildfire Mitigation Specialists, deliver public education and outreach, conduct limited fuel treatments on RDCK owned lands (crown land fuel treatment under this grant is funded through the Wildfire Risk Reduction Program and administered through the Ministry of Forests), update/renewal of the Area H Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP), deliver the Neighbourhood Recognition Program, administer the rebate program, and the delivery of home ignition zone assessments under the Wildfire Mitigation Program (previously known as the Home Partners Program).

For more information

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Under 2024 funding the program set a record for the number of assessments provided with 528 home ignition zone assessments. As well, 27 neighbourhoods were recognized for their work to reduce their community to wildland fire, the CWRP's are being updated in Electoral Areas A, B, C, G, J, K and the Villages of Nakusp and Salmo, and in total, 115 rebates were issued.

Purchase of Five Fire Truck Apparatus

The Board awarded the purchase of five Fire Truck Apparatus to Fort Garry Fire Trucks (Winnipeg, MB). The five trucks will be allocated to the Balfour-Harrop Fire Department, Canyon-Lister Fire Department, North Shore Fire Department, Tarrys Fire Department, and Winlaw Fire Department. All five apparatus will replace fire apparatus ranging in age from 25 to 27 years old.

The Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) specifies frontline fire apparatus age as a critical factor in determining communities Dwelling Protection Grading. For rural communities, the age is set at 20 years before replacement. The RDCK was granted an extension by FUS on each apparatus to accommodate the procurement and building process for the new apparatus.

The expected delivery date is some time in 2027.

Local Conservation Fund

The Board approved \$139,767 in grant funds for the Local Conservation Fund to be spread among eight different projects. The fund provides grants to support local conservation efforts in Electoral Areas A, D, E, F, and H focused on the conservation of water and aquatic systems, as well as wildlife and habitat. Here are the eight projects:

PROJECT	PROPONENT	AMOUNT
Enhancing bat habitat and monitoring populations in the West Kootenays	Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada	\$24,208
Slocan Valley Pollinator Highway Project: Phase 1 – Year 2	Elk Root Conservation Farm Society	\$18,865
Slocan River Riparian Restoration 2025	Slocan River Streamkeepers	\$20,000
Central Kootenays Wetland Restoration	BC Wildfire Federation	\$16,000
Construction and Conservation of Artificial Bat Roosts in West Kootenay	Okanagan Nation Alliance	\$18,497
Kootenay BroomBusters – A Community Led Pulling Together Program	Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society	\$15,730
North Kootenay Lake Climate Resilience and Water Monitoring Project	Living Lakes Canada	\$12,000

Wire Fence Removal to Restore Habitat Connectivity	Wildsight Creston Valley	\$14,467
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Director’s Reports

RDCK Directors provide monthly reports outlining what they have been working on. [Click here](#) to read the March reports in the Board minutes.

RDCK Quarterly Report

For the latest RDCK Quarterly Report, which details the current projects and initiatives of the RDCK, please [follow the link](#).

RDCK Board Meeting Video Recording

To view a recording of this month’s meetings, [click here](#).

Discretionary Grants

[AREA A](#)

KRSS Prom Parent Committee – KRSS 2025 Prom	\$500
BC Senior Games Society – 2025 BC Senior Games	\$250
Trails for Creston Valley Society – Sanca Creek Trail Upgrade	\$5,000

[AREA B](#)

KRSS Prom Parent Committee – KRSS 2025 Prom	\$800
Trails for Creston Valley Society – Sanca Creek Trail Upgrade	\$5,000

[AREA C](#)

Creston Ladies Iron Maiden – Ladies Iron Maiden	\$300
KRSS Prom Parent Committee – KRSS 2025 Prom	\$300
Trails for Creston Valley Society – Sanca Creek Trail Upgrade	\$2,500

[AREA E](#)

Blewett Community Society – Garbage Dump Fees	\$250
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[AREA F](#)

Castlegar Minor Hockey Association – U18 Rep Provincials	\$2,000
West Kootenay Amateur Radio Club – Mt. Lavina: Replace Radio Repeater Equipment	\$4,999
Young Naturalists Club of BC Society – Nelson NatureKids Club	\$1,000

[AREA G](#)

Salmo and District Chamber of Commerce – Douglas Fir Beetle Monitoring and Abatement	\$1,500
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AREA I

Mt. Sentinel Secondary School – Grad 2025	\$400
Stanley Humphries Secondary School – 2025 Scholarship/Bursary Program	\$6,000

AREA J

Maple Hope Foundation – War Up Close	\$250
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Community Development Grants

AREA B

Fields Forward Society – Kootenay School Food Gathering	\$2,500
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AREA D

Hospice Society of North Kootenay Lake – Caregiving at the End of Life	\$2,000
Lardeau Valley Historical Society – Core Funding 2025	\$5,000
Kaslo and District Minor Hockey Association – Youth Skill Development	\$1,000
Argenta Community Association – Argenta Communications and Operations Top Up	\$1,000
Lardeau Valley Opportunity LINKS Society – Argenta Community Workshop	\$5,000

AREA E

Blewett Community Society – Morning Mountain Skating Rink	\$2,000
West Shores Leisure Advancement Society – Newsletter	\$3,975.14

AREA F

Blewett Community Society – Morning Mountain Skating Rink	\$2,000
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AREA H

North Slokan Trails Society – New Trail Layout and Network Planning	\$7,000
Slocan Valley Watershed and Forest Protection Plan – Wildfire Suppression Certification	\$5,000

AREA I

Glade Ferry Society – Glade Ferry Society	\$2,000
Kootenay Gallery of Art, History and Science Society – Soup for the Cultured Soul	\$1,500
RDCK Planning Services – Area I OCP	\$2,269.45

AREA J

Deer Park Recreation Society – Deer Park Fire Hall Well Drilling Project	\$51,929.77
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AREA K

Naksup Curling Club – Junior Curling Program	\$1,000
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VILLAGE OF KASLO

Village of Kaslo – Volunteer Fair	\$4,000
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Community Works

AREA A

Creston Red Grain Elevator \$10,000

AREA B

Creston Red Grain Elevator \$10,000

AREA C

Creston Red Grain Elevator \$10,000

AREA G

Rosebud Lake Regional Park Upgrade and Mitigation Project \$200,000