



Staff Report

Finance – Budgets & Accounting

Report To: COW-Finance, Admin, Fire, Legal, Community Services
Meeting Date: August 14, 2023
Report Number: FAF.23.124
Title: Rural Economic Development Program Agreement – Open Fields Grant
Prepared by: Sam Dinsmore, Acting Director of Finance / Treasurer

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.23.124, entitled “Rural Economic Development Program Agreement – Open Fields Grant”;

AND THAT Council approve the authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to execute the contribution agreement.

B. Overview

In early 2023, the Town was successful in an application for the Rural Economic Development Program (RED) to support funding to host a community farm/agriculture familiarization tour. The “Open Fields” project will provide the public with a behind the scenes look into the apple growing and agriculture practices in the region. This report seeks authorization to execute the contributing agreement.

C. Background

The Town submitted the RED Grant application in 2022 to fund the “Open Fields” project. This project will host a community farm/agriculture familiarization tour to the public. Working with the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Town has taken various actions to increase public awareness of common agricultural practices and the importance to support the Agri food value chain in the region. Through newsletters and business spotlights, the Town has provided helpful information to the public. “Open Fields” is a great opportunity to expand this initiative and to invite the public onto local farms to learn about their operations, to experience their products and to ask questions.

D. Analysis

Authorization to execute the contributing agreement will secure grant funding to support the “Open Fields” project.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

F. Environmental Impacts

N/A

G. Financial Impacts

By executing the agreement, the Town will secure \$24,500 in funding towards the project cost of \$36,000.

H. In Consultation With

Tim Hendry, Manager of Communications & Economic Development

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Sam Dinsmore, Acting Director of Finance / Treasurer finance@thebluemountains.ca.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Dinsmore
Acting Director of Finance / Treasurer

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	FAF.23.124 Rural Economic Development Program Agreement - Open Fields Grant.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Aug 2, 2023

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

Sam Dinsmore - Aug 2, 2023 - 10:50 AM

Shawn Everitt - Aug 2, 2023 - 10:59 AM