

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 7, 2026

RE: **Wildlife Safety Education Programming**

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Board direct staff to proceed with coordinating an internal wildlife safety education program, utilizing existing 2026 budget allocations to rebrand and transition the program in 2026, with full implementation in 2027.

Alternatives:

THAT the Board direct staff to continue a seasonal external wildlife safety education program delivered through the BC Conservation Foundation.

Purpose:

To seek Board direction on next steps for the delivery of wildlife safety education programming in the region.

Strategic Priorities:

2.3 Engage Communities

Background & Analysis:

WildsafeBC, operated by BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF), provides wildlife safety education programming across British Columbia, including within the RDOS. For approximately ten years, the RDOS has participated in a hybrid model that supported a Community Coordinator responsible for public education as well as internal wildlife safety training for staff in several departments.

The Coordinator's duties included participation in community events, distribution of WildSafeBC educational materials in person and online, and operational outreach related to animal attractants. As an externally delivered program, mileage reimbursement formed a significant portion of overall program costs due to the geographic size of the region and volume of wildlife activity.

BCCF has recently restructured the WildSafeBC program and no longer supports externally managed or hybrid program models. As a result, the RDOS can no longer continue the existing approach and must choose between contracting the program entirely through BCCF on a seasonal basis or establishing an internal, RDOS-led wildlife safety education program. A hybrid delivery model is no longer an option.

Financial Implications:

There is no request for additional funding associated with this recommendation.

Existing 2026 budget allocations currently used for WildSafeBC enforcement and outreach activities would be reallocated to support the rebranding and development of RDOS-specific wildlife safety educational materials, including print resources and messaging.

Future program delivery levels would be structured to remain within existing budget allocations, unless otherwise directed by the Board through the annual budget process. Any proposed changes to scope or funding would be presented to the Board for consideration as part of the 2027 budget deliberations.

Communication Strategy:

A communications campaign will be developed to inform residents of any changes to the expected programming.

Will a PowerPoint presentation be presented at the meeting? No

Respectfully submitted:

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S. Fiorito, Manager of Utility Operations

Endorsed by:

Liisa Bloomfield
L. Bloomfield, Senior Manager of Public Works

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