



Staff Report

Report To: Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer
From: **Scott Currie, Manager of Communications and Strategic Initiatives**
Date: February 22 2022
Report: CSD 01.2022
Subject: Reconnect Ontario Grant

Recommendations:

That South Huron Council receive the report from Scott Currie, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, titled "Reconnect Ontario Grant" for information; and,

That South Huron Council approve an application to the Reconnect Ontario grant program in support of the 2022 Exeter Rodeo.

Purpose:

For approval.

Background and Analysis:

Following their meeting on the evening of Wednesday, January 26th, staff were contacted by an Exeter Rodeo Committee representative to request assistance with a [Reconnect Ontario grant](#) application due on Tuesday, February 3rd.

The Reconnect Ontario grant offers 50% funding support for tourism/events and the Exeter Rodeo Committee resolved to submit an application to support the 2022 event.

Normally, permission is sought from Council prior to grant submissions as neither staff nor committees have been delegated authority to submit funding applications on behalf of the corporation. However, in this instance

the grant window closed prior to the next available Council meeting. In an act of good faith, staff have submitted a grant application ahead of the Reconnect Ontario deadline and are now seeking bona fide Council approval.

Operational Considerations:

If Council chooses not to support this application, it can be withdrawn. If Council supports this application and the municipality is successful the transfer payment agreement will come before Council in a by-law for approval.

South Huron's Strategic Plan:

7.2.2 Strategic Objective: Administrative Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility

Financial Impact:

Based on prior years, the project budget for the 2022 Exeter Rodeo event is \$51,000. The event aims to be self-funded with admission sales and sponsorships being the major sources of revenue to cover the expenses of putting on the event. However, there is uncertainty surrounding these sources of revenue post-pandemic and the municipality sought to reduce financial risk of the event by applying to the Reconnect Ontario program.

Based on eligible expenses in the Reconnect Ontario guide, South Huron is seeking a total of \$23,250 from the province to support the 2022 Exeter Rodeo.

The proposed allocation of project expenses is as follows:

2022 Exeter Rodeo	Estimated Cost
Reconnect Ontario (45.6%)	\$23,250
South Huron's Funding Portion (54.4%)	\$27,750
Total Cost	\$51,000

Legal Impact:

None.

Staffing Impact:

None.

Communication Actions:

None.

Policies/Legislation:

None.

Consultation:

Jo-Anne Fields, Chair Exeter Rodeo Committee

Related Documents:

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Currie, Manager of Communications and Strategic Initiatives