

South Side Wastewater Project Moves Forward

The South Side Wastewater Committee and the Regional Wastewater Committee are continuing to work hard moving forward a number of project elements crucial to the long-term success of the wastewater project.

The project work consists of four parts: the regional line, local collection systems, connections between the regional and local lines and individual lot connection. .

Construction of the regional line between Mulhurst Bay Lagoon and the Village at Pigeon Lake, is expected to be completed on budget by the end of 2014. Funding for this project phase came from the Province of Alberta (92%) with the balance being shared by each of the six participating municipalities — MaMeO Beach, Norris Beach, Crystal Springs, Grandview, Poplar Bay and the County of Wetaskiwin — based on lot counts. Funding for the next phase of the regional line, from the Village to Poplar Bay, has been requested and construction will begin after funding has been secured.

The expansion of the lagoon required to accommodate the additional wastewater has already been completed.

Before final decisions can be made on the design and financing of the local collection systems, additional engineering work needs to be completed to determine the best technical solutions for the south side communities. As well, we need to determine the most efficient and cost-effective management structure for the south side regional collection system. The Regional Wastewater Committee, with representation from the participating south side summer villages, is currently reviewing management options.

Under a regional collaboration grant, the committee has hired MPE Engineering Ltd. to complete a preliminary design, servicing plan and capital construction budget for our proposed local wastewater collection system. We anticipate this work to be complete by early 2015.

Concurrent with progress on the technical design, work is well underway to determine the best way to manage the south side regional system in a reliable, cost effective and transparent manner over the long term. The committee is reviewing the management options to determine what solution will best meet the unique needs of the south side communities' wastewater collection system and what the system's ongoing operating will be.

As we move forward, keeping system costs as low as possible remains a priority. Representatives from each south side community are actively pursuing additional federal and provincial grants to offset the capital costs required to construct the local system within each community. We are also investigating other financing options to keep the project affordable for all residents while giving us an effective, reliable system for decades to come. Once the engineering design and financing options are determined, we will be able to provide more accurate estimates of the local capital costs and proposed annual operating costs.

Finally, the committee is committed to keeping you updated throughout this project. Between now and the spring of 2015, the technical, management and financing options and recommendations are expected to be ready. We look forward to sharing those with you through this newsletter and each community's website. We also appreciate the questions some residents have posed. We will continue to provide timely answers to questions as the technical and financial information becomes more defined.