
County of Wetaskiwin No. 10

Box 6960
Wetaskiwin, AB, T9A 2G5
Phone: 780-352-3321
Fax: 780-352-3486
Website: www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca



PROJECT UPDATE

March 31, 2014

PIGEON LAKE REGIONAL WASTEWATER SOLUTION

The Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater Planning Committee has spent several years discussing and planning a regional solution to the wastewater environmental concerns around Pigeon Lake. The Committee originally included the Counties of Wetaskiwin and Leduc, First Nations Bands of Ermineskin, Samson, Louis Bull and Montana, and the Summer Villages of Ma-Me-O Beach, Sundance Beach, Grandview, Norris Beach, Poplar Bay, and Crystal Springs, as well as the North East Pigeon Lake Regional Services Commission. The Committee representatives were adjusted periodically to include only those stakeholders affected by the phase of the project being worked on, with the County of Wetaskiwin appointed the lead municipality for administrative and funding application purposes.

In 2007, the Committee commissioned an engineering study which gave recommendations on possible solutions for proper wastewater disposal around Pigeon Lake. The report included public consultation sessions in the area around Pigeon Lake, at which residents had the opportunity to voice ideas and concerns. The recommendation from the report involved the installation of a regional sewage transmission system separated into two parts, north and south. Both the north and south regional transmission lines would utilize the existing Mulhurst Lagoon, which had been upgraded to be capable of treating the additional effluent, and required future storage upgrades to handle the increased flows.

An engineering pre-design study for the Regional Wastewater System was completed in November of 2009, funded through Government of Alberta Water For Life program. The study analyzed, among other things, such factors as line location, geotechnical issues, lift station location/design, pipe size, flows, lagoon requirements, and costs. The study was adopted by the Committee as the basis of moving forward with design and construction of the project.

The engineering pre-design study was submitted to Alberta Transportation Water For Life program for funding of the detailed design and construction of the regional wastewater system. In 2011 Alberta Transportation approved funding in the amount of 92.86% of project costs, up to a maximum of \$10,307,400 for Phase One of the project, funding the construction of additional storage at the Mulhurst Bay Lagoon and the construction of a regional wastewater line running from the lagoon to the south east side of Pigeon Lake. The final grant amount to be based on actual costs from design and construction of the system, which involves a three phase development as follows:

Phase One (Project 1)

Expansion of the Mulhurst Lagoon (completed in 2012/13 at a cost of \$3,640,846)

Phase One (Project 2A & 2B)

Construction of transmission main pipeline from the Mulhurst lagoon to the Village at Pigeon Lake, and two lift stations. (funding approved and to be completed in 2014)

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Phase Two

Expansion of service from the Village at Pigeon Lake to the north west along Pigeon Lake. (funding applied for and on hold until Phase One completed)

Phase Three

Phase Three may be considered at a future date and will include the expansion of service from the Mulhurst lagoon west along the north side of Pigeon Lake.

The project has involved extensive consultation with the Pigeon Lake First Nations (inclusive of the Samson, Ermineskin, Montana and Louis Bull bands) as the original alignment of the wastewater transmission line was routed through Reserve #138A. This consultation process included a traditional walk through on First Nations lands of the proposed alignment, a wastewater needs assessment, and various consultation meetings to provide updates and gather input from the four First Nations on their interests and involvement in the project.

The final alignment decided upon following consultations has added 8 kilometers to the original project. County of Wetaskiwin Reeve Kathy Rooyackers advised "The County of Wetaskiwin, as Managing Partner, and Brian Keeler, Mayor Summer Village of Norris Beach/Committee Chair and John Slater, Deputy Mayor Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach/Committee Vice Chair met with Honorable Wayne Drysdale, Minister of Transportation, Honorable Verlyn Olson, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and Honorable Diana McQueen, Minister of Energy on February 25, 2014 to discuss the funding shortfall created by the new alignment. They requested the Minister's consideration for increasing the provincial funding under the Water for Life Grant program for the completion of Phase One. All partners were thrilled to receive notice from Honorable Drysdale March 18, 2014 advising of the approval of the additional funding under the Water for Life Grant. This significant commitment of funding by the Government of Alberta has made this project possible."

The total construction, engineering, management and land costs for Phase One are \$13,148,743, with 92.86% paid by Provincial Funding in the amount of \$12,209,923 and the remainder of \$938,880 paid by the municipal partners for this Phase, being the County of Wetaskiwin and Summer Villages of Poplar Bay, Norris Beach, Grandview, Ma-Me-O Beach and Crystal Springs.

On March 21, 2014 the municipal partners met and approved continuing with Phase One, Project 2A & B construction of the forcemain pipeline from the Mulhurst Lagoon to the Village at Pigeon Lake, located on the south east side of Pigeon Lake, along with two lift stations. They also accepted tenders for the two projects; the first from Westcan Tell Ltd. for the Forcemain transmission line in the amount of \$4,238,869, and the second from Alpha Construction Inc. for the two Lift Stations in the amount of \$3,712,761. Construction is anticipated to be complete by the fall of 2014, dependent on weather conditions.

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Summer Village of Norris Beach, Mayor and Committee Chair, Brian Keeler, advised "All partners in this initiative are dedicated to the environmental protection of Pigeon Lake and are proud to be a part of this regional project. We are extremely grateful to all stakeholders in our communities who provided input and support for this project."

For further information contact Frank Coutney, CAO, County of Wetaskiwin at 780-361-6223 or email fcoutney@county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca or Brian Keeler, Chair, Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater Planning Committee at 780-462-5495.

