



Mackenzie County

# REQUEST FOR DIRECTION

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>April 24, 2018</b>
<b>Presented By:</b>	<b>Fred Wiebe, Director of Utilities</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Policy UT006 Municipal Rural Water Servicing – Endeavor to Assist Policy</b>

**BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:**

At the August 24, 2016 Council meeting the following motion was made:

***MOTION 16-08-656 MOVED*** by Councillor Wardley  
*That administration draft an endeavor to assist policy for lateral water lines.*  
**CARRIED**

Administration has researched multiple options and reviewed and drafted a policy that we feel will assist in the expansion of the rural waterlines in Mackenzie County.

The intent is to present the policy to Council for review and to continue discussion and the recommended changes.

**OPTIONS & BENEFITS:**

The power point presentation will walk through some of the different options that Council can use as an endeavor to assist to make the installation of rural waterlines more equitable. The new policy includes:

- Financial options on funding the lateral lines;
- A deposit system that confirms the public’s demand for water delivery;
- An incentive element that will encourage rural ratepayers to connect in a timely manner;
- Include a Rural Water Servicing Agreement also confirming public demand’s commitment;

Author: F. Wiebe Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ CAO: L. Racher

## **COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

The costs for the installation of the waterlines will be borne by the ratepayers that are interested in connecting to the rural waterlines. The new policy gives options for multiple different financial initiatives to assist in making the installation of lateral waterlines more feasible. Some of the incentives include:

- An incentive through the deposit to have people “buy-in” at the start;
- A shared \$8000 connection fee to those that opt in at the beginning;
- County may consider funding a portion or all of the engineering costs;
- Miscellaneous costs such as gravel, clearing/grubbing;
- County may pay for lateral waterline oversizing;
- Provide financial arrangements whereby customer can make payments over a set period of time;
- County may fund for all connections that are deferred to a later date;
- County may absorb all or part of interest charges

The policy outlines steps whereby the commitment is shown by the ratepayers and it proceeds to get budget and project approval from Mackenzie County Council prior to proceeding. The total project costs will be on a case by case basis.

Grant funding for municipalities seem to mostly be based around regionalized systems. For farmers there is the Growing Forward 2 grant initiative where they can apply and take advantage of funding up to a maximum of \$5000. Administration will continue to research rural water funding opportunities.

## **SUSTAINABILITY PLAN:**

Mackenzie County’s strategy within the sustainability is to bring potable water closer to residents but not necessarily provide them with rural water connections.

*Strategy C5.2 Provide additional rural potable water truck fill sites so all residents reside within 35 minutes of potable water.*

## **COMMUNICATION:**

Any changes to the UT006 policy would be updated on the County’s website.

Author: F. Wiebe Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ CAO: L. Racher

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Simple Majority

Requires 2/3

Requires Unanimous

For review and discussion.

**Author:** F. Wiebe **Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CAO:** L. Racher



## Rural Water Servicing - Endeavor to Assist



2018-03-23 Mackenzie County Rural Water Servicing Policy

## The County's Goal

"That safe and healthy potable water is made available to the majority of rural residents through a County water distribution system in a cost efficient, effective and responsible manner".



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## County's Objectives



To meet the County's Goal, the following Objectives will need to be addressed:

- ▶ Pursuant to Council resolution # 16-08-656, develop a policy that will provide endeavor to assist initiatives for rural ratepayers interested in connecting to the County's water distribution system;
- ▶ Address the criteria that will lead in the success of the County's rural water servicing program that will result in the expansion of the County's water distribution system;
- ▶ Establish a Communication Plan to inform the rural residents on the benefits of the program;
- ▶ Develop financial options that will encourage rural ratepayer's "Buy-in" with the goal to maximize participation into the program;
- ▶ Develop an incentive that will encourage rural ratepayers to connect during the installation of the infrastructure;
- ▶ Develop an overall "Servicing Plan" that identifies servicing zones that Council may consider extending its water distribution depending upon public demand;

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## Program Advertised



1. advise the public on the existence of the County's Rural Water Servicing Policy and the criteria required for Council to approve of a Project;
2. solicit on encouraging public from service areas to submit expressions of interest with a September 30 deadline for responses;
3. advise that Council's consideration to construct will be in the subsequent year on receiving expression of interests;
4. advise that expression of interests to be presented to Council, must include the Deposit Fee from each of the property owners expressing their commitment on proceeding with the Project;
5. advise the residents of the requirement that the County's Rural Potable Water Servicing Agreement must be executed prior to the County proceeding with the Project;
6. present all received expressions of interest to Council received prior to the deadline during annual budget deliberations.

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