

Mackenzie County

Title	Municipal Rural Water Servicing Policy	Policy No.	UT006
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Legislation Reference	Municipal Government Act
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Purpose:

Mackenzie County owns and operates multiple municipal water systems: Hamlet of Fort Vermilion, Hamlet of La Crete and Hamlet of Zama. Property owners residing or having a property outside of hamlet boundaries are desirous of gaining access to the municipal water systems, and Mackenzie County desires to make the quality potable water available to Mackenzie County rural ratepayers through introduction of the rural water system.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy is designed to set forth the general guidelines for constructing main rural water trunk lines and a process and sequence for future lateral extensions from the main water trunk lines.

Mackenzie County's rural water services to be delivered echoing the Water for Life goals:

- a) Safe, secure drinking water (public health and prosperity);
- b) Healthy aquatic ecosystems (defining and achieving healthy aquatic ecosystems);
- c) Reliable quality water supplies for a sustainable economy (balanced approach: healthy/sustainable ecosystems, the economy, human health).

Mackenzie County will make their best efforts to encourage information sharing within the Mackenzie Region, and whenever possible and feasible, seek regional water partnerships. Mackenzie County will select technologies and practices that promote water conservation.

GUIDELINE

Main Trunk Water Lines

Mackenzie County shall undertake construction of the main water trunk lines in the phases as described in this policy. The County will seek provincial and/or federal funding to fund the main water trunk line construction; the remaining amount may be funded through the general municipal tax or reserves, and/or connection fees. A

long term debenture may be obtained subject to the County's policy and the regulated debt borrowing limit.

The routes of the main trunk line will be determined by the County's Council for each phase in consultations with municipal engineers and with an endeavor to achieve the most cost effective outcome:

- Phase I - From Hamlet of Fort Vermilion to Hamlet of La Crete
- Phase II - From Hamlet of La Crete - South (La Crete Saw Mill)
- Phase III - From Town of High Level – South (Ainsworth OSB Plant)
- Phase IV - From Hamlet of Fort Vermilion to Boyer
- Phase V - From Boyer to the Town of High Level
- Phase VI - From La Crete South Extension to Blue Hills

Construction of each Phase is subject to available budget as may be approved by Council on an annual basis.

Lateral (Extension) Construction

In order to encourage continuing expansion of water distribution systems, a ratepayer or a group of ratepayers shall be permitted to connect a lateral extension to the County's main trunk line within this policy's guideline.

Mackenzie County may undertake construction of laterals if sufficient demand from the ratepayers is determined. The sufficient demand shall mean the construction is financially feasible and acceptable on a cost recovery basis by the affected ratepayers. While the County's intent is to establish cost recovery fees for laterals, any construction proposed to be subsidized at any rate shall be subject to available and approved County budget.

At a request of the ratepayers, Mackenzie County will facilitate a community meeting and will assist with the preparation of a business case to determine whether sufficient demand exists. Each request will be assessed on an individual basis with participation of the affected ratepayers. A combination of financial recovery instruments may be considered: connection fees, developer's contributions, offsite levies, and/or local improvement. These will be determined on a case by case basis for individual areas.

The sizing of a lateral extension line shall be determined on a case per case basis by the County. Unless otherwise approved by CAO or designate, a lateral extension pipeline shall be not less than 3" (three inches) in diameter. The lateral extension pipeline must be made of acceptable materials which must be approved by the County. Water tie-in and installations must be inspected and approved by the County or representative.

The County may contribute funding for oversizing a line if required for future growth. This decision is at the County's sole discretion and subject to budget and requires a prior written agreement. An offsite levy bylaw may be established to offset the oversizing cost.

Council reserves the right to make the final decision regarding any lateral extension.

Other

Mackenzie County's water service will be limited to the trickle fill water distribution in all rural areas. Trickle fill water distribution is a low pressure system that continuously fills a water holding tank based on the amount of water the property uses and is controlled by a float valve.

It is preferred that all water lines be constructed within the existing road allowances to avoid the need to obtain additional right-of-way or easements. Other options may be considered subject to the appropriate legal mechanism that shall be established securing the County's access to the lines during construction and subsequently for routine repair and maintenance; these must be appropriately registered against the applicable properties in Alberta Land Titles at no cost to the County. No financial compensation shall be provided by the County to a property owner due to a utility right-of-way easement.

Administrative Responsibilities

The Chief Administrative Officer or Designate shall be responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	14-Jan-14	14-01-034
Amended	28-Sep-16	16-09-680
Amended		