

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Regular Council Meeting

October 6, 2020



Report prepared by: Mike Ziehr, GM of Transportation and Agriculture [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Muirfield Wastewater Hauling

Recommendation from Administration

That Council approve the recommended action plan described in this request for decision to initiate hauling of Muirfield wastewater in-house, utilizing County owned equipment and staff.

Further, that Council approve the revision to the organizational chart for an additional staff member.

Further, that Council approve the purchase of the capital equipment required in an amount not to exceed \$270,000.

Chief Administrative Officer's Comments

N/A

Report

Division: Division 5

Wheatland County assumed ownership and maintenance requirements of the Lakes of Muirfield development, effective April 30th, 2020. The wastewater system in the development consists of an underground collection system that transfers the sewage to a communal collection site (liftstation) located in the northeast portion of the development. This sewage is then pumped to a storage site 3 kms away in the Hamlet of Dalroy.

Responsibilities of operating the wastewater system include managing the collection system, liftstation and forcemain to the Dalroy storage site as well as removing and hauling the wastewater away for treatment. The previous developer had utilized a private contractor to haul the wastewater from the storage site in Dalroy for disposal at the Strathmore Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Wheatland County extended this contract until October 31, 2020 to allow for the analysis of alternative options.

Administration has reviewed the various options available and concluded that providing in-house operation of the hauling and disposal process will provide significant cost savings in comparison to using a private contractor. The current wastewater operating costs are approximately \$16.03/m³ of wastewater. Utilizing County staff and disposal sites, this expense can be reduced to approximately half of current costs.

Action Plan

Administration proposes the following action plan:

1. Purchase two 40m³ used tanker trailers with pumps
2. Purchase one semi-tractor truck (Existing county units used as back up)
3. Hire one full time staff member capable of hauling wastewater 50 hours per week.
4. Haul the wastewater from Dalroy for disposal, alternating between the Carseland lagoon and the Strathmore WWTP.
5. Continue this practice until a permanent wastewater treatment solution is in place.

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

Bylaw 2017-19 Water and Wastewater Bylaw

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

Wheatland County is committed to provide services that recognize and encourage balanced, sustainable, long term growth and opportunities.

Response Options

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

If approved, administration will purchase the equipment, hire a staff member, and negotiate a contract with Strathmore for intermittent disposal of wastewater at the Strathmore WWTP.

Organizational

The organizational chart will require a revision to include the additional staff member. Additional effort from existing staff will be required to manage the wastewater hauling program, perform maintenance on equipment, clear snow at sites, etc.

Financial

If approved, the salary and costs of operating the system would be included in the 2021 operations budget. The purchase of capital equipment will be funded from reserves as this cost was not anticipated in the 2020 budget.

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

No environmental, staff or public safety impacts are expected. Operation will adhere to Wheatland County's safety program.

Follow-up Action / Communications

Follow up based on the direction of Council.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Muirfield Wastewater Hauling.docx
Attachments:	- Muirfield Wastewater Hauling - DRAFT after Finance Review.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 29, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MZ' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Michael Ziehr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brian Henderson' in a cursive script.

Brian Henderson