

WASTEWATER UPDATE AND REVIEW

The Summer Village of Sandy Beach



ALL Residents

January 2023

There is a perception, rumours, and concerns that council is attempting to force a particular agenda about how our village should manage wastewater disposal over the next 5-10 to 20 years.

I wish to make it clear **that council has not made any decisions that have** obligated our village towards any particular new program on how we dispose of wastewater.

We have however, been put in the position to consider, and make decisions on proposed solutions regarding wastewater disposal by the County. Currently we have a truck haul agreement with the Town of Onoway that is up for renewal in April this year.

The previous and present council has been involved in various engineering studies in cooperation with Sunrise Village and Lac Ste. Anne County, in regards to the proposed Transmission Line and the options within that proposed system. The two villages also undertook preliminary engineering studies to assess the future potential of our own lagoon. The goal of these studies was to **gain information and costs** that could be presented to the public and discussed.

To gather information and present it to the public is the mandate of municipal councils and that is what we have done, and are continuing to do, in order to have as complete an information package as possible to present to the public. Much of

this information has been presented at council meetings and posted on the website as it is obtained.

Final decisions on the outcome of this information HAVE NOT been made.

A SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS

- Jan 2018 our lagoon was closed due to extreme high levels and critical potential for an environmental spillage that would have flowed onto Alexander First Nation lands. An agreement with the Town of Onoway was obtained to truck our sewage to their lagoon, it being the closest to our villages. One hauler was authorized by Onoway.
- During 2019 we obtained the services of Morrison Hershfield engineering to work with Environment for a one-time emergency discharge. We also had the engineers complete a study and provide options on bringing our lagoon back online. March 2020, the most feasible and long-term (20 years) proposal was to build an addition 4th cell.

Project cost at that time approximately \$3 million dollars. The discharge would need to be complete to proceed with a further study to assess actual existing lagoon repair costs.

- 2020 the Councils of Sunrise Beach and Sandy Beach were brought into the discussions with Lac Ste. Anne County with regards to a County wide transmission line project that would tie the existing lagoons into a line that would eventually go to the Edmonton Regional Wastewater Treatment facility. Alexander First Nation was included in the original project and would have a pipeline to our lagoon, which would then be piped to Onoway with future tie-in to Edmonton System. When Alexander declined participation in the project, our lagoon was taken off, and a truck dump just outside our village was proposed. (NOTE that if our lagoon had remained in

the project the county would have wanted access, which would have increased traffic a Lakeshore Drive considerably.)

- The build cost associated with a truck dump and transmission line to Onoway was \$9,700,00.00 with 90% government funding, municipalities would be responsible for \$969,320.00. County @ 51% = \$494,353.00 Sunrise @ 19% = \$184,171.00 and **Sandy Beach @ 30% = \$290,796.00**. This **build** cost is well within our ability to pay for, without borrowing or tax increase.
- The issue that concerned both Sandy and Sunrise Councils at this point, was the cost of operating the line and the required return on Capital Reserves. Discussions with the Hauler did not indicate that there would be a significant reduction in their charges, since they had a system in place that reduced their transportation costs to Onoway.
- January 19 2021 County requested a “definitive answer as to our participation in the phase A transmission line project (with truck dump station) by March 1 2021. February 25 2021 letters were sent to the County expressing our concerns, and requesting definitive costs on the proposed operation budget. On April 2021 both villages sent letters declining to join the project as is stands, but would consider other options and/or future participation.
- March 2022 Both Sunrise and Sandy Beach Councils agreed to participate in a Hydraulic Study as **proposed by the county**, to determine the costs of adding village wide collection systems to the transmission line project. The study was government funded at 90%, and was completed July 13 2022.
- Feb 9 2023 The Deputy Mayor will be meeting with Onoway council to request their consideration of a 5-to-10-year extension of dumping privileges to their lagoon, if we remain on a truck haul only system.

- **LAGOON** November 2021: The joint lagoon committee agrees to have our engineering firm Morrison Hershfield submit a grant application on our behalf, for a study to further investigate the issues on our existing lagoon. **The grant is denied.** Alberta Environment will not approve expansion of a non-discharging (evaporative only) lagoon, when there is a more environmentally sustainable option such as the Transmission Line, available to our village.
- **Alexander First Nation:** On April 2022 our Council met with Alexander First Nation to discuss various infrastructure projects that they are pursuing. They are hoping to build a treatment plant on their lands, but have not gotten back to us about any costs or timelines in regards to this project.

WHERE WE ARE TODAY: January 19, 2023

1. We will not be receiving funding for any upgrades or expansion to our lagoon as long as there is a transmission line project being developed within Lac Ste. Anne County.
2. We can afford the cost of the build, for the Transmission Line and a truck dump station. The operating costs (at this time) would be \$0.012 per gallon hauled, or \$12.00 per 1000 gallons. There would be a capital recovery cost of about \$175.00 per year for all village taxable lots. There is no guarantee on the proposed operational costs, and they will be subject to change.
3. The costs of a village collection system are high. The operation and capital cost would be around \$100.00 per month per taxable lot, whether used or not. In addition there is the individual cost of hooking into the system averaging around \$7,500.00, and for some, a possible tank replacement.
4. Remain on a truck haul only system. This of course, is the least environmentally friendly solution. Other considerations are potential future

changes by the Provincial Government in regards to the use of holding tanks near bodies of water. Costs of Truck Hauling will always be subject to increased fuel and maintenance costs.

Conclusion

This is the information that council has been gathering over the past 4 years.

Council HAS NOT committed our village to any one option and has put forth new information and updates when received.

We will be discussing with the County to set a date in May for a public hearing/open house on this matter.

We appreciate the interest that the community has shown in this matter, and their participation in the Nov. 2022, Lagoon Committee and Council meetings. We encourage all to come to the REGULAR Council meetings and ask questions during the question/round table session at the end of our regular meeting AFTER adjournment.

There is much to be considered, and any final decision will have an effect on this village today and into the future.

Deputy Mayor,

Michael Harney

18 Jan 2023