

# City Staff Report

**Report Date:** Aug 16, 2019

**Meeting Date:** Aug 27, 2019

**To:** Mayor & Council

**From:** City Manager Byron Johnson

**Subject:** Next steps for potable water treatment

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the development of the water treatment project for the City's potable water system. The objective is to have a grant ready project developed which will be ready for submission when the next round of Federal/Provincial infrastructure program. Even if large grants do not materialize immediately, this background work needs to be completed.

## Summary

As reported to Council previously, the changing Health Canada water quality standard related to dissolved manganese in potable water has caused the City to be out of compliance with the new guidelines. In addition to manganese issue, the City does not currently treat its water to prevent microbiological contamination. While the City has an excellent track record of high quality untreated water, the trend from the Health Authorities has been towards treatment, and in particular chlorination, to provide a higher level of assurance of non-contamination. This project will address the treatment for both Manganese and microbiological contamination.

The attached project proposal from Urban Systems outlines the various phases of this project. This includes development of a conceptual design, pilot testing of the design and preliminary design with cost estimates and physical layouts to be ready for the grant application. Concurrent to this work, the City's water conservation plan will also be updated, because it is an important part of successful grant applications.

Public Engagement is also an important part of this project. For many years both Council and the public have expressed resistance to water treatment and chlorination. This used to be a more viable position prior to changing water guidelines. Part of this project will be to host open-houses for the community to learn more about water treatment options. Due to the technical nature of the design process and the specific quality objectives which must be met, it is likely that the choices of alternative systems will be limited. The engagement will be more about disseminating information rather than collecting input from the public.

This work will start in the fall of 2019 and continue into 2020. The work project will be developed and managed by Urban Systems. The cost estimate for their portion and sub-contracted aspects of the work is \$278,000. An incremental \$20,000 of work by City forces is also expected. The total cost estimate for this work is \$298,000 with spending spread between 2019 and 2020. The funding will come from the Water Capital Reserve which has a current balance of \$2.8 million.

## Recommendation

THAT Council approve the expenditure of \$298,000 from the Water Capital Reserve to fund the design of a Water Treatment System for the City's potable water system.



## **Statutory Requirements**

### **Council Policy**

All capital expenditures must be approved by Council.

### **Strategic Objective**

This project falls into the Water System Sustainability Initiative and also Grant ready initiative from major infrastructure.

### **Financial Implications**

This project will cost an estimated \$298,000. At its completion, the City will apply for the next available infrastructure grant program. Full treatment of the City's potable water supply has a very large cost, the City must be diligent in developing funding proposals with better chances of success.

### **Background**

### **Attachments**

Urban Systems project proposal dated August 1, 2019

### **Concurrence**

Chris Coben – Director of Capital Works and Infrastructure

### **Options**