



# BOARD REPORT

**TO:**

**Chair and Directors**

**File No:** 5360 01

**SUBJECT:**

Groundwater Monitoring in the Nicholson Aquifer

**DESCRIPTION:**

Report from Ben Van Nostrand, Team Leader, Environmental Health Services dated February 7, 2019. Groundwater Monitoring in the Nicholson Aquifer.

**RECOMMENDATION #1:** THAT: the Board authorize the expenditure from the Special Projects budget in the amount of \$10,000 as a contribution in partnership with Interior Health for the delivery of a groundwater aquifer monitoring program in 2019 in the community of Nicholson in Electoral Area A.

## SHORT SUMMARY:

Interior Health (IH) met with relevant CSR D staff and the Area A Director on January 30, 2019 to express concerns with water quality results at the Nicholson Elementary School. IH requested that CSR D partner with them on a program to re-evaluate the groundwater quality in the Nicholson Aquifer. IH offered a \$5,000 contribution towards a monitoring program and requested that the CSR D administer the delivery of the program and share the results with community members.

The purpose of this report is to request up to \$10,000 be included in the Special Projects budget to coordinate with IH in partnership to deliver a one year Nicholson aquifer monitoring program.

**VOTING:**

Unweighted  
Corporate

☐

LGA Part 14  
(Unweighted)

☐

Weighted  
Corporate

☒

Stakeholder  
(Weighted)

☐

## BACKGROUND:

On October 29, 2014 the CSR D held a public meeting at the Nicholson Elementary School to provide information to the community on the quality of groundwater collected as part of the CSR D's ground monitoring program in Nicholson. The information session confirmed that the ground water data confirmed impacts from on-site septic systems to the groundwater aquifer in the community of Nicholson. The monitoring program was established to provide information to the community regarding water quality in the Nicholson area and to provide residents with information to make an informed decision about whether the community was interested in the CSR D advancing a community sewer or water system for the property owners. The CSR D also provided information on in-home water treatment solutions. The water monitoring program was historically funded through the Special Project budget and the CSR D indicated to the community that the continuation of ongoing monitoring would be required to be funded through the establishment of a service area around benefiting property owners.

To date the community of Nicholson has expressed no interest in pursuing any option that would require the establishment of a service area, opting instead for the status quo which is on-site septic and drinking water wells on every property. The CSR D discontinued its sampling program in 2014.

IH has recently expressed concerns to the CSRD of deteriorating water quality issues at the Nicholson Elementary School. At a meeting on January 30, 2019, IH proposed to partner with the CSRD on a monitoring program that would revisit assessing water quality in the Nicholson aquifer.

As a result of the meeting held with IH on January 30, 2019 and subsequent communications, a plan to monitor the Nicholson aquifer in 2019 was investigated. IH and CSRD staff believe that the best monitoring data would be to engage with the CSRD's environmental monitoring contractor that conducts ongoing monitoring at the Golden Landfill to conduct two rounds of sampling in 2019 of the Nicholson aquifer. This program will cost approximately \$12,000 and IH has agreed to contribute \$5,000 towards laboratory lab analysis costs. In addition to monitoring, the CSRD will revamp its website to display information related to data historically collected on the Nicholson aquifer, share the results of the monitoring program with residents and reconvene with IH in the fall of 2019 to determine possible next steps.

Without the establishment of a specified service area, the CSRD has advised IH that this program is a one year commitment. IH has indicated their desire to have the aquifer monitored over the long term and staff are supportive in having dialogue with IH once the 2019 monitoring results have been shared with the community.

Staff support the one year monitoring program in partnership with IH to gather data and compare the data to historical records. The CSRD is also committed to sharing this data with the community including information related to the health risks associated with consuming ground water influenced by on-site septic systems. This information will allow property owners to make informed decisions related to their desires to advance ongoing monitoring or a community based treatment solution.

**POLICY:**

The proposed changes are consistent with environmental health services policies, plans and practices.

**FINANCIAL:**

Funding up to \$10,000 from the Special Projects budget would support the 2019 Nicholson aquifer monitoring partnership with IH as well as the creation and distribution of information to the property owners of the potential service area.

**KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:**

Water quality issues have been raised with residents from the Nicholson area many times in the past. The 2019 monitoring partnership with IH will be used to support another round of information sharing with property owners.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

The CSRD will engage its environmental monitoring consultant to carry out the monitoring program in 2019.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

The Board endorse the recommendation to partner with IH on a one year monitoring program for the Nicholson aquifer and information sharing exercise in 2019.

**BOARD'S OPTIONS:**

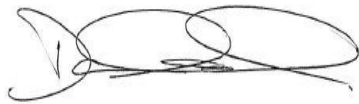
1. *Endorse the Recommendation.*
2. *Deny the Recommendation.*
3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

**LIST NAME OF REPORT(S) / DOCUMENT(S) AVAILABLE FROM STAFF:**

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	2019_Nicholson Aquifer Monitoring Program .docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 11, 2019

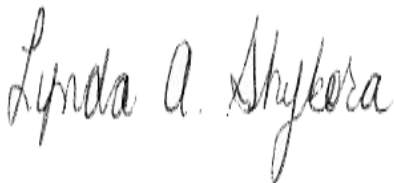
This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



**Darcy Mooney - Feb 8, 2019 - 3:42 PM**



**Jodi Pierce - Feb 11, 2019 - 7:01 AM**



**Lynda Shykora - Feb 11, 2019 - 10:12 AM**



**Charles Hamilton - Feb 11, 2019 - 11:24 AM**