



BOARD REPORT

TO: Chair and Directors

File No: 1855 03

SUBJECT: Infrastructure Planning Grant – Nicholson Groundwater Aquifer

DESCRIPTION: Report from Ben Van Nostrand, Team Leader, Environmental Health Services, dated June 14, 2019. Board endorsement for an Infrastructure Planning Grant application for the Nicholson Groundwater Aquifer.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: the Board empower the authorized signatories to apply for an Infrastructure Planning Grant for the community of Nicholson from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the amount of \$10,000 to develop a community water system infrastructure feasibility study, this 20th day of June, 2019.

SHORT SUMMARY:

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing offers an Infrastructure Planning Grant Program. The program allows for a local governments to apply for funding for the feasibility of establishing a community water system. The funding covers 100% of the first \$5000 and 50% of the next \$10,000 for a total funding amount of \$10,000 on an eligible planning initiative.

The recent monitoring sample results from the Nicholson Aquifer monitoring project have identified significant septic system impact in the water quality of the aquifer. CSR D staff would like to engage with a qualified professional to determine the feasibility of a community water system. The Electoral Area A Director supports the grant application. The \$5,000 contribution from the CSR D would come from the Nicholson Groundwater budget within the Special Projects function.

VOTING:	Unweighted Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/>	LGA Part 14 (Unweighted)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weighted Corporate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholder (Weighted)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 water monitoring program was historically funded through the Special Project budget and the CSR D indicated that the continuation of ongoing monitoring would be required to be funded through the establishment of a service area comprised of benefiting property owners. The information session confirmed that the Nicholson ground water is impacted by on-site septic systems. The community of Nicholson indicated that they were not supportive in the CSR D's involvement in pursuing any option that would require the establishment of a service area. The CSR D discontinued its sampling program in 2014.

Interior Health (IH) has recently expressed concerns to the CSR D of deteriorating water quality issues at the Nicholson Elementary School. On January 30, 2019, IH proposed to partner with the CSR D on a monitoring program that would revisit assessing water quality in the Nicholson aquifer. IH offered a

\$5,000 contribution towards a monitoring program and requested that the CSRD administer the delivery of the program and share the results with community members.

At the February 21, 2019 regular Board meeting, the Board authorized expenditure of \$10,000 from the Special Projects budget as a contribution in partnership with IH for the delivery of a groundwater aquifer monitoring program in 2019.

A water sampling/monitoring contractor has been hired and the first round of sampling has recently been completed. Data has shown continued septic impacts to the Nicholson aquifer.

The CSRD has notified all affected residents of the sampling program and has developed a webpage within the CSRD website to provide all relevant monitoring information. The CSRD will be hosting a community meeting in the fall of 2019 to provide the results of the data and recommendations for options moving forward. As it is clear the ground water in the Nicholson aquifer is substantially compromised, the CSRD is recommending that an infrastructure feasibility study be completed in order to provide preliminary design and costing on a community water system.

If the CSRD is successful in receiving the grant, an engineer will be retained to provide costing and design information to be shared with the community at the fall public meeting. The information provided will be important for property owners to consider the advancement of a community water system for Nicholson.

POLICY:

As part of the grant submission process, a Board resolution supporting the project is required. Policy No. F-3 "Electoral Area Community Works Fund – Expenditure of Monies" requires Board authorization to utilize funds.

FINANCIAL:

The overall budget to complete the feasibility study is \$15,000, with a \$10,000 Infrastructure Planning Grant contribution and a \$5,000 contribution from the Nicholson Groundwater budget within the Special Projects function.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

A Board resolution supporting the funding application is required to be submitted with the grant application. It is important to provide residents with options for consideration within the CSRD's mandate to deliver services.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Upon Board approval, the application will be submitted to the Province, along with the Board resolution and any other required supporting documentation.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

The Board endorse the Infrastructure Planning Grant application for the Nicholson Groundwater Aquifer community water system infrastructure feasibility study.

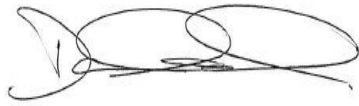
BOARD'S OPTIONS:

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

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2019-06-20_Board_OM_185503_IPGrant_Nicholson_Aquifer.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 18, 2019

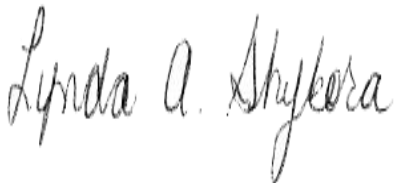
This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Darcy Mooney - Jun 18, 2019 - 8:51 AM



Jodi Pierce - Jun 18, 2019 - 8:59 AM



Lynda Shykora - Jun 18, 2019 - 9:48 AM

No Signature - Task assigned to Charles Hamilton was completed by assistant Lynda Shykora

Charles Hamilton - Jun 18, 2019 - 11:54 AM