



# BOARD REPORT

**TO:** Chair and Directors

**SUBJECT:** Water System Acquisition Moratorium and Department Review

**DESCRIPTION:** Report from Ben Van Nostrand, General Manager, Environmental and Utility Services, dated June 26, 2024. A report to formalize the recommendation approved at the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 19, 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION:** THAT: the Board endorse a moratorium on the CSRD acquiring new water systems until systems in the existing queue are reduced to the recommended number outlined in the CSRD’s Water Acquisition Strategy.

*Corporate Vote Unweighted Majority*

**SUMMARY:**

At the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on June 19, 2024, staff presented the committee with an overview of the challenges facing the Utility Services Department. The purpose of this report is to formally adopt the recommendations contained within the Utility Services Review report presented to the COW.

**BACKGROUND:**

The [Utility Services Review report](#) presented to the COW at the June 19, 2024, meeting provided an in-depth review of key issues related to 1) current service delivery, 2) the CSRD’s Water Acquisition Strategy and 3) other matters such as: Interior Health policies, cross-connection, water metering and asset management. The purpose of the report was to highlight to the Board the challenges faced by the Utility Services Department and recommendations to enable staff to ensure the department is delivering mandated services.

The following recommendations were highlighted and subsequently endorsed by the COW:

- The Board consider a moratorium on acquiring new water systems until the CSRD has conducted a review of the Strategy and associated policies.
- The moratorium, if approved, be held in place until the queue is reduced to the recommended three, as outlined in Policy #7 of the Strategy.
- Staff engage with a consultant to help review department priorities and associated resources required to deliver on those priorities. In addition, the Strategy requires a review and update, with a focus on, the process to onboard and queue new systems, the service delivery model, and long-term sustainability of the department.

**POLICY:**

[Water System Acquisition Strategy](#)

**FINANCIAL:**

Finances for staff to engage with a consultant to help review department priorities, in the amount of \$20,000, will be funded by the CSRD's Special Projects function. This potential expense was included in the 2024-2028 Five Year Financial Plan.

**KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:**

Approval of the recommendation in this report and the work associated with reviewing department priorities, will enable the CSRD's Utility Services Department to develop long term, sustainable, delivery of potable water to current users in existing service areas. Furthermore, the department will create a process to consider new requests for system acquisitions in the future.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

Upon approval, staff will advise developers of the moratorium on acquiring new water systems and will engage with a qualified professional to assist with the review work outlined in this report.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Staff will advise developers of the moratorium on acquiring new water systems and work with the communications department to post information related to this matter on the website.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

That the Board endorse the staff recommendation(s).

**BOARD'S OPTIONS:**

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

**Report Approval Details**

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|----------------------|--|
| Document Title:      | 2024-07-18_EUS_Water_Aquisition_Strategy_Moratorium.docx |
| Attachments:         |  |
| Final Approval Date: | Jul 4, 2024  |

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



Jodi Pierce



Jennifer Sham



John MacLean