



building communities together

2019 Business Plan Lexington Water (1891)

*Peter Hughes, P.Eng.
Manager of Environmental Services*

Working in partnership with communities, large and small, to make the Cariboo Chilcotin a socially, economically and environmentally desirable region to live, work and play.

Department/Function Services

- The Cariboo Regional District has acquired the Lexington water system effective January 1, 2019.
- The system is currently comprised of a lake intake, a pump house, associated pumps, reservoir and distribution piping that services 28 parcels.
- The system meets domestic needs only and does not provide water for community fire protection.

Capital improvements completed to date in 2018 were drilling of a well to replace the surface water intake. Design of the new pumphouse and associated electrical and mechanical requirements are currently underway, with tendering of the project anticipated by the end of October 2018. Beginning January 1, 2019 and until the upgrades are completed, the system will need to be operated as is with regular inspection and maintenance to the system components to ensure continuous operations. The water quantity and quality will continue to be tested on a regular basis and adjustments to the system made as required.

Operational costs will be collected by way of a user fee set at \$1,000 per year. Taxation will be collected by way of an annual parcel tax of up to \$420 expected to begin in 2019. The Lexington Water Service Establishment Bylaw 5084 and Lexington Water Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 5085 provide function authority.

As Electoral Area F is the only stakeholder, and the *Local Government Act* requires more than one vote, the entire Board is responsible for the governance of this service.



Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

2019 Goal

Goal: Connection of the new well and construction of the pumphouse and associated electrical and mechanical components.

Rationale: Several improvements are required for the system including a new groundwater source (well), pump house, electrical controls, disinfection and flow metering.

Strategy: Construct and commission the new well and pumphouse to provide improved water quality and remove the current boil water notice imposed by Interior Health.

Overall Financial Impact

The annual user fee of \$1,000 per year is projected to be sufficient for the current five-year plan; however, the operating budget will need to be reviewed following commissioning of the new water source. The function currently has no capital reserve funds.

The Board allocated \$107,167 of Community Works Funds for a 1/3 contribution towards system improvements and approval for project funding via petition to borrow through MFA has been obtained.

Significant Issues & Trends

WorkSafe BC has a recent mandate targeting municipalities and regional districts focusing on confined space entry plans, policies and procedures as well as general occupational health and safety requirements. In response to inspections by Worksafe, hazard assessments were completed for all utilities owned by the Cariboo Regional District to identify all confined space locations and subsequently procedures were developed for each. In order to strictly meet WorkSafe requirements, some of the procedures recommended cannot be implemented with existing infrastructure layout. Staff are currently investigating how other jurisdictions are approaching these requirements and looking for alternative procedures acceptable to WorkSafe.

The Public Sector Accounting Board now requires local governments to report and record tangible capital assets. At some time in the future, local governments may be required to amortize these assets over their useful life.

The Cariboo Regional District is a signatory on the Province of BC/UBCM Climate Action Charter, and has committed to continuing work towards carbon neutrality in respect of corporate operations.