



building communities together

2020 Business Plan Red Bluff Sewer (1775)

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Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.

Department/Function Services

The Red Bluff Sewer System was established in 1982 and services approximately 2,145 land parcels, including a portion within the City of Quesnel boundaries. The system collects sewage through the provision of numerous lift stations, several kilometres of sewer piping and a pre-treatment plant. Once collected, the sewage is discharged to sewage treatment lagoons owned and operated by Cariboo Pulp. Treatment of the sewage by Cariboo Pulp occurs under a long-term contractual arrangement.

Establishment Bylaw No. 1486 authorizes the CRD to cover the costs of the service by way of taxation of assessed property, parcel tax and user fees. No limit has been set on the level for taxation by assessment. The current residential user fee is \$222/year, under Bylaw No. 5202, and is adequate for the next five years.

Historical capital purchases include five lift station pumps and a utility truck with crane in 2008 for \$117,267, two lift station pumps in 2006 for \$27,223, two lift station pumps in 2010 for \$13,000, SCADA improvements in 2012 for \$65,000, and two lift stations pumps for \$9,300 in 2013. For 2014, grit chamber \$53,750, generator \$49,534, plastic removal system \$36,039, and SCADA system for \$238,868.

As Electoral Area A 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.

Overall Financial Impact

The projected capital reserve as of December 2019 is \$495,775. In 2018, \$126,000 was transferred out of reserve to purchase a new service truck. At this time, the user fee and taxation level is adequate to provide the necessary service. No increase in requisition is required in 2020. In 2019, mechanical failures required the replacement of the second service truck. \$56,000 of reserves was used for this purpose. \$165,000 in capital works were planned for 2019.

Significant Issues & Trends

Development pressures in the past few years are putting into question the capacity of the sewer system and pre-treatment plant. There is significant commercial development occurring along the Hwy 97 corridor along with several proposed subdivision applications creating several smaller lots from the larger lots in the area. The recent approval of carriage houses within the CRD and anticipated approval of carriage houses by the City of Quesnel will add further flows to the system. An estimate of system capacity is being completed as part of the asset management planning currently underway.

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 the Red Bluff sewer system to identify all confined space locations and subsequently procedures were developed for each. In order to strictly meet legislative requirements, infrastructure re-design and re-build at each of the systems, 10 lift stations to install an above-ground valve chamber at an estimated cost of \$40,000 - \$50,000 each would be required. 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.

Measuring Previous Years Performance

Goal: Undertake capital improvements.

- Design work and equipment selection completed to install generator for lift stations 5-2 and 7-1 to provide emergency power. Not completed.

- Continued use of BIOMAXX product to eliminate H₂S odors and stop corrosion. No odour complaints received since use of BIOMAXX implemented in 2016.