



2021 Business Plan Lexington Water (1891)

*Charles Boulet, P.Eng.
Manager of Environmental Services*

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 Services

- The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) owns and operates the Lexington Community Water System.

Background Information

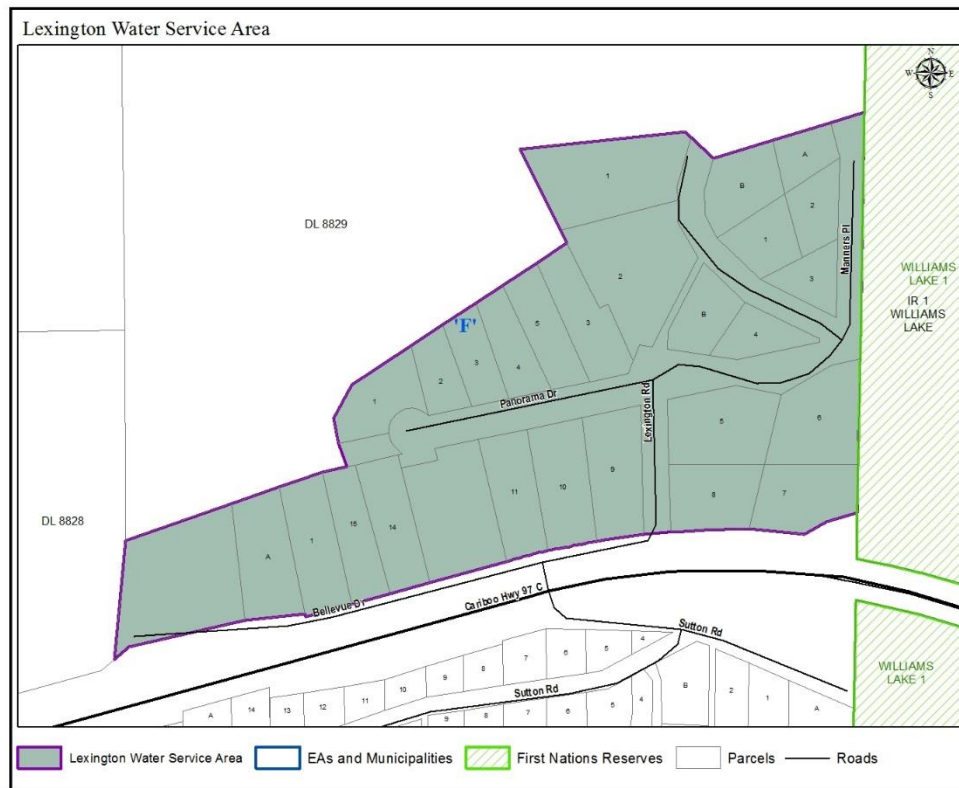
- The Cariboo Regional District acquired the Lexington water system effective January 1, 2019.
- The system was comprised of a lake intake, a pump house, associated pumps, reservoir and distribution piping that services 28 parcels.
- The system meets domestic needs only and does not provide water for community fire protection.
- Capital improvements completed in 2018 were drilling of a well to replace the surface water intake. In 2019 the new pumphouse and associated electrical and mechanical requirements were designed. The project was then tendered, and construction completed. The water quantity and quality will continue to be tested on a regular basis and adjustments to the system made as required.
- Connection of the new well and construction of the pumphouse and associated electrical and mechanical components.
- Several improvements were required for the system including a new groundwater source (well), pump house, electrical controls, disinfection and flow metering.
- In 2016, 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 was obtained. The project was tendered in 2019

and costs were over the anticipated budget. The Board subsequently allocated an additional \$225,000 in Community Works Funds to complete the project.

Operations

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 that began 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.



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.

Interior Health Authority conducted inspections of CRD water systems and made recommendations to achieve compliance with the Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation. Recommendations for the Lexington system have not yet been provided by IHA.

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.

Moving Forward:

Continue monitoring, assessing and improving water conditions in Lexington.

Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

2021 Goal

Goal: Continued commissioning and operation of the new water supply and pumphouse.

Rationale: The operation of the system will require monthly sampling and monitoring of water quality to meet Interior Health conditions of permit.

Strategy: Monitor and study to improve water quality.

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. An annual contribution of \$2,500 has been budgeted in the current financial plan.