



*building communities together*

## **2023 Business Plan Benjamin Water (1887)**

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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.***

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### **Department Services**

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

### **Background Information**

- The Cariboo Regional District acquired the Benjamin water system effective January 1, 2019.
- The system is comprised of a groundwater well, a pump house, associated pumps, reservoir and distribution piping that services 43 parcels.
- The system meets domestic needs only and does not provide water for community fire protection.

### **Operations**

The water quantity and quality are tested on a regular basis and adjustments to the system are made as required. Regular inspection and maintenance to the system components is undertaken to ensure continuous operations. Connection changes, such as a new connection, are provided to residents as requested.

Operational costs are collected by way of a user fee set at \$350 per year. Taxation is collected by way of an annual parcel tax of \$174 that began in 2019. The Benjamin Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 5127 and Benjamin Water Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 5128 provide function authority.

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.



## Significant Issues & Trends

Northern 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 Benjamin water system have not yet been provided by IHA; however, it is anticipated that:

1. Increased monitoring frequency
2. Residual chlorine monitoring pending results of additional water quality sampling.

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, Upgrades to Benjamin Water System:**

1. Seal cracks on reservoir lid.
2. New roof on the building and stairs to the door.
3. Flow meter and pressure relief valve.
4. Replacement of distribution lines from water main to utility shut off valves.
5. New SCADA system.

### **Business Plan Goals, Objectives & Strategies**

- 1. Goal:** Completion of required system improvements.  
**Rationale:** Several small improvements are required for upkeep of the reservoir and pumphouse; see list above.  
**Strategy:** Complete required improvements.
- 2. Goal:** Upgrade SCADA.  
**Rationale:** Improve work productivity.  
**Strategy:** Upgrade (SCADA) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition.
- 3. Goal:** Add chlorination to Treatment System.  
**Rationale:** Increase Water Quality.  
**Strategy:** Add chlorination inside the existing pumphouse.

### **Overall Financial Impact**

The projected capital reserve as of December 2022 is \$1,000.

Taxation is collected by way of a parcel tax of \$174 per year and has remained unchanged since 2019.

The current residential user fee is \$350 per year and will need to increase to \$362 per year in 2023 to meet the needs of the system and inflation.