



building communities together

2025 Business Plan Lac La Hache Sewer (1770)

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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 Services

- The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) owns and operates the Lac La Hache Community Sewer System.

Background Information

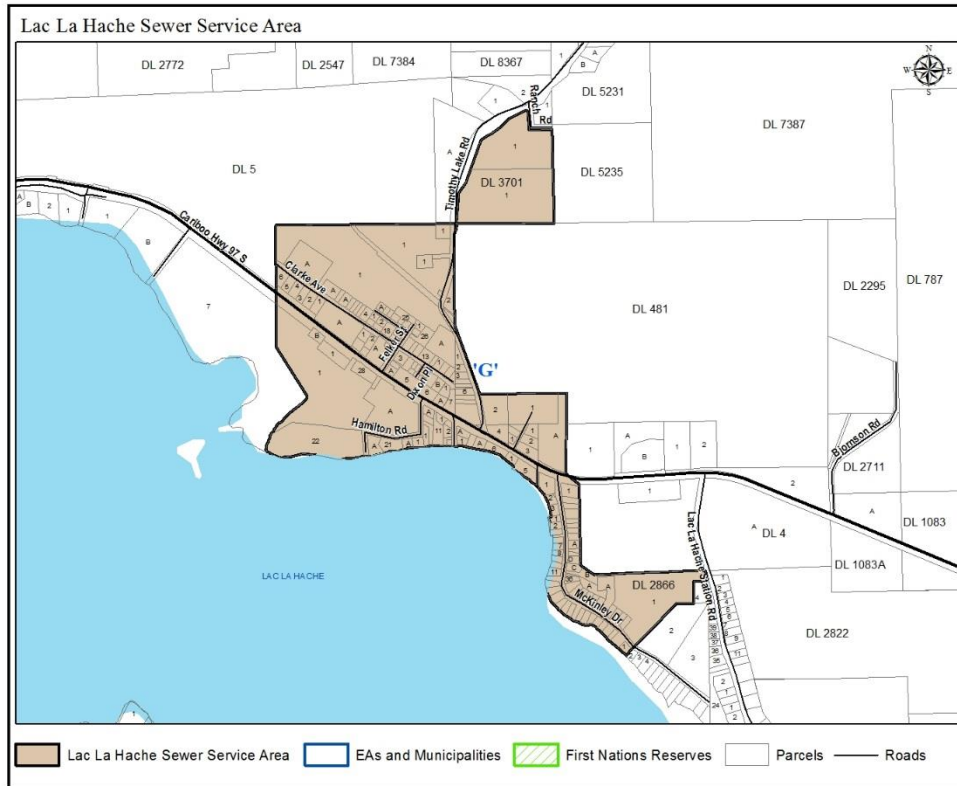
- The Lac La Hache Sewer function was established in 1976 and now services approximately 150 land parcels.
- The system is comprised of 4 lift stations, sewage lagoons and associated sewer piping.
- Regular inspection and maintenance of system components is undertaken to ensure continuous operations.

Operations

Function authority is provided by the Lac La Hache Specified Area Sewer Management Bylaw No. 1905.

Bylaw 5430 authorizes the CRD to cover the costs of the service by way of taxation of assessed property, parcel tax and user fees.

As Electoral Area G 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

Aging infrastructure is becoming increasingly challenging and time consuming. The Main Lift Station is the #1 destination for after-hours Operator callouts. Significant repairs and upgrades to this system will need to be undertaken in the next few years. Options for the Main Lift Station and the high-risk force main at the Hamilton Lift Station remain a priority.

The Public Sector Accounting Board continues to require local governments to report and record tangible capital assets. At some future date local governments may be expected to amortize these assets over their useful life. This is addressed with the Wastewater Master Plan item listed for 2025.

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

Business Plan Goals, Objectives & Strategies

- Goal:** Determine options for refurbishment or replacement of the Main Lift Station to increase capacity for current and future growth and replace aging infrastructure.

Rationale: As the population of Lac La Hache continues to grow, it is crucial to explore options for extending the lifespan or replacing the Main Lift Station. Prior to investing in repairs or component replacements, it is recommended to assess cost estimates for either a full replacement or refurbishment of the station. The current holding tank, which fills in approximately 30 minutes under average peak flow conditions, is undersized and poses a significant risk in the event of mechanical failure. This challenge is expected to worsen as further residential development occurs in the area. Potential solutions include upgrading the Hamilton and Beach Lift Stations to eliminate the reliance on the Main Lift Station. Alternatively, expanding or replacing the holding tank at the current location and relocating mechanical components above the tank could be considered. *This latter option would mitigate the risk of pressurized head leaks affecting electronic equipment.*

Strategy: Complete a feasibility study to explore options for replacement or refurbishment of the Main Lift Station.

Estimated Cost: \$60,000.



- Goal:** Continue SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) upgrade.

Rationale: Build on current scheduled upgrades by bringing the main lift online. Currently the Main Lift Station is serviced only by a general alarm. Upgrading the SCADA would allow Operators to diagnose and control some elements of the station remotely. This would save overtime costs due to commute time and give our Operators more control.

Strategy: Upgrade SCADA at the Main Lift Station. This PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) and associated equipment can easily be repurposed, depending on the future status of the Main Lift.

Estimated Cost: \$60,000 in 2025.

- 3. Goal:** Undertake main line flushing and perform the annual lagoon vegetation removal required by our operating permit.
Rationale: Ensure continuous operations by maintaining infrastructure and fulfill permit obligations.
Strategy: Undertake the following improvements:

 - Sewer mainline flushing and cleaning.
 - Remove vegetation and clean up areas surrounding lagoons.
- 4. Goal:** Explore options for replacement of the Hamilton Lift Station Force Main.
Rationale: This force main is a high probability and high criticality asset.
Strategy: Submit an RFP. Options include trenchless pipe bursting or conventional trenching.
- 5. Goal:** Investigate potential need for DCCs (Development Cost Charges). Increase the System's eligibility for obtaining future grants.
Rationale: As planned developments are implemented, the potential need for Development Cost Charges (DCCs) should be explored for any future development. Implementing DCCs will protect current users from bearing the burden of future system expansion. This will have the added benefit of a detailed inventory of assets for the soon-to-be-implemented asset management program.
Strategy: Commission a third-party *Wastewater Master Plan* for Lac La Hache Sewer.

Overall Financial Impact

The projected capital reserve as of December 2024 is \$254,684.

Taxation is collected by way of a parcel tax of \$275 per year and has remained unchanged since 2006.

The current residential user fee is \$226 per year and may increase in 2025 to match inflation and the growing needs of the system.

Financial Considerations

The studies and designs specified in this Business Plan, as with all CRD Utilities, may or may not proceed without appropriate grant funding approvals.



Main Lift

Beach Lift

Current large development under construction in Lac La Hache

100 Unit Subdivision (Approved)