



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report Title: Water-Wastewater May 2024

Date: May. 6, 2024

Report Number: PW-2024-05-22

Department: Public Works

File Number: C11 PW 24

Prepared By: John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Attachments: Monthly Water/Wastewater Summary

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report PW2024-05-22 prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works.

Background:

Monthly Summary

Our Operating Authority, Veolia Water Canada, has prepared a summary of the water and wastewater operations over the past month and is attached to this report.

Wastewater Annual Reports

The 2023 Wastewater Annual Reports for the Ripley and Lucknow systems are now available on the Township [website](#).

Pumphouse Generator Upgrades

In 2023, Township staff were notified by our fuel supplier, that our pumphouse sites with standby generators were not up to code and the diesel fuel tanks needed to be modified to meet with current standards.

Since that time, we have been working with APM Heating and Cooling to inspect these sites and make modifications to the fuel tanks to bring them up to standard. The generator at the Ripley Fire Hall was upgraded in 2023 and we are planning to upgrade Murdoch Glen, the Ripley-Huron Community Centre (RHCC) and Whitechurch in 2024.

Imported Sewage Disposal

For many years, the Township has permitted the disposal of sewage from septage haulers at the Ripley Wastewater Treatment Facility. The source has been septic tanks, holding tanks and portable toilets. Last fall, we had issues with the turbidity level in the final treatment lagoon cell being too high to allow for discharge into the Pine River. To prevent a possible overflow of the lagoon cells, the Township had the cells dosed with aluminum sulfate from a boat to quicken the process of sediment falling out of suspension, which worked very well.

To prevent this from happening again the Township implemented the following procedures in Feb. 2024:

1. All imported sewage must be disposed of upstream of the treatment facility on Park St; and
2. Septage loads had to be regularly sampled to determine if any chemicals were being introduced into the wastewater system that would cause issues with our treatment system; and
3. Septage haulers had to provide the source location of the loads they are transporting and the volume of their load.

At this point, we do not have a disposal station that is upstream of our treatment facility, so septage haulers had to dispose of their septage into a manhole on Park St. This was only intended to be a temporary situation until a proper disposal station could be constructed. This worked fairly well until we had two incidents in the span of two weeks where the discharge hose connected to the septage truck failed and caused a spill on the street.

Township staff considered several factors with our Operating Authority, Veolia Canada, and determined that the best solution was to suspend all imported septage loads until a proper disposal station can be constructed.

Sanitary Maintenance Hole Repairs

Township staff have accepted the proposal from Specialty Grouting Services Inc. for the repair of nine maintenance holes in Lucknow and six in Ripley at an upset limit of \$66,750 plus HST. This work is expected to be completed by the end of May.

Discussion/Analysis/Overview:

Pumphouse Generator Upgrades

The upgrades are necessary for our fuel supplier to legally refuel our generators and are the result of new code requirements. With Murdoch Glen being one of the older sites, it requires more upgrades such as a fill spill container, an audible alarm for low fuel level and a tank whistle to alert the operator when the tank is full. The RHCC generator only needs an audible alarm. The Whitechurch site still requires an inspection, but we are aware that a tank whistle will be required. We won't know the cost until the inspection is complete.

Imported Sewage Disposal

Although there is no obligation for the Township to allow imported septage at our treatment facilities, we also understand that there are over 3,200 septic system owners in Huron-Kinloss that will require these services at some point. The result of the Township refusing to accept imported septage will likely result in an increase in the cost of these services.

There is also a potential business case to be made since we received 229 septage loads in 2023 and we received 63 loads so far in 2024 until we stopped accepting loads on April 19th. Our current rate is \$100 per load, however, we are planning to recommend changing to a volume rate that should result in a higher average fee per load than we are charging currently.

Township staff are going to continue to explore septage disposal facility options that would allow for us to resume accepting septage in an environmentally responsible manner and create a legitimate revenue source to support our operations.

Sanitary Maintenance Hole Repairs

Repairing leaking sanitary maintenance holes is our first step in attempting to address the infiltration issues we have in both our Lucknow and Ripley sanitary sewer systems. We have also identified possible storm drains connection to our sanitary system that are to be rerouted to a proper drainage outlet.

These are the only projects that we can complete on Township property that will help to reduce our peak flows during storm events. The next step will be to work towards eliminating sources of storm water from private property which is significantly more difficult to accomplish.

By reducing our sanitary flows during storm events, Township staff are hoping that we can gain more capacity in our sanitary sewer systems.

Financial Impacts:

The estimated cost to upgrade Murdoch Glen is \$4,813 and RHCC is \$1,820 and is included in the water operating budget.

The 2024 Operating Budget allocated \$35,000 for the construction of a basic septage disposal facility in Ripley and a total of \$75,000 for maintenance hole repairs.

Performance Measurement:

Township staff will be tracking sanitary sewer flows after the work is completed to see if there is any impact to the capacity of our system.

Strategic Area:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability |

Strategic Goal: Manage assets and infrastructure

Respectfully Submitted By:

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Report Approved By:

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer