



# The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

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## Staff Report

**Report Title: Water-Wastewater January 2025**

**Date: Jan. 13, 2025**

**Report Number: PW-2025-02**

**Department: Public Works**

**File Number: C11 PW 25**

**Prepared By: John Yungblut, Director of Public Works**

**Attachments: Monthly Water/Wastewater Summary**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report PW-2025-02 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.

#### Water and Wastewater Operations Contract

On Nov. 18, 2024, Council approved accepting a proposal from Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) to operate the Township drinking water and wastewater systems.

On Dec. 16, 2024, Council approved a draft agreement with OCWA for a five year term beginning Jan. 1, 2025.

#### Operating Authority Transition

OCWA began the transitioning process on Dec. 17, 2024 and took over operations on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:00pm.

### **Discussion/Analysis/Overview:**

#### Water and Wastewater Operations Contract

The agreement is still in the legal review process, so OCWA is currently operating our systems with an agreement in principle. We are expecting to have a final agreement signed by mid January. OCWA has received the Certificate of Accreditation to be the Operating Authority for the Township of Huron Kinloss.

#### Operating Authority Transition

Overall, the transition process has gone well with no significant issues encountered. The main challenge OCWA is encountering is a lack of past knowledge of operating

our systems, so there is a learning curve required as OCWA becomes familiar with our systems and the characteristics of each system.

OCWA has three operators, a compliance operator here full time along with a senior manager that is here full time while they develop their operating procedures. They also have an asset management specialist as OCWA has also begun the task of cataloging system Asset Management Information. The senior manager will soon be replaced by an operations supervisor once that person is in place.

We are fortunate that the Township's Manager of Environmental Services has experience operating our water and wastewater systems that has been a valuable resource to OCWA while they learn about the operation of our systems.

This process has also been beneficial for Township staff to uncover issues that we were previously unaware of. At this point, there doesn't appear to be anything that will significantly impact our budget, but we are still in the investigation process.

Bi-weekly meetings with Township staff and our Operating Authority will resume as of January 14, 2025. Regular communication is critical to keep both the parties updated on the progress of the transition and the new merging relationship between OCWA the Township of Huron Kinloss.

**Financial Impacts:**

The cost of our water and wastewater contract will be included in the 2025 Operating Budget.

Township staff are working with OCWA to ensure that any urgent capital expenses are identified soon, so they can be included in the 2025 budget.

**Performance Measurement:**

The new contract will require that a series of reports are submitted to Township staff to track the performance and condition of our water and wastewater assets. This is still in development.

**Strategic Area:**

- Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle
- Enhance Municipal Service Delivery
- Prepare for Inclusive Growth
- 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