

Saskatchewan Municipal **Best Practice**

Municipal Co-operation

CONTACT

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Project Date: 1911 (ongoing)

THE PRACTICE

In 2002, talks between the RM of Meota, the Village of Meota and the Resort Village of Metinota regarding a potable water supply for approximately 1,500 homes resulted in the creation of the Jackfish Lake West Water Utility Corporation.

THE PROCESS

Since the incorporation of the RM of Meota in 1909 and the Village of Meota in 1911, the two municipalities have had a joint office. Administrative services are contracted to the Village, as well as the building and equipment. The RM and Village have shared such services as fire protection, lagoon, landfill, and have since expanded to include such services as first responders, rent for the local library, recycle bins, and joint boards for assessment appeal. Agreements for percentage of services have been drafted and all revenues and expenses are shared for the above projects. Because of recent population growth, the village has outgrown the lagoon and the construction of a third cell is required.

Each municipality held public meetings for their residents to decide the future regarding potable water. Numerous meetings were held with Sask Water to determine the most cost efficient way of providing potable water to the three municipalities. Four options were considered and the construction of three wells along the North Saskatchewan River was determined the most effective source of potable water. In addition to the costs being shared amongst the three municipalities, funding from the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) was obtained from the provincial government to begin the project.

THE RESULTS

The results of this and many other projects has been that the Village of Meota, the RM of Meota and the Resort Village of Metinota have been able to retain existing residents and encourage new residents to move to the area. Local residents have benefited from the working partnership of the municipalities by being able to live, work and play in rural Saskatchewan.

LESSONS LEARNED

The three municipalities have found that the only way smaller communities are going to remain viable and sustainable is if they work together and form partnerships to maximize their resource base. This project, among many others, would not be possible if the three municipalities had not come together and formed a working relationship.