

Best Practice

Economic Development Leadership

CONTACT

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Project Date: 2009

THE PRACTICE

Producers were dependant upon surface water for their livestock and crop spraying needs. A persistent drought had diminished all surface water supplies forcing producers to haul water. Towns and Villages in the region were forced to limit access for livestock watering in order to meet domestic demand. All traditional sources had become unreliable and costly. The decision was made to drill wells into the Judith River formation a well known dependable supply of water. Although the quality is low for domestic purposes this formation guarantees water and we knew the quality is more than sufficient for livestock and crop spraying needs. The RM's of Mankota No. 45 and Glen McPherson No. 46 partnered on the development of one well and Glen McPherson developed the second project alone.

THE PROCESS

- Council consulted with the Farm and Ranch Water Supply Staff. (Roger Wolfe Oct - Nov 2008)
- Discussed potential formations and available drilling companies.
- We spoke with and received quotes from two engineering firms. WaterMark provided the lowest and most flexible quote and they were contracted to assist with well development (March 2009). With the assistance of WaterMark we tendered the well drilling. Three companies provided quotes. J & B Drilling was low bidder and awarded the tender (April 2009).
- Apply to Watershed Authority for license to drill
- Contracted with local plumber to oversee project and to work with council and administrative staff.
- Hire electrician for both well and building requirements.
- Called for quotes on 2- 30,000 gallon fiberglass storage tanks. Awarded to Fibre Glass Canada (April 2009)
- Contract the construction of buildings to house tank loaders. (April 2009)
- Negotiate cost for crushing pea gravel and process 1,200 yards. (May 2009) Used to wrap around fiberglass storage.
- Negotiate a contract with a Tank Loader Contractor (finalized June 2009)
- Tender excavation work for cistern installation, Tender Crane requirements for off-loading and lowering 2-10x10x67 ft fiberglass storage. (June 2009)
- Call for quotes from pump suppliers once the pump tests have been completed. (July 2009)
- Upon completion of well, work with WaterMark to secure Water Rights license and Approval to Operate Works.

Going Forward – in 2010 council will be working with producers and Watershed Authority to determine how much we can do with regard to pipelines, given the capacity that has been developed. We will begin this process by speaking with pipeline contractors, accessing demand, possible pipeline routes and most importantly determining cost and financing options.

THE RESULTS

Council had detractors when they first announced their intention to proceed with these projects. The best way to measure the success to date would be to say ratepayers are now pressing council to get on with development of pipelines and to build on the success of the first phase. We now have a secure emergency source of water that truly drought proofs a major portion of two municipalities and this goes along way in enhancing the economic prospects for a large number of farm and ranch families. We are approved for an annual allocation of 5.1 million imperial gallons at one site and 2.2 million at the other. Over the next few years the outcomes will be easily measured.

LESSONS LEARNED

Council embarked into an area we had little experience with. We know the establishment of better water infrastructure is a terrific economic development initiative. Only time will tell if we have selected the right tools to deliver the water.