



***Celebrating Municipal Excellence***

# Nomination Form

*Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2015*

Nominee Contact Information	
Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated: <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	Village of Leask
Contact Name:	Brenda Lockhart – Administrator
Telephone #:	306-466-2229
Mailing Address:	Box 40 Leask, Sask S0J 1M0
E-mail Address:	Village.leask@sasktel.net
Name of Nominated Practice or Project:	Water Usage Agreement and Wastewater Pilot Project
Date of Project or Practice Initiation:	
Date of Project or Practice Completion: <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	Long term <span style="float: right;">Ongoing: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></span>

Nominator Contact Information	
Name:	
Organization:	
Position:	
Mailing Address:	
Telephone #:	
E-mail Address:	

*Please remember when filling out your nomination that winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library, so be sure to include all information that may be helpful to others if it were to be used as a reference or resource.*

## The Practice

1. What was the issue that inspired the nominated project or practice?
2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

*1- Small communities such as ours are faced with similar challenges – providing quality drinking water and the funding of wastewater system upgrades in the face of aging infrastructure and ever changing regulations, and declining population from which to draw funds from.*

*In 2013, when deciding on the construction of a new Reverse Osmosis water treatment plant, Council looked at the possibilities of entering into agreements with area farmers, providing them with quality water for application of their liquid fertilizer and chemicals, as a means to help fund the project. There was interest in the farming community, and in preparation for this, Council decided to increase the capacity of the System by ordering additional trains to treat the water, as well, budgeting for installation of additional meters to track the water usage. One area farmer has signed on and this agreement alone, in the 2.5 years since being signed, has generated over \$28,000.00.*

*Council was then immediately faced with the challenge of increasing their lagoon capacity, which was found to be undersized given the installation of the Reverse Osmosis System and changing regulations. Council once again explored many options, looking for one that was affordable for our community. They considered an aeration system, which demonstrates the potential to increase the capacity of the lagoon by increasing contact time and improving the quality of effluent. As this is a newer idea, the distributor was open to the idea of a pilot project. The distributor agrees to the installation of the system at a reduced cost and share in testing costs, which is a saving to the Village, in exchange for access to the testing results which will prove the effectiveness of their system and that they can use to market as a viable and affordable option to other communities faced with the same challenge.*

*Entering into agreements for water usage to help fund the Water Treatment Plant and partnering in a pilot project for lagoon upgrades to realize cost savings, allowed Council to complete these improvements for the betterment of their community while minimizing the financial impact on its residents..*

## The Process

*This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information so that a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice can follow your steps.*

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

Municipal Council

Municipal Administration

Other

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?
5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?
6. What resources were involved?
7. How was the project or practice developed?

*4 Council and staff reviewed all options available to them for both projects. Countless hours of research, talking to other communities in similar situations, accessing the knowledge of Water Security Agency, EPO and engineers familiar with the challenges we faced. They met with potential stakeholders – in the case of the Water Agreement – area farmers and for lagoon capacity-distributors, manufactures etc. Agreements were drawn up that outlined the expectations from both sides*

*5 As mentioned, the partnering agreements with both the Farmer and the Lagoon system distributor, were developed and signed by all parties and their roles were crucial to the success of these projects.*

*6- The Company providing the Water Treatment plant was made aware of our idea to provide area farmers with access to RO Water. They made recommendations of what this would mean in terms of increased capacity requirements and resulting equipment upgrades needed should they proceed. These upgrades were undertaken by the Council, knowing that the additional costs would be easily offset by the funds generated by the agreement. As to the lagoon capacity concerns and solutions, Council relied heavily on the Water Security Agency, our EPO and engineers to clearly outline what our goal was, and help walk us through the process to find the solution that best fit our community.*

*7- As above, these projects developed out of the need to provide our community with basic needs of quality water and safe, sanitary disposal of wastewater, while meeting our regulatory obligations. Council feels that their "Out of the Box" thinking approach has led them to these two equitable solutions.*

## The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?
9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed?
10. Describe any challenges faced.

*8 – Pride. The residents were very proud of the quality of water they now enjoyed, having endured off-colored water, scale covered dishes and dingy whites. There was a savings in water heaters, taps and dishwashers which the previous water was very hard on. Water softeners and heavy bags of salt were no longer needed. We also found that this was an added drawing card for our community making us more attractive as a potential home. As well, area green houses haul water from our pump house and the near by lake and resort residents travel to our community to haul water for their vacation properties. This has the ripple of effect for other businesses in our town bringing in consumers.  
As to the lagoon system, the residents appreciate that every effort was made by Council to find affordable ways to upgrade the system.*

*10- Council found it challenging to come up with solutions when often there are not the precedents our that met their needs and could be easily followed. The Water agreement was something that worked in our community, and may have been used in others, but we have no way of finding that out. Always it is a challenge to present new ideas without out the benefit of tried and true documentation.*

## Lessons Learned

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?  
Remember, all nominations will become part of the Best Practices Library, so be sure to include specific information.

*11 – Both projects had positive outcome, however, as the Administrator, time and timing were the challenges. Learning the process that is need to be followed to comply with regulations and legislation, completing reports and applications, looking for funding and grant money, and also to explore the ideas for viability and legality, was often challenging. Getting the information you need and when you need was key. I recommend taking the time or making the time to bring projects of this nature together is important.*

Please submit your completed nomination package to:

**E-mail:** [awards@municipalawards.ca](mailto:awards@municipalawards.ca) or

**Fax:** Attn: Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Program, 306-798-2568; or

**Mail:** Saskatchewan Municipal Awards, Room 1010 – 1855 Victoria Avenue, Regina, SK S4P 3T2

**Contact:** Phone No. 306-525-4398

***Thank you for submitting a nomination for the 2015 Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.***