

Best Practice

Kindersley East Rural Water Pipeline

CONTACT

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THE PRACTICE

The Rural Municipality of Kindersley realized the need to supply a large quantity of safe potable water to residents of the area. The municipality does not have a supply of potable water anywhere within the municipal boundary. Residents were either hauling water by truck from the Town of Kindersley at considerable cost and inconvenience, or they were spending thousands of dollars on a well of their own with no guarantee of water quality.

THE PROCESS

In June 2005, the RM had its first public meeting to gauge ratepayer interest in pursuing a water pipeline for the municipality. The RM did entertain the idea of a regional water pipeline through the Water West Pipeline, which would provide water from the South Saskatchewan River. This option was determined to be far too costly, time consuming, and not all ratepayers were supportive of the idea. Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) was contacted and provided a grant of \$1,000,000 to construct a new water pipeline. The balance of the construction costs were tendered in three segments and financed through a loan obtained from Farm Credit Corporation.

A public utility board was put into place and members worked diligently to secure all agreements between the RM, PFRA, ratepayers, and the provincial government. In January 2008, the utility board obtained a more favourable interest rate from the Royal Bank of Canada, so the project was refinanced and the loan from Farm Credit Corporation was paid off.

THE RESULTS

Feedback from our ratepayers and subscribers has been very positive and commendations have been expressed to the municipality for their progressive initiative. 145 residents have gained a good supply of treated water monitored by qualified inspectors. Residents are also saving money.

LESSONS LEARNED

The RM of Kindersley learned that public consultation was essential to ensuring that the proper decision was made in regards to our water supply challenges. We explored several different options and we are convinced that the right decision was made because input was sought by everyone in the municipality.