Parkland County Water & Wastewater Utility Rate Study Council Presentation



Tuesday, October 25th, 2016





Today We Will Discuss

Study Objectives and Process to Date

- Calculation Inputs
- Rate Results

• Rate Structure Options

• Next Steps

Key Study Objectives

1. Financial Analysis:

- To calculate user rates that will provide for the full recovery of the operating and capital costs associated with providing the services over the next 10-years (to 2026)
- To set aside monies in reserves to fund the "full lifecycle costs" of the long-term repair and replacement of infrastructure
- 2. Rate Structure Analysis:
 - Hemson will examine a variety of rate structure options and alternatives (Status Quo vs. Harmonization Options)
 - Analysis focused on County's serviced areas commission and regional customers not focal point of this study

Process to Date

Key Meeting/Task	Key Date
Kick-Off Meeting	October 2015
Memo of Key Assumptions and Draft Findings	February 2016
Working Session with Staff	August 2016
Meeting with Executive Team	September 2016
Council Workshop and Meeting	October 2016
Rate Implementation	January 1, 2017



Rate Setting Approach

- Rates calculated based on the following:
 - 1. Full recovery of operating costs
 - 2. Full recovery of annual capital needs
 - In year capital requirements as identified by County staff
 - Only non-growth related capital projects (net of off-site levy funded projects) are included in the rate study forecast
 - 3. Provision for future asset replacement

Comparison to Other Jurisdictions 2016 Typical Household Charge¹



Note 1: Typical Household Consuming 200 m³ per annum. Includes both water and sewer service Acheson 2015 typical household consumption equals 250m3 Entwistle 2015 typical household consumption equals 140m3

Key Input Assumptions

- About 200 new connections anticipated over the forecast period (2016-2026)
 - Growth largely occurring in Acheson/Big Lake Service Area
- Analysis projects forecast of billed water consumption
- Operating expenditures based on preliminary 2017 budget *plus* inflationary adjustments
- Only utility rate funded capital is included in the calculations (net of off-site levy projects)

Summary of Life-Cycle Costing Exercise



% of Infrastructure by Remaining Useful Life

Source: Based on County Tangible Capital Asset data

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- Replacement value of water and WW infrastructure is est. at \$76.3 M
- Much of the infrastructure is new – 70% of assets have remaining useful life greater than 50 years

 County needs to consider saving for the future replacement of this infrastructure

Current Rate Structure: Water and Wastewater

Service Area	Applicability	Rate Structure
Acheson - Commercial/Industrial	Water and Wastewater	Fixed <i>plus</i> Variable
Acheson - Big Lake Residential	Water and Wastewater	Fixed <i>plus</i> Variable
Entwistle	Water and Wastewater	Fixed <i>plus</i> Variable Some Fixed Only
Tomahawk	Wastewater Only	Fixed Only
Duffield	Wastewater Only	Fixed Only
Atim Creek/Helenslea	Wastewater Only	Fixed Only
Other Commission Customers	Water and Wastewater Water and Wastewater	Fixed <i>plus</i> Variable Some Variable Only

Note: All Bulk water and wastewater hauled/discharge fees are levied on a volumetric (\$/m³) basis



Rate Calculations: Key Considerations

- 1. Maintained relationship where consumption charges are applicable across different service areas
- 2. Model was built to address individual service area funding shortfalls
- 3. Rates calculated to achieve financial stability by 2026

Rate Calculation Outcomes: Status Quo – Existing Rate Structure

General Results			Charge p
Service Area	AVG Annual Rate Increase (2017-2026)		Service Area
Water			Water
Acheson/BL	2.7%		Acheson/BL
Entwistle	8.1%	7	Entwistle
Wastewater			Wastewater
Acheson	5.2%		Acheson*
Big Lake	2.1%		Big Lake
Entwistle	5.0%		Entwistle
Tomahawk	6.0%		Tomahawk
Duffield	16.7%		Duffield
Helenslea	3.0%		Helenslea

Charge per Typical HH (200m ³ /annum)			
Service Area	Current 2016 Rate	Calculated 2017 Rate	
Water			
Acheson/BL	\$752	\$775	
Entwistle	\$710	\$809	
Wastewater			
Acheson*	\$1,170	\$1,226	
Big Lake	\$530	\$541	
Entwistle	\$430	\$451	
Tomahawk	\$456	\$483	
Duffield	\$480	\$576	
Helenslea	\$588	\$606	

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Note*: Acheson WW based on a typical commercial user of 600m³ per annum

Rate Calculation Outcomes: Status Quo – Existing Rate Structure

Key Indicator 1 – Restricted Surplus (RS) Balance			
Service Area	2016 Opening RS Balance	2026 Ending RS Balance	2026 RS Balance as a % of est. 2016 Asset Value
Water			
Acheson/BL	\$1.75 M	\$6.97M	23% (of \$29.9M)
Entwistle	(\$196,400)	\$10,600	< 1% (of \$2.8M)
Wastewater			
Acheson	\$255,500	\$525,500	2% (of \$23.9M)
Big Lake	\$847,400	\$2.12 M	37% (of \$5.7M)
Entwistle	\$325,700	\$600,000	7% (of \$8.8M)
Tomahawk	(\$12,700)	\$105,600	7% (of \$1.5M)
Duffield	(\$125,600)	\$6,000	<1% (of \$2.0M)
Helenslea	\$134,700	\$212,700	-
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Key Project Goal: Rate Harmonization Analysis



Proposed Harmonization Options: Water

Water Services: Metered Users			
Service Areas Considered for Harmonization	Rate Structure Options		
	Option 1	Option 2	
Acheson Commercial/Industrial Big Lake Residential Entwistle	Residential Fixed Service Charge (\$/month) Usage Charge (\$/m ³) Non-Residential Fixed Service Charge (\$/month) Usage Charge (\$/m ³)	All Properties Fixed Service Charge (\$/month) Usage Charge (\$/m ³)	

Note 1: Parkland Village rates would still be subject to the Spruce Grove Fee Note 2: Other water commission customers should continue to be treated separately

Proposed Harmonization Options: Wastewater

Wastewater Services			
Service Areas Considered for	Rate Structure Options		
Harmonization	Option 1	Option 2	
Entwistle Acheson Big Lake Parkland Village* Commission* Helenslea	Metered: Residential Fixed Service Charge (\$/month) Usage Charge (\$/m ³) Metered: Non-Residential Fixed Service Charge (\$/month) Usage Charge (\$/m ³)	Metered: All Properties Fixed Service Charge (\$/month) Usage Charge (\$/m ³)	
Tomahawk Duffield	 <u>Non-Metered:</u> All Properties Fixed Service Charge (\$/month) Differentiated by type: Low User Med User High User 	 Non-Metered: All Properties Fixed Service Charge (\$/month) Differentiated by type: Low User Med User High User 	

Note: The wastewater hauled/discharged fee under the current model is already consistent within each service area and therefore no charge is recommended for this specific fee

Note*: Parkland Village and Commission customers would continue to be subject to the usage charge (\$/per m³) only HEMSON

Rate Harmonization Comparison: Typical Household



Note: A typical HH consuming 200m3 per annum HEMSON

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Rate Harmonization Comparison: Typical Commercial Establishment



Note: A typical commercial establishment consuming 600m³ per annum



Rate Harmonization Comparison: Typical Light Industrial Operation



Note: A typical Light Industrial Operation consuming 2,500m³ per annum

Rate Harmonization Comparison: Non-Metered Sewer Users: SFD



Harmonization Recommendation and Considerations

- Preferred scenario: Harmonization Option 1
- Rate harmonization provides greater flexibility to the County
 - Long-term fiscal benefits
 - Ease of administration
- All customers will see changes to their utility bills
- Rate analysis conducted to fund similar level of expenditures to status quo scenario (current rate structure)

Next Steps

• Refine analysis and finalize rates

Target Implementation – January 1st
 2017

 Staff Training Session on Model – 2nd series of training