

# Asset Management and Infrastructure Financing Plan

# A REGIONAL APPROACH

The WaterWolf District Planning Commission (WaterWolf) was created as a result of consultations with communities in west central Saskatchewan to work collaboratively in accessing a variety of services. Through continued inter-municipal cooperation and resource sharing, WaterWolf has addressed needs in the areas of community planning, resource management, capacity building, and sharing of common services.

WaterWolf communities are responsible for providing a wide variety of services that are ultimately supported by infrastructure. To meet the pending obligations of the Municipal Gas Tax Fund Agreement, our member communities were challenged with creating and implementing asset management and infrastructure financing plans. In the spirit of inter-municipal cooperation, we took a regional approach to develop asset management and infrastructure financing plans with the following objectives in mind:

OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES
Educational	Building awareness of asset management
Collaborative	Leveraging our collective skills and resources
Suitable	Addressing the March 2018 Gas Tax Agreement deadline
Partnering	Building on regional knowledge and building our network
Capacity Building	Strengthening capacity internally and collectively
Timely and Efficient	Creating meaningful plans in a short period of time
Cost Effective	Taking advantage of economies of scale
Forward-Looking	Providing a toolkit for updating and improving plans over time



Interactive workshops created a forum for WaterWolf communities to work collaboratively to develop individual asset management plans. Deliverables from the workshops included a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and a Microsoft Word based asset management plan framework. The task of creating and preparing the content within the financial context of each community was the responsibility of the attendees. Urban Systems facilitated the workshops and provided technical support to each community lead during the development of the plans.

This unique approach allowed participants to gain an appreciation for the breadth of their existing assets, to enhance their knowledge and abilities with respect to asset management and to improve relationships among the WaterWolf communities. Through this approach, we also believe that reliance on external consultants within the region will decrease in the future.

Beyond developing meaningful, compliant asset management and infrastructure funding programs, benefits also include illuminating the common challenges facing communities in the WaterWolf District Planning Commission, which may be representative of the challenges that exist in communities across the province. In addition, we believe our approach can:

Serve as a paradigm shift around inter-municipal cooperation and financial planning

Establish a better understanding of risk management and levels of service

Catalyze strategic prioritization of infrastructure investments in the region

Enable more effective and informed decision making

***The success of this project was contingent on meaningful participation from each community!***



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