

Best Practice

Dundurn and Area Wastewater Utility

CONTACT

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Project Date: July 28, 2008 (Ongoing)

THE PRACTICE

The four municipalities met on July 28, 2008 to discuss a sanitary sewer system for the region. The Resort Villages of Thode and Shields needed a new lagoon because they were collecting their wastewater in holding tanks and then trucking it 30 kilometers to Hanley. The Resort Villages of Shields and Thode were also concerned about septic tank leakage into the Blackstrap Lake. The Town of Dundurn's lagoon was almost at its capacity and has experienced rapid rural residential growth.

This project is unique because it provides a sanitary sewer system jointly owned and operated by four municipalities and provides a sewer system to a Hutterite Colony and 180 acreage sites within the rural municipality.

THE PROCESS

A steering committee was formed with members from the four municipalities. The committee hired Associated Engineering to do a pre-design report on a sanitary system for the region. This report was given to Sask Water with a very favourable response. The four municipalities formed a utility board to oversee the project and apply for grant money. The tendering process for the lagoon and force mains was started at the end of May, 2009. The lagoon has three cells, 2 cells are 32,200 cubic meters each and the storage cell is 294,000 cu. meters. The lagoon cells are aerated to control odor and provide internal sludge digestion. Once treated, the water flows through a nearby marsh, into a creek and travels more than 20 kilometers before flowing into the South Saskatchewan River. The force mains run from Shields and Thode, Hillcrest Hutterite Colony, and Skyview Acreages into the lagoon. Collection systems for the Resort Villages and acreages had to also be installed. The Town of Dundurn already had their own collection system but the lift station was old and failing, so it needed to be replaced. The project is nearing completion and should be finalized this fall.

THE RESULTS

The results are the provision of sanitary collection systems for the resort villages that are along the Blackstrap Lake, 180 acreage sites and the Hillcrest Hutterite Colony. The lagoon has provided storage for all four municipalities and a location for septic service dumping for the next fifty years. The collaboration and co-operation of the four municipalities has resulted in a unique sanitary sewer system jointly owned and operated by them. This was a major project costing approximately \$9 million dollars and shows what the co-operation of municipalities can accomplish.

LESSONS LEARNED

Co-operation is the key to accomplishing a project of this magnitude. Getting permits started as early as possible is also important. This project also faced delays with crossing CN Rail rail lines, and getting power hooked up to the Town's lift station.