

TOWN OF LUMSDEN
NOTES OF THE MEETING WITH MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
HELD ON MARCH 1ST, 2011

A meeting with the Ministry of Environment took place in Room 318 of the Legislative Building on the morning of Tuesday, March 1st, 2011.

Present:	Mayor:	Bryan Matheson
	Administrator:	Wayne Zerff
	Assistant Administrator:	Darcie Cooper
	Utilities Foreman:	Dave Cherney
	Associated Engineering:	Bill Heywood
	Ministry of Environment:	Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister Cam Baker, Chief of Staff Elizabeth Quarshie, Deputy Minister Mark Wittrup, Asst. Deputy Minister Env. Protection & Audit Sam Ferris-Exec. Director, Municipal Branch Frank Reid, Municipal Branch, Engineering & Approvals

Representatives from the Town of Lumsden requested an audience with the Minister of Environment, Honourable Dustin Duncan, at the SUMA Convention that resulted in this meeting at the legislative building.

Discussion items were the municipality's Go Green Funding applications for the relocation of the Recycle Depot and for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, letters received from Frank Reid regarding the municipality's Sewage Lagoon and future funding options for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Go Green Applications:

- Our applications to relocate the Recycle Depot to the landfill and the Wastewater Treatment Plant were discussed.
- Honourable Duncan indicated that approx. 120 applications have been received and they are looking at funding new, innovative initiatives.
- Wayne asked if the grant was a set amount like 50% or a sliding scale based on the merits of the project, the government representatives did not directly answer the question. Based on their response it is thought that grant amount is a sliding scale based on merits of the project and the desire to award grants to as many projects as possible.
- Wayne asked that should the Go Green application not be successful for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, would the ministry be open to discuss how the application on a future intake may be revised to better suit their criteria? Environment staff indicated that we would be welcome to meet with project staff to discuss the application and the criteria.

Lagoon/Wastewater Treatment Discussion:

- Wayne provided a brief history of the lagoon, the Qu'Appelle River Basin Study in the early 1970's and the 1975 funding agreement signed with the City of Regina and City of Moose Jaw to finance improvements to their wastewater systems due to the sensitive eco-system of the Qu'Appelle Valley.
- Maps were provided that displayed the size of the eco-system.
- We reviewed the recent initiatives taken by the municipality to address the concerns of the Ministry of Environment to date and the effect the ministry's decision to limit growth of the municipality would have on potential funding of a Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Frank Reid indicated that he does not wish to stop growth in the Town of Lumsden; however, he doesn't want the environmental impact of our lagoon system to worsen. Frank liked the toilet replacement proposal by Canyon Creek, and referred to it as innovative as it addressed the volume loading on the lagoon. However Frank indicated that organic loading would still need to be addressed.
- The Minister indicated that even though they are a department that imposes regulations, they are not a funding agency, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs should be contacted regarding potential grants to assist with a wastewater solution.

- Mayor Bryan Matheson raised a concern regarding the lack of sharing information between the Ministry of Environment and the Town of Lumsden, instead of having to pay an Engineer to get required information from the Ministry of Environment. As well, Mayor Matheson indicated that, in regard to permitting levels for the Wastewater Treatment Plant that the Town is not looking for special treatment, but they are looking to be treated fairly in regard to levels of phosphorous in treated waste water. He indicated that the Town may be required to treat to a level of .75 and that the levels of the City of Regina are 1.00.
- Frank Reid indicated that they will not be holding the municipality to the phosphorous level of .75 and that the new level for the Town will be 1.00 if not slightly higher. Frank Reid indicated that nitrogen is even more of a problem than phosphorous.
- The Ministry staff indicated that the municipality should contact them, if it is difficult to obtain technical information from Frank Reid in the future, as they strongly support the sharing of information.

After the meeting Frank Reid indicated to Utilities Foreman Dave Cherney and Bill Heywood from Associated Engineering that organic loading could be reduced through spraying a chemical on the lagoon at specified rates and intervals. Bill indicated that AE would have to do some work to determine the application rate and intervals to achieve the goals set out by Frank Reid.