

**Designation of Strathcona County as a Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission Customer****Report Purpose**

To obtain a Council Motion that will be used to seek approval from the Minister of Municipal Affairs for the Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission (H14RWSC) to provide water service to Strathcona County as a non-member.

**Recommendation**

THAT provision of water to Strathcona County by the Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission (H14RWSC) be approved on the terms and conditions set out in the existing Water Supply Agreement dated January 1, 2012 between Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission and Strathcona County.

**Council History**

**June 28, 2011** – Council amended the 2011 Capital Budget to purchase water transmission and distribution assets from the H14RWSC to a maximum amount of \$5,400,000 to be funded \$3,400,000 from new debt and \$2,000,000 from the Utility Operations Capital Asset Management Reserve.

**November 8, 2011** – Council passed a resolution to request that Strathcona County be removed from the H14RWSC membership.

**Strategic Plan Priority Areas**

**Economy:** n/a

**Governance:** Providing the requested Council Motion to the H14RWSC for submission to the Minister of Municipal Affairs will maintain Strathcona County's cooperative partnership with the H14RWSC.

**Social:** n/a

**Culture:** n/a

**Environment:** n/a

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26, s 602.11  
Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission Regulation, Alta Reg 154/90

**Interdepartmental:** n/a

**Summary**

The Highway 14 regional pipeline infrastructure was constructed in 1992. The system was operated by CU Water Ltd. until 2010 when it was purchased by the H14RWSC. The system includes branch lines that provide water service to approximately 500 rural Strathcona County residents. In 2011, Strathcona County purchased the branch lines that were servicing its residents. The agreement dated August 29, 2011 "Master Transfer Agreement between Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission" details the purchase terms and conditions.

On November 8, 2011 Council approved Strathcona County being removed from the H14RWSC's membership. The Council Motion was submitted as part of the application to Alberta Municipal Affairs. Unfortunately, it was not known at the time that a Council resolution requesting Strathcona County be a customer of the H14RWSC was also required. Section 602.11 of the Municipal Government Act states that "a commission may provide its services outside the boundaries of its members with the approval of the Minister and the municipal authority within whose boundaries the services are to be provided."

The H14RWSC has since requested that Strathcona County provide a Council resolution indicating the desire to be a customer of the H14RWSC for submission to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Strathcona County currently purchases water from H14RWSC for those customers along Wye Road in proximity to the H14RWSC infrastructure. No changes to the existing agreement or practices are being proposed.