

Regional Comparative Analysis

October 31

2013

Updated by: Rayann Menard & Michele Yaceyko **DISCLAIMER: The purpose of collecting the information in this document was to help the Council of the Town of Bon Accord determine the 2014 Town utility rates. The information presented here is meant to provide an informal presentation on a quick comparative analysis conducted on the region's utility rate structures. As a result, the information presented in this document may not be complete and may or may not be reflective of current applications, practices, policies, or bylaws. Please consult the necessary municipality to ensure accuracy of the information on utility rate structures and for more information. Further, we would like to thank the regional municipalities for the information they provided for this analysis.

2013 Utility Rate Structures

Contents

UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Town of Bon Accord & Town of Gibbons.....	2
UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Town of Bon Accord & Town of Redwater	4
UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Town of Bon Accord & Town of Legal.....	8
UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Town of Bon Accord & Town of Morinville.....	12
UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Town of Bon Accord & Sturgeon County.....	15
UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Overarching Findings	18
BIBLIOGRAPHY	20

UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Town of Bon Accord & Town of Gibbons

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF GIBBONS
Utilities Billing	Water, wastewater, and waste (including that of recycling and landfill usage) are billed on a monthly basis and on approximately the 8 th of the month.	Water, sewage, garbage, and recycling is billed on a monthly basis and is billed approximately on the 20 th of the month.

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF GIBBONS
Water Utility Rates	Residential = \$10/month + \$3.70/m ³ Commercial = \$15/month + \$3.65/m ³ Institutional = \$20/month + \$3.65/m ³ Bulk Water Prepaid = \$2.40/m ³ Bulk Water Direct Bill = \$5.00/month + \$2.42/m ³ <u>Utility Rate Formula Methodology</u> Utilities FORMULA = Service charge (Administrative costs) + Consumption Charge (Water consumed) X rate	Residential = \$13.75/month + Water commission rate/m ³ Commercial & Institutional = \$18.75/month + Water commission rate/m ³ High Density Residential (Apartments & Condominiums) = \$6.50 per unit/ month + Water commission rate/m ³ Bulk Water = \$2.20/m ³

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF GIBBONS
Wastewater/Sewer Utility Rates	Residential = \$10/month + \$2.55/m ³ Commercial = \$15/month + \$2.50/m ³ Institutional = \$20/month + \$2.50/m ³ <u>Utility Rate Formula Methodology</u> Utilities FORMULA = Service charge (Administrative costs) + Consumption Charge (Water consumed) X rate	Residential = \$20.00/month + Sewer commission rate/m ³ Commercial & Institutional = \$40.00/month + Sewer commission rate/m ³ High Density Residential (Apartments & Condominiums) = \$10.00 per unit/ month + Sewer commission rate/m ³

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF GIBBONS
Waste/Garbage and Recycling Utility Rates	Residential (single / duplex unit / dwelling) for 1 waste and 1 organics tote = \$21.50/month	\$19.50 per month, this fee covers the garbage and bi-weekly recycling fee.

UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Town of Bon Accord & Town of Redwater

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF REDWATER
Utilities Billing	Water, wastewater, and waste (including that of recycling and landfill usage) are billed on a monthly basis and on approximately the 8 th of the month.	Natural gas, water, sewer, garbage and recycling is billed on a monthly basis and is billed within the first 10 days of the month immediately following the month the utility services were consumed or used.

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF REDWATER
Water Utility Rates	Residential = \$10/month + \$3.70/m ³ Commercial = \$15/month + \$3.65/m ³ Institutional = \$20/month + \$3.65/m ³ Bulk Water Prepaid = \$2.40/m ³ Bulk Water Direct Bill = \$5.00/month + \$2.42/m ³ <u>Utility Rate Formula Methodology</u> Utilities FORMULA = Service charge (Administrative costs) + Consumption Charge (Water consumed)	Commodity Purchase Price Charge*/ m ³ (set monthly by CRNWSC) = \$0.9937/ m ³ + \$1.00/m ³ (Variable Rate Charge – water delivery to consumer) + \$12.00/month (Service Charge – water delivery to premise + administration) <hr/> Water service fee/month for residential, commercial & institutional. Coin operated Truck Fill = \$1.00/ approx. 50 gallons OR \$4.40/m ³ Water purchased through a water hydrant = \$5.00/m ³ (this practice is at the discretion of the Public Works Manager)

*NOTE: The commodity purchase price charge covers what is billed by CRNWSC.

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF REDWATER
Wastewater/Sewer Utility Rates	Residential = \$10/month + \$2.55/m ³ Commercial = \$15/month + \$2.50/m ³ Institutional = \$20/month + \$2.50/m ³ <u>Utility Rate Formula Methodology</u> <i>Utilities FORMULA</i> = Service charge (Administrative costs) + Consumption Charge (Water consumed)	\$12.00/month <i>(Service Charge – removing sewage from the premise + administration)</i> + 45% x Water service fee/month <i>(Fee represents costs associated with removing sewage which is linked to the customer's water consumption)</i> <hr/> Sewer service fee/month for residential, commercial & institutional

QUESTION: The Town of Redwater Utility rates for water and sewer, do those apply to residential, commercial and institutional bodies? Or does the Town of Redwater have a tiered system?

Answer: The water and sewer utility formulas apply to all residential, commercial and institutional. There is no tiered system.

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF REDWATER
Waste/Garbage and Recycling Utility Rates	Residential (single / duplex unit / dwelling) for 1 waste and 1 organics tote = \$21.50/month	<p>Curbside Garbage Collection = The commodity purchase price charge is set by the service contractor. This fee is for 1 waste and 1 organic bin.</p> <p>Curbside Recycling Collection = The commodity purchase price charge is set by the service contractor.</p> <p>\$5.00/month (<i>Service charge – providing waste & recycling to premise + Roseridge Commission tipping fees + administration</i>)</p> <hr/> <p>Residential Curbside Waste Collection fee/month (<i>Charged to residents* only</i>)</p> <p>* Residential customers = single and 2 family dwelling units, it does not include multi-family units (apartment units or condominiums). Any pickup at residential units greater than 2 family prior to the passing of this policy shall be grandfathered, no change in service delivery will be administered.</p>

QUESTION: What is the name of the contracted services that does the Town of Redwater's Garbage and Recycle collecting?

Answer: Standstone is the contracted services provider for the Town's garbage and organic collection, Ever Green Ecological Services is the contracted services provider for the Town's recycle collection.

Other Utility-Related Information on the Town of Redwater

Utilities Methodology (Water & Sewer):

Service charge (flat rate fee)

+ Charge based on variable consumption

Water/ Sewer charge per month

Population: 2,116 people

UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Town of Bon Accord & Town of Legal

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF LEGAL
Utilities Billing	Water, wastewater, and waste (including that of recycling and landfill usage) are billed on a monthly basis and on approximately the 8 th of the month.	Water, sewer, garbage collection and recycling program are billed on a bi-monthly basis or every 2 months .

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF LEGAL
Water Utility Rates	Residential = \$10/month + \$3.70/m ³ Commercial = \$15/month + \$3.65/m ³ Institutional = \$20/month + \$3.65/m ³ Bulk Water Prepaid = \$2.40/m ³ Bulk Water Direct Bill = \$5.00/month + \$2.42/m ³ <u>Utility Rate Formula Methodology</u> Utilities FORMULA = Service charge (Administrative costs) + Consumption Charge (Water consumed)	Residential Rate $\frac{\$72.00 \text{ for first } 9 \text{ m}^3 + \$0.97/ \text{ m}^3 \text{ for consumption over } 9 \text{ m}^3}{\text{Residential Water Rate}}$ Commercial & Institutional Rate UNKNOWN Truckfill Prepay = \$3.25/m ³

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF LEGAL
Wastewater/Sewer Utility Rates	Residential = \$10/month + \$2.55/m ³ Commercial = \$15/month + \$2.50/m ³ Institutional = \$20/month + \$2.50/m ³ <u>Utility Rate Formula Methodology</u> Utilities FORMULA = Service charge (Administrative costs) + Consumption Charge (Water consumed)	Residential Bi-monthly Rates Dwelling = \$17.00 Apartments = \$17.00/apartment Senior Citizen Lodge = \$117.00 Schools = \$117.00 ACFA = \$117.00 Sewer, Liquid only = \$15.00 Commercial Bi-monthly Rates Store, Office = \$28.00/store or office Hotel = \$63.00 Restaurant = \$28.00 Garage = \$28.00 Barber Shop = \$28.00 Bank = \$28.00 Welding Shop = \$28.00 Laundromats = \$20.00 for 1 st unit \$4.00 for each additional unit

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF LEGAL
Waste/Garbage and Recycling Utility Rates	Residential (1 waste & 1 organics tote) = \$21.50 /month	<p><i>Bi-monthly Rates for Garbage Collection</i></p> <p>Residential = \$31.00, landfill tags are \$5.00 per calendar year. Tags must be picked up at the town office prior to going to the landfill.</p> <p>Apartments = \$31.00/apartment suite Commercial = \$47.00 Schools = \$53.50 Legal Chateau = \$53.50 Legal Motors = \$53.50</p> <p><i>Bi-monthly Rates for Recycling Collection</i></p> <p>Residential = \$7.00</p>

QUESTION: Is the Town of Legal’s waste & recycling services done internally by staff or contracted out? If the service is contracted out what is the name of the contracted service? If internal, does the Town have its own garbage truck & staff? And how many of each?

Answer: Recycling services are contracted out to Ever Green Ecological Services. Meanwhile, garbage is collected by the Town’s Public Works department. The Town has between 1-2 garbage trucks and has Public Works staff that collects the garbage weekly.

Other Utility-Related Information on the Town of Legal

Town of Legal is on the regional water line coming from the City of Edmonton.

Utilities Methodology (Water & Sewer) for Residents = Flat Rate fee + consumption over 9 m³.

Population: 1,225

Number of Utility Bills that are sent out: Over 450 (which includes Residential, Commercial & Institutional)

UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Town of Bon Accord & Town of Morinville

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF MORINVILLE
Utilities Billing	Water, wastewater, and waste (including that of recycling and landfill usage) are billed on a monthly basis and on approximately the 8 th of the month.	Water, sewer, and waste are billed on a monthly basis .

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	TOWN OF MORINVILLE																								
Water Utility Rates	Residential = \$10/month + \$3.70/m ³ Commercial = \$15/month + \$3.65/m ³ Institutional = \$20/month + \$3.65/m ³ Bulk Water Prepaid = \$2.40/m ³ Bulk Water Direct Bill = \$5.00/month + \$2.42m ³ <u>Utility Rate Formula Methodology</u> Utilities FORMULA = Service charge (Administrative costs) + Consumption Charge (Water consumed)	Water Customer fixed administrative fee \$4.76/invoice + Water Service Capacity Monthly flat fee (a flat fee based on the size of the water meters installed) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Imperial</th> <th>Metric</th> <th>Monthly Rates</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5/8"</td> <td>15mm</td> <td>\$20.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3/4"</td> <td>20mm</td> <td>\$29.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1"</td> <td>25mm</td> <td>\$52.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 1/2"</td> <td>40mm</td> <td>\$118.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2"</td> <td>50mm</td> <td>\$210.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3"</td> <td>75mm</td> <td>\$473.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4"</td> <td>100mm</td> <td>\$591.40</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> + Actual Water Consumed \$1.87/m ³ <hr/> Water fee/month	Imperial	Metric	Monthly Rates	5/8"	15mm	\$20.53	3/4"	20mm	\$29.57	1"	25mm	\$52.57	1 1/2"	40mm	\$118.28	2"	50mm	\$210.26	3"	75mm	\$473.11	4"	100mm	\$591.40
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SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD
Waste/Garbage and Recycling Utility Rates	Residential (1 waste & 1 organics tote) = \$21.50 /month

SERVICE	TOWN OF MORINVILLE	
Waste/Garbage and Recycling Utility Rates	<u>Eligible premises</u>	
	Per eligible premise <i>per month</i> for automated household waste collection	\$6.75
	Per eligible premise <i>per month</i> for manual recycling collection	\$3.76
	Per eligible premise <i>per month</i> for automated yard waste collection	\$2.62
	Per eligible premise <i>per month</i> for administration fees	\$0.30
	Disposal fees at Roseridge Landfill (estimated)	\$2.27
	Per month total solid waste charge	\$16.20
	Scenario #1 – Condominium Corporation Cart Service	
	Per eligible premise <i>per month</i> for automated household waste collection	\$6.75
	Per eligible premise <i>per month</i> for manual recycling collection	\$3.76
	Per eligible premise <i>per month</i> for administration fees	\$0.30
	Per eligible premise annual cleanup fee	\$0.50
	Disposal fees at Roseridge Landfill (estimated)	\$2.27
	Per month total solid waste charge	\$13.58
	Scenario #2 - Condominium Corporation Bin Service	
	Monthly cost of weekly garbage bin service will be divided by the number of eligible premises within the Condominium Corporation. Costs include GST and disposal fees at Roseridge Landfill.	
	2 yard bin	\$ 64.67
	4 yard bin	\$ 87.84
	6 yard bin	\$117.25
	8 yard bin	\$155.50
+		
Per eligible premise <i>per month</i> for manual recycling collection	\$3.76	
Per eligible premise <i>per month</i> for administration fees	\$0.30	
Per month solid waste sub-total (garbage bin fees extra)	\$4.06	

Other Utility-Related Information on the Town of Morinville

Population: 8,569

UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Town of Bon Accord & Sturgeon County

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	STURGEON COUNTY
Utilities Billing	Water, wastewater, and waste (including that of recycling and landfill usage) are billed on a monthly basis and on approximately the 8 th of the month.	Water, sewer, and waste are billed on a bi-monthly basis .

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	STURGEON COUNTY
Water Utility Rates	<p>Residential = \$10/month + \$3.70/m³</p> <p>Commercial = \$15/month + \$3.65/m³</p> <p>Institutional = \$20/month + \$3.65/m³</p> <p>Bulk Water Prepaid = \$2.40/m³</p> <p>Bulk Water Direct Bill = \$5.00/month + \$2.42/m³</p> <p><u>Utility Rate Formula Methodology</u> <i>Utilities FORMULA</i> = Service charge (Administrative costs) + Consumption Charge (Water consumed)</p>	<p>Residential Rate Fixed bi-monthly charge = \$20.50 + Consumption of 0m³ to 60 m³ = \$2.19/m³ OR Consumption over 60 m³ = \$ 2.65/m³</p> <p>Exception-Legal West Waterline Residential Rate Minimum bi-monthly bill = \$88.00 + Consumption over 9 m³ = \$2.22/m³</p> <p>Commercial, Industrial & Institutional Rate Minimum bi-monthly bill = \$48.00 + Consumption of 21 m³ to 1000 m³ = \$2.44/m³ OR Consumption over 1000 m³ = \$2.09/m³</p> <p>Truckfill Prepay = \$2.44/m³</p>

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	STURGEON COUNTY
<p>Wastewater/Sewer Utility Rates</p>	<p>Residential = \$10/month + \$2.55/m³</p> <p>Commercial = \$15/month + \$2.50/m³</p> <p>Institutional = \$20/month + \$2.50/m³</p> <p><u>Utility Rate Formula Methodology</u> <i>Utilities FORMULA</i> = Service charge (Administrative costs) + Consumption Charge (Water consumed)</p>	<p>Base rate per billing period = \$34.00 + Commodity Charge = \$1.43/m³</p> <hr/> <p>Low pressure systems – Cardiff/Pittsburg, Villeneuve, majority of Riviere Qui Barre and Sturgeon Valley subdivisions Residential Rate</p> <p>Base rate per billing period = \$34.00 + Commodity Charge = \$1.43/m³</p> <hr/> <p>Gravity system – Cardiff Echoes, some Sturgeon Valley subdivisions and some Riviere Qui Barre Residential Rate</p> <p>Flat bi-monthly bill = \$74.50 Not connected to County supplied water - Villeneuve, Calahoo, and some individual customers Residential Rate</p> <p>Base rate per billing period established on water metre size: 5/8" to 1"= \$32.50 OR 1 1/2" to 3"= \$63.50 OR 4" to 6"= \$96.50 + Commodity Charge = \$1.55/m³</p> <hr/> <p>Commercial, Industrial & Institutional Rate</p>

SERVICE	TOWN OF BON ACCORD	STURGEON COUNTY
Waste/Garbage and Recycling Utility Rates	Residential (1 waste & 1 organics tote) = \$21.50 /month	Residents are responsible for their own garbage collection. Residents can dispose of their garbage using the following places/methods: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Roseridge landfill 2) Redwater Transfer Station 3) Hiring a private garbage collection service

Other Utility-Related Information on Sturgeon County

Utilities Methodology (Water & Wastewater):

Bi-monthly bill/ base rate (flat rate fee)

+ Commodity charge / Consumption per m³ (charge based on variable consumption)

Water/ Wastewater charge bi-monthly

Population: 19,578 people according to 2011 census.

UTILITY RATE STRUCTURES: Overarching Findings

QUESTION: Is the municipality's flat rate fee for both Water & Sewer Rates based on full cost recovery i.e. the basic charge is intended to recover costs for items like administration of customer accounts, wages, billing, printing, etc...?

Answer:

Town of Bon Accord – Yes, intended to recover costs that are required irrespective of consumption.

Town of Gibbons – Fixed rate charges are based on full cost recovery.

Town of Redwater – The monthly service charge is based on full cost recovery.

Town of Legal – Unknown.

Town of Morinville - The fixed administrative fee is based on full cost recovery.

Sturgeon County – The fixed bi-monthly bill/charge and the base rate per billing period is based on full cost recovery.

QUESTION: Does the municipality's flat rate fee include putting money away to a reserve for future utility capital projects by currently charging residents a higher fee for utilities or does the municipality's utility bill include a capital rate rider?

Answer:

Town of Bon Accord – The flat rate does not include monies for future capital projects, a capital rate rider is part of the rate structure, charged in addition to the flat and consumption charges; the rate is currently set at zero.

Town of Gibbons – Unknown.

Town of Redwater – There is no capital rate rider.

Town of Legal – No.

Town of Morinville – Unknown.

Sturgeon County – Unknown.

QUESTION: Do the municipality's taxes subsidize the municipality's utilities or are utilities completely kept separate from taxes?

Answer:

Town of Bon Accord – Utilities are separately accounted for from taxes however in past years municipal tax dollars were used to support the under-recovery of utility based costs, that is no longer the case.

Town of Gibbons – Unknown.

Town of Redwater – Unknown.

Town of Legal – Utilities are kept separate from taxes.

Town of Morinville – Utilities are separate from taxes and there is no subsidy.

Sturgeon County – Utilities are kept separate from taxes.

QUESTION: Are there any other sources of revenue that is subsidizing the municipality's utilities rates? If so, what are the other sources of revenue?

Answer:

Town of Bon Accord – The Town used reserve accounts or grants to assist in capital or major operational upgrades/expansions to the utility system.

Town of Gibbons – Unknown.

Town of Redwater – Unknown.

Town of Legal – No.

Town of Morinville – No.

Sturgeon County – No.

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Town of Bon Accord Bylaw 2013-02 Wastewater Bylaw.

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Town of Gibbons

Taxes & Utilities. Town of Gibbons.

< <http://www.gibbons.ca/bylaws/WaterSewerBylaw.pdf> >

Bylaw No. PI 4/10.

Town of Legal

Rates for Water, Sewer, and Garbage Collection. Town of Legal.

< <http://www.town.legal.ab.ca/utilities.php> >

Christine Young cyoung@town.legal.ab.ca

Town of Morinville

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Town of Morinville Water Rates Bylaw 23/2012.

Waste Management Bylaw 22/2012.

Town of Redwater

Utility Bylaw and Policies.

< <http://www.redwater.ca/information-items/utility-accounts/bylaws-policies-applications>>

Waste Collection Bylaw 798

Utility Rates, Fees & Billings - Policy 502 R002

Utility Maintenance Policy 503

Garbage Permits and Redwater Transfer Station - Policy 505

Sturgeon County

Water & Wastewater rates. Sturgeon County.

< <http://www.sturgeoncounty.ab.ca/SERVICES/CountyServices/UtilityServices/WaterWastewaterRates/tabid/155/Default.aspx> >