

# **SHIRLEY McCLELLAN REGIONAL WATER**

## **INFORMATION PACKAGE**

### **INTERBASIN TRANSFER**

**2007**

## **Shirley McClellan Regional Water Information Package**

### **Issue: Interbasin Transfer – Drinking Water**

A number of communities in the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Group (SMRW) are facing major issues in supply of potable (drinking) water and quality of the potable water to their communities. The most practical and long-term solution is development of a regional potable water transmission line from the Town of Stettler Water Treatment Plant. Because of geography, the SMRW communities are located in the Battle River Watershed, which does not have the capability to meet the needs of the communities. The Red Deer River basin is the closest long term source of water. To transfer the water from one watershed to another, an Interbasin transfer has to be approved by the Province of Alberta.

It is important to note that the water to be transported will be treated potable water from the Town of Stettler Water Treatment Plant located on the Red Deer River.

### **Member Communities**

The following are communities involved in the Interbasin request:

Town of Stettler	Village of Edberg
Village of Halkirk	Village of Ferintosh
Town of Castor	Village of New Norway
Town of Coronation	Camrose County
Village of Veteran	Village of Bawlf
Village of Consort	Village of Rosalind
Paintearth County	
Special Area 4	

### **Present Situation**

The Communities in the SMRW have been experiencing a number of issues of water for their communities ranging from poor water quality to low volumes of water available.

The quality of water due using a groundwater source has a number of quality issues, which has resulted in difficulty in treatment.

Any increase in water use will result in further lowering of the water levels in the aquifers and further deterioration of water quality.

### **What is the SMRW?**

The SMRW is a group of municipalities that have grouped together in the East Central Alberta area to investigate and provide a solution for the long term issue of potable water. The group has investigated a number of avenues from increased water from groundwater sources to alternative sources of water from other watersheds. The use of the existing water treatment plant operated by

the Town of Stettler on the Red Deer River has been best selected as the best alternative available.

The SMRW will be constructing a series of Regional Water Transmission lines to member communities. The attached map outlines the overall system that will be incorporated in the future.

The first phase of the project involves the upgrade of Stettler Water Treatment Plant and construction of a regional water transmission line from the Town of Stettler to Consort. The next phases will be based on need and funding from the Government of Alberta "Water for Life" program.

### **Volume of Water Requested**

The SMRW has requested an interbasin transfer allotment of 7,859 dam<sup>3</sup> per year, designed to meet the 50 year needs of its member communities.

### **Use of Water**

The member communities of the SMRW located in the Battle River Basin will use the allocated water for municipal purposes. The water will not be allocated to the oil industry for water injection purposes.

### **Environmental Impact**

The SMRW has undertaken an environmental impact study, which investigates the water quality, chemical, and biological parameters of the Interbasin transfer and flow volumes.

The environmental impact study outlined that there are no known biological issues because of the treatment of the water and groundwater sources.

The water volume would have minimal effect on the Red Deer River and minimal flow increase in the Battle River basin.

The Interbasin Report is available for review and an executive summary is attached.

## **Summary**

The Interbasin is the most economical and environmentally direct method of supplying water to the SMRW:

### **Why:**

1. Safety/Security of the Drinking Water
2. Healthy aquatic ecosystems (Lakes and Streams)
3. Reliable quality water supplies for a sustainable economy
4. Accommodate Future Growth
5. Poor groundwater quality and yield which has resulted in poor quality water and high costs for operations.

### **How:**

1. Cooperation and Partnering
2. Government Funding programs and grants
3. Landowner Cooperation

### **Contacts:**

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