



STAFF REPORT

Title: Draft AUMA Resolution - Sustainable Funding for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Meeting Date: February 11, 2020

Executive Summary:

The City of Cold Lake has been working with the Water North Coalition (WNC) in advocacy efforts relating to increasing environmental regulations surrounding the treatment of potable water and the treatment and release of wastewater. Attached to this report is a draft of a resolution proposed to be brought forward by the City of Cold Lake for vote at the AUMA's Annual Convention. There is also an opportunity to have the matter voted on as a Request for Decision during the Spring Leaders' Caucus, scheduled for March 24 and 25th.

The resolution requests that the AUMA advocate for the Federal Government and the Government of Alberta to study the financial impact of existing and proposed laws and regulations governing the treatment of water and the treatment and release of waste water.

It also requests that the results of these evaluations be shared with the affected service providers and that adequate, stable and long-term funding be provided to the service providers which accounts for the rising costs due to increased regulations. The resolution will also be brought to the RMA for consideration as part of its advocacy efforts.

Background:

The Water North Coalition raised concerns about the rising costs of providing municipal water and waste water services – costs which are often driven by increasing environmental regulations surrounding the treatment of potable water and the treatment and release of wastewater. Regulatory decisions have historically been made without regard to the financial impacts that they have. Since water and wastewater treatment are municipal essential services often requiring expensive infrastructure upgrades to keep pace with stricter regulations, the Water North Coalition hopes to ensure that these decisions are not made without consideration of the financial impacts they will have on service providers.

The AUMA has two means of requesting advocacy: 1) Resolutions 2) Requests for Decision. Each follows a different procedure and format.



Resolutions are brought forward at the AUMA's annual convention following a formal process, in a specific format, whereas Requests for Decision are used to bring emerging issues forward that cannot wait to be debated at the Convention. They follow a less formal format and process, and can also later be brought to the Convention as a Resolution, since resolutions generally receive a higher profile.

Should council support bringing this to AUMA both as a Request for Decision and a Resolution, the attached resolution will be reformatted to suit the AUMA's requirements for a Request for Decision and submitted in time for consideration at the Leaders' Caucus.

Additional background information can be found in the attached draft resolution.

Alternatives:

- Council may pass a motion to bring the attached to the AUMA as either a resolution or a request for decision, or both.
- Council may respectfully decline to bring the attached to the AUMA at this time.

Recommended Action:

Administration recommends that Council pass a motion to bring the attached to the AUMA as both a Request for Decision at the Spring Leaders' Caucus and a Resolution at the AUMA's annual convention.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer