

Crystal Lake Meeting with Canora Rural Pipeline Utility Board & Town of Canora Chief Administrator – August 22, 2019

On August 22, 2019, Wil Olive, Terry Dennis and Howard Fox met with the Board of the Canora Rural Pipeline Utility and later the Chief Administrative Officer with the town of Canora. The purpose of the meetings was simply fact-finding on the possibility of Crystal Lake accessing treated, potable water from the Utility or Town of Canora. Notes follow in point form:

1. Following introductions, Howard Fox provided an overview of the Crystal Lake Community Water System and recent developments concerning arsenic levels, the possibility of GUDI and now ammonia showing up in the water source (two wells). The purpose of the meetings is to explore alternate sources of water.
2. The Utility Board is very open to sharing their knowledge and experience.
3. Don Kraynik is the RM of Keys rep on the Utility Board.
4. The Utility Board is open to the idea of connecting to their system if it is of benefit to both parties. In addition to serving a low-pressure system to farms and ranches in the area (requires their own storage and pressure systems), the Utility currently serves year-round water under pressure to Canora and Burgess beaches. Each community has about storage capacity of 40,000 gallons.
5. The Canora Beach system (storage and pumping and pumphouse) was approximately \$30,000, twenty years ago.
6. Canora Beach has about 100 hookups and Burgess Beach 140 hookups. Pipe size originates as 4-5" and is buried about 8-9' deep, to be below the frost line. They have no shallow-buried line that is insulated or heated.
7. The Utility purchases its treated water from the Town of Canora. This means that treatment facilities and certified operators meet all regulatory requirements and that there is stability in the water sourcing and treatment processes. The only additional treatment might be re-chlorination at Crystal Lake.

8. The closest access point in the Utility's system is about halfway between Canora and Crystal Lake. But that access point does not have the capacity (it is a 2" line, at the end of their system) to serve Crystal Lake.
9. Due to capacity limitations at the nearest point, a connection to the Utility would require a completely new line installed from Canora to Crystal Lake.
10. If the Utility were to supply water, it would be to one point at Crystal Lake and the Crystal Lake would be responsible for any further distribution and all billings to individual subscribers.
11. It is unknown if the current Utility system has the capacity to serve Crystal Lake. This would require an engineering investigation and report at our cost.
12. It is unknown to the Utility Board if the Town of Canora has additional capacity to serve Crystal Lake. This would require some engineering inspection and report to determine capacity.
13. The Utility services nearby communities – Rama, Buchanan - on a low-pressure system. Those communities have significant storage capacities on-site with their own pressurized distribution systems.
14. Estimated cost of plowing/hoeing a main line was \$10/metre about 4 years ago. This equates to about \$16,000/mile but 4 years ago. Unknown what the current cost would be as those costs are very subject to market fluctuations and tender prices. The HDPE pipe used for the water lines is also subject to fluctuating markets and tender prices.
15. The current purchase price to subscribers for water from the Utility is \$2.37/cubic metre. This equates to about \$10/1000 imperial gallons. No discussion was held if that or a different price would apply.
16. The Utility's primary engineering firm is SAL but they have used another firm for smaller additions. Any feasibility studies or engineering would be at our expense, as well as any required facilities, storage, pumping or re-treatment.
17. The Utility has no experience crossing the Assiniboine River but thought that would be no problem with directional boring.
18. First step would be an engineering study to assess capacity. That study and all further engineering would be at Crystal Lake cost.
19. Utility Board advised that the 2018 cost per subscriber was \$7,500.

20. Because accessing water through the Utility would require a completely new line originating from Canora, we felt that dealing directly with the Town of Canora might be more economical if this water source is further considered.
21. We then met briefly with Mike Mykytyshyn, Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Canora to see if sourcing directly from the Town is an option. Again, this would require some engineering costs to us to see if that is feasible in terms of well production and any such development would require Council approval.
22. At the end of the meetings, we felt that absent of any federal and/or provincial grants and financial support, it may be economically challenging to access water from Canora. However, this does not rule out these options. Further investigation needs to be done with the Village of Stenen or even Town of Sturgis for sourcing treated water or perhaps developing a new well over the Empress or Fulton aquifers.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Wil Olive and Howard Fox