

SaskWater Highway 9 Regional Potable Water System Project Update

As most are well aware, we will have to make some changes to our community water system. We are still under a Precautionary Drinking Water Advisory due to arsenic levels and a potential that our wells are groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GUDI). The Water Security Agency has directed us that the system must be returned to a potable system by 2026.

At this time, SaskWater is investigating the development of a major regional water pipeline project to provide potable water to the communities extending from Preeceville to Pelly, including Crystal Lake, and adjacent rural municipalities. This project is very much in the early stages, but a major hurdle was passed August 13, 2021 with the announcement that federal and provincial grant funding has been conditionally approved. The funding approved is approximately 73% of the estimated eligible costs of the Project. That is a very high level of funding and it substantially improves the feasibility of the project for communities that choose to participate.

The Project is expected to include development of new and upgraded wells, a new water treatment facility, upgrades to a wastewater lagoon, water storage, and a pipeline network with a connection point provided to each community water distribution systems to the communities. Such a system could also be professionally managed by SaskWater, addressing a major concern of availability of trained and certified water treatment operators in rural Saskatchewan.

The next step in this process is an infrastructure assessment with a review of the current facilities, equipment and capabilities of the various community systems. The Project will be a very iterative and evolving process as costs are determined and levels of participation by the communities are assessed. Such a system, capable of providing potable water year round, could be a major benefit to residents of Crystal Lake and their property values. It must be noted that the Project would provide potable water to a connection point, with the communities responsible for distribution within their communities. This would be a multi-year project that, if it proceeds, could be a potential solution to accessing potable water for Crystal Lake residents. No further details are available at this time. The Hamlet Board will continue to provide updates as the project advances. If you

have any questions, concerns or comments please contact the Crystal Lake Steering Committee member, Howard Fox, at howfox@ymail.com