



May 30, 2013

Dear West St. Paul residents and stakeholders:

We would like to provide you with an update on the status of the wastewater sewer project for the Rural Municipality of West St. Paul.

Our sincere thanks to each of you who took the time to attend the public hearing on our financial plan and borrowing by-law at Sunova Centre on May 1. We appreciated the opportunity to listen to your questions, concerns and aspirations for our community, and to share some of the detailed planning and work that has been underway to bring this highly needed infrastructure to West St. Paul.

At the hearing, residents reaffirmed a desire for ongoing communication and information about this project. As we had committed at the May 1 meeting, we will be providing regular bulletins and updates as we move forward so that you will know what's happening at every new step as the project moves ahead.

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New Project Developments

Council approval of borrowing bylaw for Phase 1 main trunk line – At the public hearing held at the Sunova Centre on May 1 the RM's funding mechanism for the project was approved by Council. This means the RM will be able to borrow towards the \$4.5 million municipal contribution to project costs. The RM's contribution will be matched by Federal and Provincial funding (\$4 million each), and an additional \$2 million will be contributed by project partner the Manitoba Water Services Board.

Plan to minimize financial burden for West St. Paul residents – Our highest priority is to do everything we can as an RM to ensure that the financial burden on West St. Paul families is minimized. Details of the actions under consideration – surplus land sales, working with partners to secure additional grant funding, and generating revenue via new lot fees for new developments – were presented by Mayor Henley at the May 1 public hearing. These actions taken by the RM have already reduced the anticipated levy on existing homeowners to under \$18 per \$100,000 of assessed value – far lower than the \$67 per \$100,000 of assessed value that had been earlier reported. It is our commitment to work diligently to raise revenues through grants and new land developments to bring these numbers down even further, potentially even eliminating the levy so that existing homeowners would pay only the one-time connection fee to the City of Winnipeg. As noted on May 1, this connection fee is ONLY payable once a home has been connected to the permanent sewer line.

Copies of the presentations shown at the hearing can be [viewed on our website](#), and downloaded here:

- [Financial Plan Presentation](#) [pdf]
- [Wastewater Sewer Presentation](#) [pdf]

Next steps on future phases identified – On May 15, Council met with project partners The Manitoba Water Services Board and Stantec to identify next steps for the project. In addition to more detailed planning for design, tender and construction on the main trunk line, a key objective was to look at options for future phases in more detail. The Manitoba Water Services Board has agreed to participate up to 50% for additional engineering to

prepare class "D" estimates for future areas of service. The Municipality is currently working with our partners in order to prepare a report to Council that will allow Council to budget accordingly for this future expenditure as we work toward a community-wide wastewater solution.

Project communication network, tools established – Over the past month, we have developed this email bulletin platform to bring news and updates related to the wastewater sewer system directly to your inbox. Updates will also be included in our community newsletter and in local newspapers. We are in the process of further planning for communication and community engagement as design, tender and construction of the main line and planning for future phases continues. We will keep you updated as these plan progress.

Next Steps

Detailed design and community involvement on Phase 1 – Detailed design for the main trunk line is already underway. We will involve residents as part of local improvement districts as work progresses on the main trunk line and the lateral sewers that will service individual streets.

Tendering of contracts and construction on main trunk line – We will work with our partners at the Manitoba Water Services Board to issue tenders by September 2013, and we anticipate construction will begin as early as October 2013.

Submission of application for engineering study on Phase 2 options, planning and implementation – We will be working with our partners at the Manitoba Water Services Board and Stantec on an engineering study to better understand options for implementing future phases of the wastewater sewer project and related costs. We will continue to update residents at each stage and will share the results of the studies as they are completed.

Additional 2014 grant funding to be pursued – a grant application will be filed as part of

a fall intake for the Building Canada Fund.

Questions?

If you have a question about the project, you may wish to review the **Frequently Asked Questions** document posted on the [wastewater sewer project page](#) of our website. This document will be updated with responses to new questions we receive by the 1st and 15th of each month.

We have also established a dedicated email address for this project at wasterwaterproject@weststpaul.com. If your question has not been addressed in the FAQ document, we ask that you direct project-related questions here in order to ensure all queries can be addressed with a timely, considered response. Although answers to some location-specific questions can only become known as engineering work continues, it remains our commitment to share all new information with the community as soon as it becomes known to us.

Thank you again for your interest in an important community issue that will ultimately enhance land values, environmental protections and quality of life for everyone in West St. Paul.

Our project partners:

