
County of Wetaskiwin No. 10

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WASTEWATER SERVICES: ALDER FLATS LAGOON & TRUCK DUMPING STATION BULK SEPTAGE LOAD FEE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SUMMARY January 26, 2016

At the December 8, 2015 Council for Public Works meeting, Council approved the Water and Sewer Rates By-law 2015/62 which included a \$30 per truckload fee for bulk sewage being delivered to any County of Wetaskiwin operated lagoon or dump station, which includes the Alder Flats Lagoon.

Effective January 1, 2016, costs associated with the treatment of septage is to be billed directly to Septage Haulers. Notice was sent out advising that each bulk septage load delivered to a County operated lagoon or dump station would be charged a \$30 fee, for full or partial loads, collected within the County from residents. Advertisements were placed in the County pages of the Pipestone Flyer and on the County website in December 2015 advising residents of this change.

The following Q&A information is intended to provide and clarify details regarding the changes to wastewater services within the County of Wetaskiwin, including the implementation of a Bulk Septage Load Fee.

What is the thirty (\$30) dollar fee for and how was this fee determined?

The \$30 fee will assist with operation, maintenance and future capital upgrades of the Alder Flats Lagoon and Truck Dumping Station. The \$30 per truckload fee was determined by the existing capital and operational costs of the Alder Flats Lagoon and the number of truckloads utilizing the Lagoon on average over the past several years.

Council, for the past several years has been moving towards user pay for County utility services, and over the past twelve months has discussed on many occasions moving towards user pay for wastewater services. By implementing the \$30 per truckload fee, the County is now charging all users of the truck dumping station, not just properties serviced by collection systems.

The existing capital infrastructure at the Alder Flats Lagoon was funded by various grants received from the federal and provincial governments and Alder Flats residents connected to the system. With the \$30 per truckload fee being implemented, everyone with a septic or holding tank will now contribute to the operation, maintenance, and future capital upgrades of the Alder Flats Lagoon, including an expansion of the Lagoon and construction of a modernized truck dumping station to allow for more efficient dumping to occur.

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What about the Off-Site Sewer Levy?

The Alder Flats Off-Site Sewer Levy Bylaw 2007/38 that is charged to applicants is held in reserves for future capital upgrades of the Alder Flats Lagoon and does not contribute to the operation and maintenance costs associated with meeting the strict Codes of Practice legislated by Alberta Environment.

Since the Bylaw came into effect in 2007, any development approved prior to the passing of the Bylaw was not subject to paying the off-site levy for the Alder Flats Lagoon. Development approved after the passage of this Bylaw is required to pay the off-site levy for the Alder Flats Lagoon as outlined in Bylaw 2007/38.

Is this emergency funding for something?

This is not emergency funding. The \$30 fee will assist with operation, maintenance and future capital costs of the Alder Flats Lagoon truck dumping station, including an expansion of the Lagoon and construction of a modernized truck dumping station to allow for more efficient dumping to occur.

It should be noted that the Alder Flats Lagoon has been approved for a \$1.4 million dollar lagoon expansion and new truck dumping station, which will be funded through various grant funding received from the federal and provincial governments such as the *Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund* and *Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI)*, and the Alder Flats Off-site Sewer Levy funds currently held in reserves for future capital upgrades.

Is this fee paid by the residents, the haulers, or both?

The fee is charged only to the haulers on a per load (full or partial) basis. The haulers can collect the \$30 fee from their customer base if they wish. We recommend residents discuss this charge with their haulers.

Do other municipalities charge for bulk septage dumping?

The charging of haulers is common practice in the industry. The \$30 fee being charged by the County is comparable to other municipalities within the region for bulk septage dumping who charge anywhere from \$40 to \$235 per truck load.

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What lagoons or truck dumping areas are affected by this fee?

The Mulhurst Bay Lagoon, Alder Flats Lagoon, and the Westeros Truck Dumping & Lift Station are affected by this fee. The County has set all of its truck dumping areas with the \$30 fee in order to make it fair and equitable for all residents and haulers dumping septage originating from the County.

Contact Information

We hope that this information has provided some in-sight regarding the changes to wastewater services in the County of Wetaskiwin. Should you have any further questions, please contact CAO Frank Coutney at 780-361-6223 or Assistant Director of Public Works Brian Anderson at 780-361-6244 or using our toll-free line 1-800-661-4125.