

Report to Council

- For Council Decision For Council Direction
 For Council Information



TOPIC:	Utility Bylaw Updates	August 27, 2024
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to present updates to the outdated Utility Bylaws, which will lead to improved protections, maintainability, and operability of the utility systems.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve 3rd Reading of the Water Utility Bylaw No. 14/2024.

That Council approve 3rd Reading of the Sewer Utility Bylaw No. 15/2024.

RATIONALE:

The Utility Bylaws have not had a substantial update in over a decade. Over that period, provincially mandated utility standards have been updated, new industry best practices implemented, and lessons learned from other communities are available, all for inclusion into our Bylaws. These Bylaw updates set parameters to ensure the utility system is reliable and safe for the community. These updates will regulate actions that will help protect Morinville's utility systems infrastructure and clarify responsibilities for both Morinville and the customers.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1. Background Information

Morinville currently has four utility bylaws:

- Water Utility Bylaw No. 10/2022
- Stormwater Utility Bylaw No. 13/2022
- Wastewater Utility Bylaw No. 11/2022
- Source Control Bylaw No. 11/2017

The Source Control is directly adopted from Arrow Utilities' Bylaw. The Source Control Bylaw is expected to be updated by Arrow Utilities late in 2024 or into 2025, and any updates to this Bylaw will be brought forward to Council thereafter. Administration is moving forward with updating the other three bylaws: Water, Stormwater, and Wastewater.

2. Bylaw General Updates Overview:

The current Water, Storm, and Wastewater Bylaws have not had any meaningful update in over 10 years. In that time, new best practices have been accustomed throughout utility system owners and provincial standards have changed. Administration's review also noted several areas in the Bylaws that

did not effectively provide enough protection for Morinville’s utility systems, and the enforcement actions were inadequate for the severity that some malicious actions can cause.

The primary purpose and intention of the updated bylaws are to:

- Outline the acceptable use and service levels of our utilities systems.
- Allow Morinville the authority to carry out inspections to ensure the safeguarding and operation of the utility systems.
- Prohibit the public from interfering, damaging, or the potential to damage, utility systems.
- Outline the various responsibilities assigned to the Municipality and the customers.
- Outline administrative terms, such as the requirement to set up utility accounts.
- Update the enforcement aspects to ensure the penalties align with the severity.

Administration also reformatted and condensed the three (3) bylaws (Water, Storm, Wastewater) into two (2) new bylaws (Water, Sewer).

A summary of the major changes within the Water Bylaw is included in Appendix A to this report.

There is no summary of changes for the Sewer Bylaw because the old Storm and Wastewater Bylaws had limited content, so the new Sewer Bylaw is written effectively from scratch.

Changes from 2nd Reading to 3rd Reading:

1. Sewer Utility Bylaw – Added Bylaw 13/2022 (Stormwater Utility Bylaw) to be repealed with the coming into force of this new Bylaw 15/2024.
 - a. This is because the new Sewer Utility Bylaw is meant to replace both the existing Wastewater and Storm bylaws, so both of those Bylaws need to be repealed.
2. Sewer Utility Bylaw – Under Section 8, reference to a Utility Service Line Policy was clarified to be a Council Policy. The Council Policy will be brought forward to Council as a separate report.

IMPACT:

The addition of the Cross Connection control program will require increased administrative workloads from Morinville’s Utility Operators of approximately 40hrs to 80hrs per year, depending on the quantity of cross-connections in Morinville and the cooperation of the customers.

NEXT STEPS:

After 3rd Reading of the Bylaws, Morinville will begin plans to start the cross-connection program for 2025 and work with any customers.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

At the June 25, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved 2nd Reading of the Water Utility Bylaw No. 14/2024.

At the June 25, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved 2nd Reading of the Sewer Utility Bylaw No. 15/2024.

At the May 28, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved 1st Reading of the Water Utility Bylaw No. 14/2024.

At the May 28, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved 1st Reading of the Sewer Utility Bylaw No. 15/2024.

At the March 26, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council, Council directed Administration to provide additional information on the following water conservation measures as part of the Utility Bylaw updates targeted for Quarter 2 of 2024:

- No Daytime Lawn Watering
- Water Barrel Program
- Broom Program
- Utility Rate Model Changes

ALIGNMENT:

Municipal Government Act:

- Section 33 Municipal Public Utilities, Section 530 Inspections and Maintenance

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, which the Town operates the utility systems under provincial approvals.

Morinville 2022-2025 Strategic Plan:

- Goal 3 - Financial Stewardship - Manage Morinville’s current and future infrastructure needs with diligent planning and affordable spending

CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT:

The Bylaw updates took into consideration other municipal Bylaws and updated provincial regulations.

The Bylaws have been reviewed by Morinville’s legal firm.

ALTERNATIVES:

- N/A

PRESENTER:	J. Betteridge, Manager Infrastructure Services	ATTACHMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water Utility Bylaw No. 14/2024• Summary of Original Changes (Water Bylaw)• Sewer Utility Bylaw No. 15/2024• Wastewater Utility Bylaw 11/2022• Stormwater Utility Bylaw 13/2022
PREPARED BY:	J. Betteridge, Manager Infrastructure Services	
CLEARANCES:	M. Hay, Acting Chief Administrative Officer S. Edwards, General Manager Community and Infrastructure Services	