



## Request for Decision

<b>Title</b>	<b>Voluntary County-Wide Odd / Even Watering Program</b>
<b>Proposed Motion</b>	That Council approve the implementation of a voluntary County-wide “odd / even” watering program.
<b>Administrative Recommendation</b>	Present administration recommendation based on our analysis and in keeping with County planning documents, policy, legislation and bylaws.
<b>Previous Council Direction</b>	<p><u>July 13, 2015 – Motion 229/15:</u> That County Council authorizes the County Commissioner or his designate as the Authorized Person under the Water Works Bylaw.</p> <p><u>July 13, 2015 – Motion 233/15:</u> That County Council gives 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading to Bylaw 1356/15, to amend Bylaw 932/02 Water Works Bylaw.</p>
<b>Report</b>	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintaining required water levels at the Allin Ridge Reservoir in May 2018 due to prolonged periods of dry weather combined with large water use was challenging.</li><li>• Sturgeon County enacted several water restriction events in 2018 to restrict water use in an effort to ensure adequate water levels were available for residential consumption and firefighting requirements.</li><li>• To promote water conservation awareness and minimize the risk of future emergency water deficits, Utility Services is recommending a pilot project comprised of a voluntary County-wide “odd / even” watering scheduling.</li><li>• The “odd / even” watering program works by having an even-numbered house water its lawn on an even day and vice versa for an odd day.</li><li>• The goal of implementing a voluntary “odd / even” watering program would be to reduce the impact on utility customers during imposed demand measures while promoting Council’s <i>Environmental Stewardship</i> Strategic Focus Area.</li></ul>

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- The voluntary “odd / even” lawn watering program would remain in place unless further Water Demand Measures need to be enacted.

### **Summary of Water Demand Measures**

- Sturgeon County is one of 60 municipalities supplied off EPCOR’s water transmission system (via the North Saskatchewan River).
- Water Demand Measures have been implemented by EPCOR to ensure water capacity exists during drought and water scarcity events to ensure adequate water capacity exists to supply all its customers on the regional line.
- Sturgeon County has accepted and implemented EPCOR’s Water Demand Measures.
- Further details on demand measures can be found on the attached “Water Demand Measures Protocol.”

### **Demand Measure “A”:**

- EPCOR calls a Demand "A" (regional reservoirs at 65%; dry weather and drought conditions; Sturgeon reservoirs below 50%);
- Sturgeon County suspends all non-essential water use;
- Implements a mandatory odd/even watering program;
- Notify Council Members.

### **Demand Measure “B”:**

- EPCOR calls a Demand "B" (Edmonton Regional Municipalities - notification of Condition "B" due to projected usage exceeding high five-day consumption allotment);
- Regional reservoirs forecasted to be below 50% within the next five days. (Sturgeon reservoirs to be below 35% within the next five days);
- In addition to the actions and authority implemented for Demand Measure A, impose a total ban on lawn watering and non-essential use of water;
- Prepare a communication release informing all customers of the measures imposed.

### **Demand Measure “C”:**

- EPCOR calls a Demand "C" (Edmonton Regional Municipalities notification of condition "C" due to projected usage exceeding high five-day consumption allotment);
- Regional water customer’s reservoirs are forecasted to be below 35% within the next five days. (Sturgeon County reservoirs forecasted to be below 35% within the next five days);

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to the actions and authority implemented for Demand Measures A &amp; B, <u>invoke Bylaw 1356/15 imposing a total ban on all non-essential use of water and update all signage;</u></li> <li>• Notify Council Members;</li> <li>• Provide information to the public on where approved alternate sources of potable water can be obtained.</li> </ul> <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If approved, a voluntary county-wide “odd / even” watering plan will be communicated through the FYI ad, website, social media and mailed out through utility billing. Furthermore, road side signage will also be strategically placed throughout the valley to increase awareness.</li> </ul> <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bylaw 1356/15</li> <li>• Bylaw 932/02</li> <li>• Water Demand Measures Protocol</li> </ul>
<p><b>Implication of Administrative Recommendation</b></p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p><b>Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership</b> – Implementing a voluntary “odd and even” watering program will promote good fiscal sustainability by reducing the amount of water purchased during water demand measures.</p> <p><b>Environmental Stewardship</b> – Implementing a voluntary “odd and even” watering program demonstrates good water conservation practices, while aligning with Council’s strategic approach to environmental stewardship.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>Implementing “odd / even” water restrictions is expected to result in reduced demands on the water distribution system and may support an avoidance of implementing Demand Measure “C” (full water ban).</p> <p>A summer-long “odd / even” water restriction plan would endeavor to help ensure that all Sturgeon County customers have access to uninterrupted water services.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>Water conservation practices would financially benefit our customers.</p>
<p><b>Alternatives Considered</b></p>	<p>That Council choose not to implement a voluntary “odd / even” watering program and continue with following the existing protocol for Water Demand Measures.</p>
<p><b>Implications of Alternatives</b></p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waiting for reservoir water levels to reach levels stipulated in the Water Demand Measures guidelines may possibly be too late to avoid further</li> </ul>

depletion of reservoir levels and may result in prematurely reaching levels that require the implementation of a full water ban.

Organizational:

- If Council follows the alternative, staff will need to move quickly on communicating Water Demand Measures to avoid completely draining reservoirs during Demand Measures.

Financial:

- None.

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**Follow up Action** Administration will prepare a communication plan for the implementation of a voluntary County-wide odd / even watering program.

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**Attachment(s)** 1. Water Demand Measures Protocol  
2. Bylaw 932/02

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**Report Reviewed  
by:**



Jeff Yanew, Manager, Utility Services



Scott MacDougall, GM Municipal Services



Reegan McCullough – County Commissioner - CAO

## Strategic Alignment Checklist

**Vision:** *Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.*

**Mission:** *Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.*

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
<b>Planned Growth and Prosperity</b>			
<i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 36)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Supports a strong thriving business environment to strengthen our economic foundation</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Plans for responsible growth through the MDP and regional growth plan.</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Manages growth for current and future developments through:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>transparent bylaws, policies and processes to enable responsible land development</i></li> <li><i>targeting growth around existing and identified future growth areas</i></li> </ul> </i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities</b>			
<i>We are committed to a safe and viable community, where our residents are provided with access to opportunities and quality of life. (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Provides access to programs and services that have a positive impact on residents' quality of life</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Provides access to safe and reliable infrastructure assets</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Supports the safety of people and property</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Strong Local and Regional Governance</b>			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Provides effective leadership and management consistent with Strategic Plan, MDP, master plans, bylaws, policies, community engagement</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Fosters collaborative intergovernmental partnerships</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Community Identity &amp; Spirit</b>			
<i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Support and/or collaborate with voluntary organizations in the region</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Environmental Stewardship</b>			
<i>We foster a healthy environment and minimize our impact on ecosystems. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Plans and partnerships that minimize environmental impact on natural areas</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Provides awareness of environmental issues impacting the County</i></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>