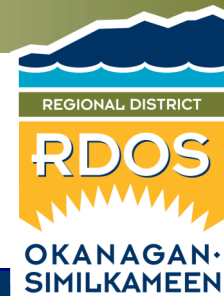


# Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

## Willowbrook Water System Information

July 2018



### Keeping the Community Informed

#### Summary of Events and Issues since 2016

In July 2016, the ownership and operations of the Willowbrook Water System was transferred to the RDOS. Prior to the transfer an initial assessment was completed on the water system in 2015. The report indicated that the system was in good condition based on the age, materials and limited number of repairs to date. There were deficiencies and issues identified that were required to bring the system up to current standards and a list of infrastructure upgrades were recommended based on the assumed conditions of the system. For details, the 2015 assessment report is available on the RDOS website.



#### Challenges

One of the largest identified challenges facing the water system is the lack of any reserve funds available for upgrades or repairs. The initial 2015 assessment report recommended that a revised user rate be implemented to ensure that the residents were funding the full Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the system as well as contributing to the necessary capital improvements.

In the first eighteen months after the ownership transfer, several issues were identified and some unexpected repairs were required. Some examples of the issues encountered include replacement of the broken well pump and motor, discovery and repair of several broken services, and impacts from the spring freshet flooding on the pumphouse and community well.

Issues have also arisen with water quality as bacteriological counts are appearing in samples taken around the system. The Interior Health Authority classified the water system's groundwater source at risk of containing pathogens (GARP) as it is directly under the influence of surface water. This means that pathogens coming from the surface (ie. from manure) do not have time to be killed off in the soil before reaching the water that will be pumped out for drinking water system.

Without any reserve funds available to cover the unexpected expenses and other associated costs, user rates were significantly increased in the 2018 fiscal year from \$437.50 to \$1,008.05 per connection.

#### Grant Funding for Upgrades—Clean Water and Wastewater Fund

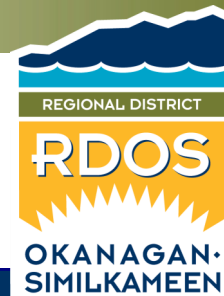
The RDOS continues to seek grant funding to help cover the cost of required upgrades to reduce the financial impacts on the Willowbrook water users. The first grant applied for was the **Clean Water And Wastewater Fund (CWWF)** to add communication and alarming equipment so the operators were immediately aware of any issues with the pumps and reservoir if disruptions occurred to the service. The aim of these upgrades is to allow RDOS water system operators the ability to monitor the system remotely which should lead to less required site checks and overall lower operational costs. The total communications project is estimated at \$44,000 and the RDOS was awarded \$36,520 in CWWF grant funds. The remaining contribution of \$7,480 is coming directly from the user fees paid from the



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residents. This work was initially planned to be completed by March of 2018. However, additional grant funds became available for the water system from the Regionally Significant Project Fund and this project was delayed so both projects could be completed together.

#### **Grant Funding for Upgrades—Regionally Significant Program Fund**

In late 2017, additional grant funding became available for upgrades to the Willowbrook Water System. The RDOS considered which upgrades were the most critical and determined that based on all of the identified issues in the past year, a new master plan for the system was required prior to making important spending decisions. A consultant was retained to look at considerations for water treatment and overall necessary system improvements, and provide engineering and design services for water system upgrades.

The Master Plan has been completed and is available on the RDOS website for viewing. As a summary the list of projects included building upgrades, treatment options, a new well with wellhead protection and back up power and reservoir upgrades. This list of projects was considered by the RDOS and based on funds available and the immediate requirements for the system; the replacement of the pumphouse building with the associated piping and electrical will be completed at this time.

The upgrades will improve the resiliency of the pump house in withstanding flood events by moving all equipment above ground and providing a layout for the future water treatment system. The new pump house design and construction is expected to begin by fall 2018. The building upgrades are estimated to cost approximately \$220,000 and are 100% funded by the **Regionally Significant Program** funds without any financial contribution from the system users.

#### **Moving Forward into Future Upgrades**

The RDOS will be completing the two projects with the available grant funding. Additional upgrades will be completed in the future as additional grant funding is received and as reserve funds are available. It is anticipated that the next upgrade to the Willowbrook water system will be a treatment component with potentially the installation of back up power. Timelines for the future upgrades will depend on future grant programs and available matching funds from the water system reserves.

#### **Boil Water Reminder**

The RDOS would like to remind all Willowbrook residents that the Boil Water Notice, issued June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 remains in effect until further notice. Check the website for updates. All water system users are advised to use a safe alternate source of water or to **boil water** for all drinking, infant formula preparation, brushing teeth, food preparation/cooking purposes and ice making. Water should be brought to a full boil and allowed to boil for at least 1 minute.

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