

NEWS RELEASE

March 23, 2018
For immediate release

TransAqua / Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission AGM highlights 2017 achievements

MONCTON, N.B. – TransAqua – the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission (GMWC) – held its 2017 annual general meeting (AGM) today at the Moncton Wesleyan Church in Moncton.

With funding approval obtained for the TransAqua upgrade project in 2016, construction finally started in 2017. Funding Contribution Agreements were finalized and signed with the provincial and federal governments with construction contracts for Phase 1 and 2 signed in August. Work has been ongoing since that time and Commission staff is working hard to manage the construction contracts in an efficient and effective manner. Due to their efforts, cost savings are being found and construction timetables met. As the initial construction phases proceed staff is working with consultants on the design of future phases and sourcing required equipment. In addition to the upgrade project a major expansion is being done to the Administration Building to enlarge the laboratory and add much needed space to the general administration area.

The Commission Board amended the GMWC Purchasing Policy and Employee Guides while approving a number of new policies including GMWC Climate Change and Variability, Retirement Plan Governance, Public Meeting Procedural, GMWC Communications and the GMWC Fire Safety Plan. A Biosolids Management Policy was adopted and work is almost complete on a comprehensive strategy to implement this policy.

The Commission Board approved the Service Agreement and Agreement for Cost Recovery of the Commission's Expenses between GMWC and Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe. Each Municipal Council approved the Agreement for Cost Recovery of the Commission's Expenses in 2017 and is expected to approve the Service Agreement early in 2018. The Commission Board also approved the Septage Disposal Service Agreement and the CSO Reporting Agreement between GMWC and the City of Moncton.

TransAqua continued to raise its community profile in 2017 and increase public awareness of what we do. Initiatives under the Communications Strategy continued, facility tours were given and TransAqua remained a major partner in the Light-Up Riverview Campaign during the Christmas season. An effort was made by the Board and staff to attend community events and TransAqua was a sponsor of the State of the Tri-Communities event hosted by the three municipal mayors.

While the capital projects consumed a large portion of staff and Board time, progress continued to be made in other areas of TransAqua operations. Staff is working on a new maintenance management system and a records management system including undertaking the required training to implement these major initiatives. Safety in the workplace is a high priority of the Board and staff and efforts are continuous in this area to ensure that TransAqua provides a safe work environment for everyone.

Commission Treasurer Bryan Inglis highlighted the \$9.42 million surplus generated in 2017 by the GMWC. These results were a combination of increased revenues through the WWTF Upgrade and Modernization Project funding from the Government of Canada and Government of New Brunswick and expense controls. Overall expenditures were \$6,428,193 which was \$692,041 under budget. Expenditures that significantly contributed to a positive Operational variance were electrical usage, quality control (lab cost), general maintenance, generator diesel fuel and snow removal. The Commission remained in an excellent financial position again at the end of fiscal year 2017. There are now \$30.075 million in guaranteed investments, excluding a \$5.582-million contingency reserve. As well, there is \$8.6 million in interest-bearing operating accounts.

The next few years will be exciting for TransAqua as our upgrade project continues to move forward to its expected completion in 2020. As the Board and staff work together to bring this project to fruition there is no doubt that the Greater Moncton Area will end up with a state of the art facility that will serve its needs for many years into the future.

At the end of the 2017 AGM, a separate Commission meeting was held to elect the new Executive Officers. “I want to thank the previous Executive Officers, Treasurer Bryan Inglis who has served the Commission very well in this capacity” said Michel Desjardins, as the Acting 2017 AGM Chair. “I am also pleased to welcome the 2018 Executive with David Muir continuing as the Commission Chair, Jennifer Dingman will serve as incoming Treasurer and I will be continuing as the Commission Secretary.”

TransAqua / Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission (www.transaqua.ca) was established in 1983 to support the wastewater collection and treatment needs of the Dieppe, Moncton and Riverview tri-community. Since then, it has developed a 31-kilometre collection network and a treatment facility to best deliver on this mandate. It has also become a leader in the reuse of biosolids through the generation of type ‘AA’ compost (the highest grade currently achieved in Canada) as opposed to disposal in a landfill site. The organization is now positioning itself to further upgrade its facilities to provide an enhanced secondary treatment approach that will allow it to meet recently introduced mandatory federal regulations prior to the 2020 deadline.

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