

NEWS RELEASE

September 18, 2020
For immediate release

TransAqua / Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission AGM highlights 2019 achievements

RIVERVIEW, N.B. – TransAqua – the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission (GMWC) – held its 2019 annual general meeting (AGM) today at TransAqua’s Administration Building in Riverview.

TransAqua’s Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade and Modernization Project (Project) construction activities in 2019 included the completion of Phase 1 (Preliminary Treatment) and Phase 2 (Primary Treatment). The fourth secondary clarifier construction is complete and the equipment retrofit for the three existing secondary clarifiers was completed. The Sludge Handling Building was constructed with some equipment being installed in 2019. The bioreactor base slab, 20 of 36 walls and 6 of 8 tunnel sections were constructed in 2019. One-half of the bioreactor is scheduled to be commissioned by September 2020 with construction of the entire bioreactor to be completed by the end of 2020. Two of three centrifuge mechanical retrofits were completed. The Project is currently on schedule and on budget!

The Commission Board froze the 2020 Unit Rate at \$210, the same rate since 2017. Ratepayers have seen an average annual rate increase of \$4.97 since 2005. The Memorandum of Understanding between TransAqua, the Greater Moncton Roméo LeBlanc International Airport and the City of Dieppe regarding the capture of airport de-icing material was signed in 2019. Jean-Pierre Ouellette replaced Chanel Michaud as a Commissioner representing the City of Dieppe in 2019. The Commission Board approved the 10-year Biosolids Amendment Material Supply Contract, the GMWC Skill Matrix / Equity Guide for the appointment of Board members and the GMWC Asset Management Strategy.

TransAqua continued to raise its community profile in 2019 and increase public awareness of its purpose and operations. Weekly radio advertising for TransAqua’s Tip of the Week was initiated in 2019. TransAqua hosted a Wastewater Treatment Facility and a Compost Public Open House that was well attended and participated in hosting numerous public tours, provided presentations to various community organizations, set up a display at the Riverview Fire Open House, provided a scary sight with a Halloween display and participated in Light-Up Riverview during the holiday season.

Progress continues to be made in other areas of TransAqua operations. The Compost Facility reintroduced over 9,792 tonnes of compost into the community. This is the best year ever! Staff has progressed with the computerized maintenance management

system that includes completion of the asset hierarchy and categories and completed the asset inventory. TransAqua began implementing its Cybersecurity Implementation Plan as result of Public Safety Canada's 2019 Cybersecurity Resiliency Review. Public Safety Canada will conduct another Review in 2020. TransAqua met its 2019 Safety Goal by resolving more than 73% of reported safety issues. 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.

As of December 31, 2019, equipment and construction contract awards have been issued for the Project in the total amount of \$69,136,115 with a total capital spend of \$46,852,333 at the end of 2019. Overall operating expenditures in 2019 were \$8,285,816, an over-expenditure of \$6,807. Expenditures that significantly contributed to Operational variances that include cost sharing expenses with municipalities, consulting costs, and depreciation attributed to the Project Phases 1 and 2 not being capitalized as expected in 2019. The Commission remained in an excellent financial position again at the end of fiscal year 2019. There is \$30,963,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund, \$5,582,000 in the Operating General Reserve Fund and \$15,092,000 million in interest-bearing operating accounts.

At the end of the 2019 AGM, a separate Commission meeting was held to elect the new Executive Officers. "I want to welcome the 2020 GMWC Executive Officers, Chair Michel Desjardins, Secretary Yves Gagnon and Jennifer Dingman for re-offering as Treasurer" said Past Chair David Muir. "I would also like to thank Past Commissioner Chanel Michaud for representing the City of Dieppe on the GMWC Board of Commissioners for 11 years. The GMWC Board welcomes Jean-Pierre Ouellette as the new representative for the City of Dieppe joining the GMWC Board in 2019."

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 34.2-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.

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