

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

TransAqua / Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission AGM highlights 2016 achievements

MONCTON, N.B. – TransAqua – the Greater Moncton Wastewater Commission (GMWC) – held its 2016 annual general meeting (AGM) today at the Riverview Town Hall.

“Of critical importance was our success in obtaining funding for the wastewater treatment facility expansion necessary to meet new federal guidelines by 2020 said David Muir, Chair of the Commission. The federal and provincial governments announced they would each fund 25% of the estimated project costs of \$90.4 million or about \$22.6 million each. This funding will allow TransAqua to meet its environmental commitments while minimizing the impact on ratepayers”.

“Our technical staff continued to work extensively with consulting engineering firm CBCL Limited to work towards completing the detailed design for the preliminary treatment and septage receiving and Primary Clarification phases of the wastewater treatment process” he said. “With this tripartite funding announcement, we expect to begin construction in June or July 2017”.

TransAqua has been building foundations for the future in 2016 by activating the newest asphalt compost curing pad, installing major automation upgrades (SCADA) at the wastewater treatment facility. TransAqua hosted numerous technical tours on a regular basis to school classes, technical colleges, universities, local community groups and elected government representatives and candidates at both our Wastewater Treatment Facility in Riverview and Compost Facility in Moncton.”

Commission Treasurer Chanel Michaud highlighted the \$4.96-million surplus generated in 2016 by the GMWC. These results were a combination of increased revenues and expense controls. The Commission remained in an excellent financial position again at the end of fiscal year 2016. There are now \$30 million in guaranteed investments, excluding a \$5.475-million contingency reserve. As well, there is \$8.3 million in interest-bearing operating accounts.

The Auditor General performed audits of the provincial wastewater commissions in 2011 and her final follow-up report was recently released. The Auditor General stated that “While Environment and Local Government did not implement all of the recommendations we made, the changes that have been made appear to have had a significant, positive impact on the governance and oversight of the Greater Moncton

Sewerage Commission.” The TransAqua Board and staff have worked hard to implement the Auditor General’s recommendations where possible and are pleased to see that their efforts were recognized.

The Commission’s type ‘AA’ compost – some of the best in Canada – was a record year where our compost continued to be popular with the public, municipalities and local landscapers in 2016. All compost produced in 2015 was reintroduced into the community in 2016! An expansion to the asphalt curing pad has been completed in 2016 that will further increase capacity by allowing for an additional 5,000 tonnes of biosolids and 5,000 tonnes of wood waste thereby accommodating anticipated increase in volume of biosolids due to advanced biological treatment, as well as to prepare for future growth.

At the end of the 2016 AGM, a separate Commission meeting was held to elect the new Executive Officers. “I want to thank the previous Executive Officers, Treasurer Chanel Michaud and Secretary Clarence Sweetland who have stepped up and served the Commission very well” said Michel Desjardins, as the Acting 2016 AGM Chair. “I am also pleased to welcome the 2017 Executive with David Muir continuing as the Commission Chair. Welcome also to Treasurer, Bryan Inglis and Secretary, Michel Desjardins.”

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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