



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 30, 2023

FILE: 0550-04 Board

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: REIMBURSEMENTS FOR VOLUNTARILY INSTALLED WATER METERS

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To consider a recommendation from the Electoral Areas Services Committee to prepare a report that identifies potential reimbursement options for residents who have voluntarily installed a water meter within the Northern Area D Water Service Area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its August 16, 2023 meeting the Electoral Areas Services Committee considered the attached report and passed the following resolution:

Vonesch/Rice: EASC 214/23

THAT a further report be prepared to identify potential reimbursement options including the financial implications.

Accordingly, the following actions are offered in support of the Committee's recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT a further report be prepared to identify potential reimbursement options, including the financial implications, for voluntarily installed water meters in the northern Electoral Area D water system.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: E. Watson, Manager, Corporate Operations

Attachments: Copy of August 9, 2023 report to the Electoral Area Services Committee



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 9, 2023

FILE: 0540-04 EASC

TO: Chair and Directors,
Electoral Areas Services Committee

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: REIMBURSEMENTS FOR VOLUNTARILY INSTALLED WATER METERS

PURPOSE

To consider offering financial reimbursement to residents who have voluntarily installed a water meter within the Northern Area D Water Service Area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 12, 2023 the Ministry of Municipal Affairs announced a \$2.8 million grant for a universal metering program in the Northern Area D Water Service Area. This program aims to install radio-read water meters on the approximately 1100 water connections that are currently unmetered. The water meter program will help better track consumption and identify areas within the system that are leaking water and in need of repair. At present, there are about 182 water connections that already have water meters installed. Among these, approximately 170 are residential and 12 are commercial meters. Many residential meters were installed voluntarily, based on written requests to the Regional District. For these voluntary installations, residents were required to pay a connection fee of \$1,500 for the meter installation.

Considering that the remaining unmetered properties will receive a water meter without a connection fee as a result of the Provincial grant received by the SRD, the option of providing a connection fee reimbursement to those residents who voluntarily paid for a water meter installation is being introduced as an option to create a level of equity to all users of the water system. Further analysis is necessary to determine the exact number of existing meters that were installed voluntarily and their associated costs at the time of installation, however initial estimates are between 170 and 200 metered connections were paid for under the voluntary program with a potential full reimbursement cost of approximately \$300,000.

If the Committee supports the concept of providing rebates, a more detailed analysis of different options can be undertaken to ensure that the most appropriate and effective approach is adopted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the Committee support a water meter reimbursement program for Area D Water.
3. THAT a further report be prepared to identify potential reimbursement options including the financial implications

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by Sheena Fisher., Engineering Services Coordinator

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