



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memo No.
2024-M-054

Memorandum to Council

Subject: The Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund

Agenda Date: March 14, 2024

Attachments:

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami hereby receives Memo 2024-M-054 regarding the Housing enabling Water Systems Fund;

AND FURTHER THAT Council directs Staff to continue to work with OCWA to apply for the Secondary Treatment Train in Temagami South.

INFORMATION

The Municipality of Temagami consistently seeks avenues to expand housing opportunities and alleviate the financial strain of upgrading vital infrastructure. In line with this commitment, staff are exploring collaboration with representatives from the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) to apply for funding from the Housing Enabling Water Systems fund. Specifically, the aim is to construct a secondary treatment train at the Temagami South Water Treatment Plant, a longstanding priority identified by OCWA. Initial discussions with OCWA have revealed their willingness to provide specialized assistance in crafting the funding application. Further meetings are planned to advance this partnership and pursue the approximately \$2,000,000 needed for the project.

In the event that the primary treatment system fails or experiences downtime, the absence of a secondary treatment train leaves the water vulnerable to contamination and renders the facility unable to produce clean water. This poses significant risks to public health and safety, as untreated or inadequately treated water can harbor harmful microorganisms and pollutants. The presence of a secondary treatment train is crucial for maintaining the reliability and functionality of the water treatment plant, ensuring uninterrupted access to clean and safe drinking water for the community served by the Temagami South facility.

The Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund has been established to help municipalities repair, rehabilitate and expand critical drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Projects funded through the program will aim to unlock more housing opportunities, support the province's growing population, protect communities, and enhance economic growth. Applications are now open. The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m. (EST) on April 19, 2024.

All municipalities that own water, waste and stormwater infrastructure are eligible to apply. Each single municipality is allowed to submit one application. If a municipality chooses to submit a joint application with another municipality, the submission would be counted as their single application.

To be eligible for funding, projects must focus on either the rehabilitation and repair, reconstruction, or expansion of water infrastructure. Projects can be stand-alone or a component of a larger project.

To meet the outcomes of the program, eligible projects should:

- enable growth and housing development
- increase access to clean drinking water
- increase treatment and/or management of wastewater and stormwater

The program will provide funding for core water infrastructure, including:

wastewater assets, for example:

- lagoon systems
- pump stations
- lift station
- linear assets
- treatment plants
- storage tanks
- collection systems

drinking water assets, for example:

- treatment plants
- reservoirs
- local pipes, including the distribution system watermain and the municipal portion of service lines
- pump stations

stormwater assets, for example:

- management facilities
- linear assets, including conveyance piping, ditches and culverts

To be eligible for funding, projects must:

- include a capital component and may also include pre-construction planning and design work
- enable housing development
- have a clear start and end date
- start no later than September 30, 2024, and must be completed by March 31, 2027
- be in the process of, or completed, the design and planning phase
- meet all relevant provincial regulatory requirements

Projects will be cost shared between municipalities and the province. The province would fund a maximum of 73% (up to \$35 million) of eligible project costs, and the municipality would be required to fund all remaining (a minimum of 27%) eligible project costs.

Municipalities may combine (stack) other federal and municipal funding to fund the 27% minimum recipient contribution. Municipalities are responsible for determining if federal funding can be used towards the project being submitted to the province. Provincial stacking will not be permitted, with the exception of funding received from the Building Faster Fund (BFF) and the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF).

Respectfully Submitted
Sabrina Pandolfo