

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF EDENWOLD NO. 158

WATER AND SEWER WORKS RATE POLICY AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The following water and sewer rates were charged in 2023:

Bylaw 2019-33 – Schedule A: Quarterly Water Rates (Rates in effect January 1-March 31, 2023)

Residential/Commercial Usage Rate

0-70 cubic meters	\$1.69 per cubic metre
71-300 cubic metres	\$2.12 per cubic metre
Over 300 cubic metres	\$3.76 per cubic metre

Bylaw 2023-09 – Appendix A: Quarterly Water Rates (Rates in effect April 1-December 31, 2023)

Single Water Meter Usage Rate

0-70 cubic meters	\$1.74 per cubic metre
71-300 cubic metres	\$2.18 per cubic metre
Over 300 cubic metres	\$3.87 per cubic metre

Multi-Unit Usage Rate (From a Single Water Meter)

0-300 cubic meters	\$1.74 per cubic metre
Over 300 cubic metres	\$1.74 per cubic metre

A water infrastructure fee of \$7.20 per month (January 1-March 31, 2024) / \$7.41 per month (April 1-December 31, 2024) is charged to all consumers connected to the central water system.

Bylaw 2019-32 – Schedule A: Monthly Wastewater Rates (Rates in effect January 1-March 31, 2023)

1. Monthly sewer service charge on all residential properties connected to a central sewage line shall be \$46.82.
2. Monthly sewer charges on all commercial and industrial properties connected to a central sewage line, but not connected to the central water supply shall be \$56.19.
3. Monthly sewer charge on all commercial and industrial properties connected to both the central sewage system and the central water supply shall be 10% of the water usage charged for the billing period, or \$46.82 per month whichever is greater.
4. Monthly wastewater infrastructure fee on all commercial and residential properties in the amount of \$24.00 per month.

Bylaw 2023-10 – Appendix A: Monthly Wastewater Rates (Rates in effect April 1-December 31, 2023)

1. Sewer service charge on all residential properties connected to a public wastewater utility: \$48.22 per month.
2. Sewer service charge on all commercial and industrial properties connected to a public wastewater utility, but not connected to a public water utility: \$57.88 per month.
3. Sewer service charge on all commercial and industrial properties connected to both a public wastewater utility and a public water utility: 10% of the quarterly water usage invoice OR \$48.22 per month, whichever is greater.
4. Wastewater infrastructure fee on all residential and commercial properties in the amount of \$58.05 per month including \$24.72 for operating costs and \$33.33 for capital costs for construction.

These rates were established to take effect April 1, 2023, and were chosen to be acceptable rates to generate enough revenue to cover the water and sewer operating costs which include the utility operator’s salary and benefits, training, power, telephone, heat, chemical, repairs, maintenance, and supplies. Any surplus is transferred to utility reserves.

The infrastructure fees were implemented for both the water and wastewater to assist in covering existing debt repayment and to contribute to reserves for future capital expenditures. Reserves are required to assist in addressing water and sewer infrastructure problems and replacing aging water and sewer infrastructure as needed.

Council of the RM reviews the waterworks policy, the previous years’ revenue/expenditures, and waterworks reserves each year as part of the annual financial overview of our water and sewer utility systems. At the same time, Council closely monitors water and sewer expenditures, reviews the infrastructure fees, and considers whether charges are sufficient to meet anticipated operating and infrastructure needs or if any increases are required. A significant portion of any increase would be attributable to the delivery of these services. By planning the water and sewer rate increases ahead of time, residents and businesses will be able to prepare for and adjust to increases.

In 2019, the WCRM158 Wastewater Authority operating expenses increased by 250%, therefore, Council proposed increases to the water and sewer rates beginning January 1, 2020, and these rates were approved by Saskatchewan Municipal Board (SMB) on October 31, 2019.

Bylaw 2019-33 raised the per cubic meter rate charged for water by 2% for each year of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Bylaw 2019-32 raised the monthly sewer charge by 25.2% for the year 2020 and by 2% for each year of 2021 and 2022 to properties connected to the central sewer system.

During the 2022 annual financial review of the water and sewer utility systems, Administration and Council determined it was necessary to increase water and sewer rates to achieve a breakeven utility budget for 2023. The RM increased all existing utility rates by 3%, effective April 1, 2023, to help offset the rising costs of utility operations such as the utility operator wages, repairs, maintenance, parts, and utilities for facilities. Additionally, the RM implemented an additional sewer infrastructure levy of \$33.33 per month to help fund repayment of long-term financing on the wastewater treatment facility expansion. These rates were approved by SMB on March 14, 2023.

During the 2023 annual financial review, Administration and Council found it reasonable to maintain water and sewer rates at the same level for 2024. The RM reduced the additional sewer infrastructure levy to \$11.11 per month to help relieve the financial burden on residents currently connected to sewer, with the intent that future development will fund the majority of debt repayment for the wastewater expansion. The revised sewer rate was approved by SMB on March 14, 2024.

The objective of the water and sewer rate policy is to achieve water and sewer works that are self-sustaining, including contributing to capital costs where the users pay for the cost of the service. To accomplish this, water and sewer rates need to increase over time in relation to expenses, so that the revenues cover operating costs. This water and sewer rate policy will enable financially independent water and sewer works that do not have to compete with other key municipal financial demands under the municipal general revenue fund. This will ensure our water works provide safe drinking water and environmentally conscious effluent disposal. Self-financing water and sewer rates influence consumer demand, water usage and conservation.

These bylaws can be viewed on our website at <https://rmedenwold.ca/> under “Government” and “Bylaws, Policies, & Other Documents”.

WATERWORKS CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Capital plans have been established to address the waterworks infrastructure deficiencies and replacements as identified and prioritized with input from Saskatchewan Environment and *The Waterworks and Sewage Works Regulations* to ensure safe drinking water and wastewater collection and treatment. The current waterworks capital plans and planned sources of funding are as follows.

Project	Planned Year of Completion	Cost (Budget/Estimate)	Future Cost (Budget/Estimate)	Sources of Funding
WCRM158 wastewater treatment facility Phase 1B & 2	2023-2025	2023 2024-2025 \$7,977,166	2024-2025 \$7,977,166	Project is in partnership with WCRM158 Wastewater Management Authority (RM, municipal partner, and grant funding), bank loan financing, reserve funds, sewer infrastructure levy and developer connection fees.
Water treatment plant improvements – SCADA system	2023-2024	2023 \$101,294 2024 \$170,000	2024 \$170,000	Canada Community-Building Fund grant
Water treatment plant improvements – MCC panel pumps	2024	2024 \$95,000	2024 \$95,000	Water infrastructure levy and reserve funds
Water treatment plant improvements – replacement of interior pipes	2024-2030	2024 \$40,000 2025-2030 \$120,000	2024 \$40,000 2025-2030 \$120,000	Water infrastructure levy and reserve funds
Water distribution replacements – hydrants, gate valves & nozzles	2023-2024	2023 \$42,899 2024 \$6,000	2024 \$6,000	Water infrastructure levy and reserve funds
Sapphire lift station upgrades	2024	2024 \$130,000	2024 \$130,000	Sewer infrastructure levy and reserve funds
Spruce Creek lift station upgrades	2024	2024 \$10,000	2024 \$10,000	Sewer infrastructure levy and reserve funds
Sleep Inn sewer upgrades	2024	2024 \$25,000	2024 \$25,000	Sewer infrastructure levy and reserve funds
Water treatment plant improvements – replacement of filter media	2024/2025	2024/2025 \$100,000	2024/2025 \$100,000	Water infrastructure levy and reserve funds
Development of North Zehner aquifer water well / desktop study pump test	2025	2025 \$50,000	2025 \$50,000	Water infrastructure levy and reserve funds
Decommission Hutchence lift Station / installation of gravity sewer (750m)	2026	2026 \$500,000	2026 \$500,000	Sewer infrastructure levy, reserve funds and grants.

This Water and Sewer Rate Policy and Waterworks Capital Investment Strategy was passed at the RM of Edenwold’s August 13th, 2024 regular council meeting.