



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Information Report

Report From: Mark O'Leary, Water & Sewer Foreman

Meeting Date: September 27, 2021

Subject: SRW 21-34 Riverside Overflow Event

Attachments: None

Report Summary

To provide Council with information regarding a recent extreme weather event that caused an overflow at the Chesley Riverside Lift Station.

Background

An extreme weather event late on September 7th and into the early morning hours of September 8th caused an overflow event at the Chesley Riverside Lift Station.

Analysis

Late on September 7th, and into the early morning hours of September 8th, an extreme rainfall weather event caused an overflow at the Chesley Riverside Lift Station. The downpour resulted in the lift station being overwhelmed with flow and a subsequent overflow occurred allowing thirty-four cubic meters (34m³) to be released to the Saugeen River. Staff made every attempt to prevent the overflow including jockeying lift station run times, and call-in vac trucks to help with the surge of flow. Despite those efforts the lift station still went to overflow.

Municipal Staff collected samples at the start and end of the overflow event, notified the Spills Action Centre, local Health Unit, Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks, and the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority. Those results will be analyzed through our lab, and final notification will have to be provided back to these authorities.

Council supported the department in early 2020 with the implementation of a new bylaw fee for illegal connections. This gave ratepayers a one-year period to disconnect illegal connections to the sanitary system, or increased wastewater rates. With the on-set of Covid it was agreed that enforcing these types of financial burdens was not appropriate.

Staff is tentatively budgeting for smoke testing in early 2022, and using some of the already existing resources to begin removing these connections.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

Not Applicable

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

Staff dealt with the Overflow event. They were called in after-hours which will resulted in additional overtime costs. The event started around 22:30 on the 7th and didn't resolve till about 04:30 on the 8th.

Additional funding was paid out to the contractor, Ron Nickason Plumbing and Heating, for the vac trucks that arrived on-site after hours. Those costs were close to seven hundred dollars (\$700) for the night.

There will also be costs associated with courier and processing of the additional samples for the overflow event. Those costs will be close to one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) for the event.

Notification to the authorities will be done during regular business hours and will have no financial impact on the department.

Approved By: Sylvia Kirkwood, CAO