



Ma-Me-O Beach Wastewater Project Community Update February 10, 2021

Council is continuing to work with our contractors to complete a fully functioning wastewater system at Ma-Me-O Beach. The following information is presented to provide ratepayers with the most up-to-date information about the status of the system.

The system has, once again, had to be shut down for the winter. Why isn't the system working year-round as expected?

Our piping system which is the same as many others in the province is functioning properly but the electrical heat tracing system installed to prevent freezing in our shallow-buried system has failed. The system has had to be shut down again this winter to avoid an unplanned freezing of the wastewater lines while it is in use, and any related problems.

What has been done to ensure that any freezing that does occur doesn't damage the pipes in the system?

The system was de-watered in the fall to reduce ice accumulation in the pipes. This was also done to enable an earlier restart of the system in the spring. The piping system is composed of an especially robust polyethylene known as HDPE. HDPE pipe is not damaged by freezing.

What's being done to find out what went wrong with the heating tracing components and to fix it?

An investigation by an independent third party has been done to determine the causes of the failure. A scope of work is now being prepared and a tender for the repair work is expected to be issued this month. Once the project has been awarded to a qualified contractor, the rehabilitation work will begin.

If the heat tracing system didn't work the first time, what is being done to ensure it will work this time?

A very high level of supervision will occur at every stage of the rehabilitation to ensure that all of the design requirements of the contract are met. The contractor awarded the project will be expected to begin work as soon as the weather allows. Once that work begins, supervision will be put in place. An engineering construction supervision firm will be engaged to supervise all work as it is being done.

Repairs of this magnitude come with a cost. Who pays for those costs?

Under the original contract for the system, the satisfactory quality of the work done by the contractor was guaranteed by a Performance Bond. That Bond has now been called upon to secure payment for costs that are incurred during the rehabilitation of the system. The bonding company is entitled to defer honouring the bond until the arbitration is concluded. The process of that arbitration has now begun.

When will the results of that arbitration be known? What is being done to facilitate it?

The Arbitration is scheduled for November of this year. The rehabilitation work is planned to be completed prior to then so that the Summer Village can advance a claim for its costs in the arbitration.

If all the work has to be done before the total costs associated with the heat trace failure can be assessed and claimed from the responsible parties, where will the money to pay for the rehabilitation come from?

In the interim, the Summer Village will be required to carry the costs of the rehabilitation. To pay those costs, Council has approved an interim financing bylaw and is actively seeking additional grants and other forms of funding.

Is the system expected to be back on line this spring?

Yes. Once the risk of freezing has passed, the system will be re-activated and will continue to work through the summer as designed. Rehabilitation of the heat tracing system over the summer season will not interfere with the wastewater flows.