

# A Regional Approach to Asset Management and Infrastructure Planning

The WaterWolf District Planning Commission (WaterWolf) is leading the way in bringing communities together. By sharing information among our member municipalities, we can provide the best possible quality of life for those who live and work in our region. Through continued municipal co-operation and resource sharing, WaterWolf has addressed regional needs in community planning, resource management, capacity building, and sharing of common services. Our approach toward regional collaboration was recognized in 2019 with a Saskatchewan Municipal Award for regional asset management.

In order to bring value to our member communities and leverage the momentum and collaboration within the region, WaterWolf recently submitted a funding application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for additional asset management training. We are pleased to share with you that [our application was successful](#), and we are now in the early stages of reaching out to our member communities to share the opportunity and confirm interest in participating in the new FCM funded project.

## Project Background

### **Regional Asset Management Project (October 2016 – November 2017)**

WaterWolf employed a regional 'group learning' approach to work collaboratively and support the development of unique asset management plans for 15 participating communities. A series of interactive workshops were facilitated with representatives from the participating WaterWolf member communities - enabling each community to develop a meaningful draft asset management policy and plan tailored to their individual needs. The workshops took participants through a step-by-step process to develop asset management plans

that cover all major asset classes owned by their community. This project was undertaken to support participating communities meet the requirements of the Municipal Gas Tax Fund Agreement prior to March 31, 2018,

### **Asset Management Initiatives (November 2018 – December 2019)**

Following the completion of the initial cohort of the Regional Asset Management Project, 12 member communities, in collaboration with WaterWolf, were successful in securing FCM funding through the Municipal Asset Management Program to deliver on the following initiatives:

- **GIS Database Development** – converting asset and infrastructure information from paper-based mapping and record drawings, hand sketches, and field information into a web-based GIS platform.
- **Asset Field Data Collection** – collecting detailed information for above ground assets through the use of a hand held GPS device. The data was then incorporated into the GIS database and participating communities were trained in the use of the online platform to access and update their data.
- **Asset Management Implementation Workshops** – building off the success of the initial asset management study and workshops, a second phase of workshops were held to develop strategies to implement their asset management plans. Topics included visualization tools for asset management plans to support communication with Council and community members, long-term capital planning, and how to incorporate asset management plans in the annual budgeting processes.





## The Opportunity

### The Next “Cohort” of Asset Management Initiatives

WaterWolf continues to strive to contribute to the betterment of asset management practices and regional collaboration for small and rural communities in Saskatchewan. In 2019, WaterWolf submitted a Municipal Asset Management Partnership grant application to FCM and was successfully awarded 80% of requested funding. The application was made in response to growing interest in the asset management program initiatives among WaterWolf member communities. This funding will allow WaterWolf to expand the reach of the asset management program through two main activities:

1. Asset management for 12 member communities who are just getting started on their asset management journey – including policy, strategy and plan development (workshops and group learning)
2. Asset management awareness building intended for all WaterWolf member communities (a series of workshops and short duration webinars)

Between July 2020 and June 2021, a series of in-person workshops, webinars, and independent work within respective communities will be undertaken to advance asset management programs in all interested WaterWolf communities.

All WaterWolf member communities are encouraged to participate in the 2020/2021 cohort. As noted previously, the FCM grant will cover 80% of project expenses, and 20% will be the responsibility of the collective participating communities.



For more information or to participate in the project, please contact Brandy Losie at 306-644-2097 or [waterwolf.sec@gmail.com](mailto:waterwolf.sec@gmail.com).

