

Canadian Water Network's 
Canadian Municipal Water Consortium

COVID-19 Peer-sharing – Water Utility Management Response

June 12, 2020

1:00-2:00 pm EDT

Microsoft Teams

As parts of the country slowly begin to re-open, new challenges are emerging with respect to how business-as-usual approaches need to change due to COVID-19. CWN is hosting and facilitating a series of online meetings with members of the Municipal Consortium Leadership Group from across Canada to discuss water utility management response. The sharing of this knowledge enables quick learning and adaptation by municipal water leaders to the current challenges being faced by the sector.

Meeting Objectives:

1. Exchange ideas and approaches for planning and prioritizing service delivery, including:
 - a. Ensuring the health and safety of utility staff and the public.
 - b. New/evolving approaches to delivering water, wastewater, and stormwater services.
 - c. Better understanding how to emerge from the COVID-19 lockdown safely and effectively.

Terms of Participation:

This call will be hosted and facilitated like our *Strategic Sharing Groups*.

We are expecting many participants on the call from across Canada and want to ensure everyone can meaningfully participate. As such, at the beginning of the meeting we will pose the question/topic for discussion and briefly cycle through all those in attendance to provide input during the discussion to ensure everyone has an opportunity to share in an orderly manner.

CWN staff will capture the information shared and will collate notes that can be uploaded to the Members area of the CWN website for broader consumption among the Consortium Leadership Group. As a reminder, the information shared should be considered confidential and we ask that it only be shared within your own municipality.

Agenda:

Discussion Format:

- Please consider the discussion points outlined in the agenda below to bring forward the ideas and approaches your utility is using to ensure services continue.
- Q&A: Please enter your questions in the chat box during each session. We will moderate the questions asked, and either read-out or 'hand the mic' to those who have posed a question (time permitting).

Agenda: COVID-19 Peer-sharing – Water Utility Management Response	
Friday June 12, 2020 1:00 – 2:30 pm EDT	
1:00 – 1:10 pm	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review call structure, update on action items, reaching out to your neighboring municipalities
1:10 – 1:30 pm	<p>Topic 1: Rapid Fire Roundtable - Re-opening</p> <p>Scaling up was mentioned on an earlier call to be potentially more challenging than going into lockdown. Please share with the group your insights into the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> So far, what are the biggest challenges of re-opening for your municipality/utility and how is it being addressed? What is working well with re-opening services at your municipality/utility? Do you have a retraction plan if/when a second wave hits and what are the main elements of your retraction plan? <p>Roundtable will go through participants on the call from east to west. Please gather your thoughts to share with the group.</p>
1:30 – 1:50 pm	<p>Topic 2: Rapid Fire Roundtable - What opportunities are you considering for stimulus funding to ensure your utility is future-ready?</p> <p>Stimulus funding may come for infrastructure projects but how might we look at this as an opportunity for achieving co-benefits for other key social, economic and environmental initiatives such as equity and affordability, job creation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What shovel-ready or shovel-worthy projects do you have now and in the near future and are those plans acknowledging co-benefits? How has COVID-19 changed the intentions/desired outcomes of currently planned projects? What are you considering now that you weren't considering pre-pandemic? What potential co-benefits could be captured through infrastructure investments in your utility/municipality? <p>Roundtable will go through participants on the call from west to east. Please gather your thoughts to share with the group.</p> <p>POLL: What is your municipality/utility's current approach to its capital expenditure plan? Continue as planned; Scale back; Put on hold</p>
1:50 – 1:55 pm	<p>COVID-19 Wastewater Coalition update</p>
1:55 – 2:00 pm	<p>Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Meeting TBD