

M A N I T O B A                    )  
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THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT    )    Order No. 57/11  
  )    April 18, 2011

BEFORE:   Graham Lane, CA, Chairman  
            Monica Girouard, CGA, Member  
            Susan Proven, P.H.Ec., Member

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSSER  
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROCKWOOD  
LAGOON TIPPING FEES

### **Executive Summary**

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) confirms and finalizes lagoon tipping fees and other charges for the Rockwood Rosser Wastewater Treatment Lagoon (Lagoon), which is owned by the Rural Municipalities of Rosser (Rosser) and Rockwood (Rockwood).

Rates have been effective as of January 1, 2011:

	<b>FINAL</b>
Initial Access Fee	\$150.00
Annual Licence Fee	\$ 50.00
Disposal Fee based on 85% capacity of the septic tank	\$1.50/kilolitre
July 1, 2011	\$2.00/kilolitre
January 1, 2012	\$2.50/kilolitre
Remote Replacement (to open the gate for the lagoon)	\$100.00

Finalization follows public notice of the rates (provided by both municipalities through publishing in local newspapers and posting in various locations in the municipalities). The notice provided those affected by the lagoon rates to make their concerns known to the Board by February 15, 2011; no concerns were expressed.

### **Background**

In Order 146/10, the Board provided interim *ex parte* approval of an application by the two municipalities for lagoon tipping fees and other charges. Order 146/10 can be viewed on the Board's website: [www.pub.gov.mb.ca](http://www.pub.gov.mb.ca).

## Application

Rosser and Rockwood applied to the Board to establish initial tipping fees for the Lagoon (a component of the Grosse Isle Rural Regional Water system).

The lagoon is located in Rosser and its construction was jointly funded involving Rockwood. Rosser is responsible for day-to-day operations, including the collection of fees and reports. The Environmental Licence was issued to Rosser.

The RMs proposed the following rates:

	<b>Proposed</b>
Initial Access Fee	\$150.00
Annual Licence Fee	\$ 50.00
<b>Disposal Fee Based on 85% of septic tank capacity</b>	
2010	\$1.50/kilolitre
January 1, 2011	\$2.00/kilolitre
January 1, 2012	\$2.50/kilolitre
Remote Replacement	\$100.00

Prior to filing the application, the RMs sought feedback from septic haulers and, subsequently, advised the Board that, as a result of feedback received, the charge sought was based on 85% of truck capacity, rather than 100% (truck tanks cannot be filled to 100% capacity due to the float in the tank).

The RMs report that, in addition to the cost of daily operations of the lagoon, the Utility will have the following major expenses:

Monitor Camera - \$3,500

Rip Rap Lagoon - \$211,000

Drainage Study - \$36,000 (over a five year period)

The monitoring camera is to be purchased in 2011, and the rip rap will be installed over a period of years (the timing determined by available funds).

The RMs estimate the volume of septage to be 17,105 kilolitres per year, and forecast annual revenues of \$21,808.

Septage dumped into the lagoon is to arise only be from customers located within the RMs (of Rosser and Rockwood).

The RMs note that charging a fee for the lagoon is a new concept and suggested starting with the rate of \$1.50 per kilolitre. Considering the maintenance and improvements to be completed, the RMs propose to increase the rate incrementally, this to be in a better position to determine if the rate of \$2.50 per kilolitre is sufficient to undertake the required maintenance and improvements.

### **Board Findings**

From the information submitted, the Board will confirm interim rates to be final. The Board will also approve incremental increases as well, to be effective as follows:

July 1, 2011	\$2.00/kilolitre
January 1, 2012	\$2.50/kilolitre

The Board requires the municipalities to monitor usage, related expenses and revenues (of the lagoon) to ensure rates are adequate, and will require a report summarizing the experience be filed with the Board following a full year of operating with the now approved 2012 rates.

Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, or reviewed in accordance with Section 36 of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. Lagoon tipping fees and other charges, noted herein BE AND ARE HEREBY APPROVED as final.
2. The Rural Municipalities of Rosser and Rockwood file a copy of their respective by-laws with rates, as approved herein, with the Public Utilities Board once the respective by-laws have received third and final reading (to take place by May 31, 2011).
3. The Rural Municipalities of Rosser and Rockwood provide notice to customers (to be vetted in advance of issuance by the Public Utilities Board) of the rates by May 31, 2011.
4. The Municipalities of Rosser and Rockwood submit a report to the Public Utilities Board with respect to usage, related expenses and revenues of the lagoon, and comments as to the adequacy of rates by May 15, 2013.

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Fees payable upon this Order - \$350.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"GRAHAM LANE, CA"

Chairman

"KRISTINE SHIELDS"

Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No.  
57/11 issued by The Public Utilities  
Board

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Acting Secretary