

Practice Name:**Date Created:** 26-May-09**Author:****Last Updated:****Abstract:****GENERAL INFORMATION**

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| Name of Practice | Water Supply Partnership, NBC |
| Date | 30-June-08 |
| Name of Municipality | Village of Nobleford |
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THE ISSUE**Abstract:**

What is the practice you developed or are developing (brief abstract)?

Please briefly describe the final practice developed. (e.g. if you developed a new Council agenda, list the agenda items, or if a new communications plan was created, provide a summary of the plan's goals, objectives and highlights.)

As of 2006, the village of Nobleford's new state-of-the-art PALL water treatment plant was in full operation. This plant has helped guarantee a quality water supply for Nobleford for many years into the future. Surrounding municipalities, recognizing their need for improved water, entered into discussions with Nobleford that resulted in an agreement for Nobleford to provide potable water, via a 16 km long pipeline, that would pass through the County of Lethbridge to the Village of Barons.

Village of Nobleford, Village of Barons and County of Lethbridge (NBC) developed a regional water pipeline in partnership with the Province of Alberta WATER FOR LIFE program.

Need:

Please describe (just a couple of sentences or bullet points) why you needed to create this practice (policy or process).

What issue made it necessary? (e.g. “We needed a comprehensive plan to deal with...”, or “We needed an annual forecasting tool because...”)

Barons water supply was of poor quality and increasing operation costs were an issue.

County of Lethbridge residents desired potable water for their farms.

The Village of Nobleford wished to increase efficiency and effectiveness of its existing PALL water treatment plant as well as upgrade its raw water reservoirs.

CREATING YOUR PRACTICE

Research:

How did you obtain information to help design your practice (including consultation with stakeholders, formal and informal research)?

Please include any research documentation you can share, or give us a source reference (e.g. Web site, literature, “We reviewed the bylaws from other municipalities in the area...”).

Process:

How did you go about designing your practice? For instance, did you create a team, hire a consultant, borrow something ready-made from another jurisdiction?

Describe briefly who did the design work and what process they followed.

MPE engineering was hired to study water issues in the area as well as the concept of a regional raw water pipeline.

A team including municipal councillors, administration operators and engineers from each partner was formed to develop the project. Nobleford was appointed the manager of the project. MPE designed the entire project.

GETTING APPROVAL FOR YOUR PRACTICE

Authority:

Whose/what approval did you need to create and implement the practice?

Reporting:

How did you inform the decision-maker(s) about the practice and your need for their approval?

Please note the name of any documents provided to the decision-makers that you would be willing to share.

Consultation:

Did you consult with stakeholders as part of your approval process?

If so, how? If possible, attach a copy of templates, surveys or other documents you used as part of your consultation.

IMPLEMENTING YOUR PRACTICE**Plan:**

Describe the process you went through to implement the practice. If you used an implementation plan, please note it here.

Policy:

What changes to bylaws, regulations or procedures were needed to implement this practice and how did you deal with them?

Please attach a copy of the change in bylaw, policy or procedure.

When:

When did your municipality begin to use the practice?
Was it implemented all at once or in stages?

Who:

Who was responsible for implementing the practice?

If someone else is responsible for ongoing management, who is it?

RESOURCES REQUIRED**Budget:**

How much did it cost you to design and implement your practice (i.e. We saved/spent \$XX per year)?

What are your ongoing operational and capital costs, if

The original NBC water project was budgeted at \$7 million dollars. The completed project was delivered on time and under that budget.

any?

Staff:

What human resources did you need to design, implement and manage your practice? (e.g. "It took X staff member (s) X months on this" or "This is part of normal staff duties.")

No additional staff were hired by any partner. Nobleford committed significant time from their administration to manage the project, working closely with MPE Engineering and Cox, Parcon and LW Deniss contractors.

Infrastructure:

What "capital costs" (such as information technology, other equipment or building assets) did you need to design, implement, manage, and/or evaluate your practice?

2 new raw water reservoirs, new raw water pumps, new raw water line to the water treatment plant (WTP), new back wash reservoir, upgraded WTP in Nobleford, 16 km of new underground potable water pipeline from Nobleford through the County of Lethbridge to Barons.

EVALUATING YOUR PRACTICE

Formal:

If you did a formal evaluation (e.g. user satisfaction survey, analysis of annual expenditures or number of rate payers served) for your practice, please describe the evaluation tool and the process used.

Tell us who was involved.

Informal:

If you did an informal evaluation, describe what you did (such as discussing the practice with people in the office or on the street, or letters/comments received).

Performance measures:

Please list the performance measures for this practice (i.e. reduced number of complaints, money saved, or change in equipment life expectancy.)

Please list the process you used for measuring performance, (i.e. We do annual surveys on...) examples include:

- collecting data
- establishing a baseline
- applying the measures
- results
- follow up

Changes:

(a) Based on the evaluation (formal or informal), describe any changes you have made, or would like to make, to your practice as a result. (e.g. "After implementing this practice, we decided that it would be better if...")

- A significant reduction in the number of water quality and quantity complaints received by Barons from its residences. Customer satisfaction is high to say the least.
- Barons now meets today's standards of water quality as set out by Alberta Environment.
- All partners are benefiting from the sharing of staff to operate the system therefore reducing costs.

This practice experienced no significant problems. The cooperation between all partners was exemplary. The only change is that we should have done this sooner.

This practice has met expectations.

-or-

(b) Has your practice met your expectations and if so, how?

LESSONS LEARNED / BENEFITS RECEIVED

Benefits:

What are the benefits of this practice to your municipality? (eg. Preparation of Council agenda packages now requires less time, etc.)

Benefits of this project and partnership:

- 1 - Abundant quality water for all
- 2 - Reduced operating costs
- 3 - Reduced maintenance costs
- 4 - Modern systems reduce manpower hours on site.

Key Lessons:

What key lessons have you/your municipality learned through the process of:

- designing;
- obtaining approval;
- implementing; and
- evaluating your practice?

Sharing planning and design is effective if there is an identifiable benefit to partnering.

Alberta Government approvals are easily obtained if complete, concise plans and designs are in place and you act with integrity.

Include any problems, surprises, and unanticipated benefits. (e.g. "We realized that we needed to spend more time...")

Advice to Municipal Peers:

What advice would you give to another municipality that is considering adopting your practice? Is there anything you might have done differently?

Advice to other municipalities would include:

- 1 - Water is the most valuable natural resource you have, education is another.
- 2 - Turning raw water into potable water is very expensive, therefore, share with others and your costs will go down and benefits will increase.
- 3 - Avoid turning partnerships into legal battles or you all end up being losers. Sit down and discuss mutual benefits and establish fair value to each benefit. It is not negotiation, it is respectful integrity. If there is no mutual benefit, move on, move over, or get out of the way.

PRACTICE UPDATES

New Information:

There may be some new information to add since this practice was first posted. This is especially true if:

- a new process has been implemented in your municipality;
- there are new practice evaluation results; or
- there has been a change affecting organizational direction. For example, explain how new economic conditions or a new vision/strategy affect the practice.

Please indicate those changes here. Don't forget to list any

new documents that may be useful to your peers. Then go to "Other Information" to attach the new documents.

Attached summary note:

In 2006 the Village of Nobleford's new state-of-the-art PALL water treatment plant was in full operation. This plant has helped guarantee a quality water supply for Nobleford for many years into the future. Surrounding municipalities, recognizing their need for improved water, entered into discussions with Nobleford that resulted in an agreement for Nobleford to provide potable water, via a 16 km long pipeline, that would pass through the County of Lethbridge to the Village of Barons.

The multi-million dollar project would include construction of two new 50 million gallon raw water reservoirs, new pipeline and supply pumps as well as upgrades to increase the capacity of the Nobleford treatment plant, and then the pipeline to Barons as well as upgrades to the Barons water facility. Due to unprecedented cooperation between the municipalities of Nobleford, Barons and the County of Lethbridge the project is near completion.

Due to the successful partnerships, the Alberta Government Water for Life program funded 93% of the project. Nobleford and Barons were project managers with MPE engineering and three contractors, GW Cox, L.W. Dennis and Parcon constructing the project on time and under budget.

The impact of this collaborative partnership project will allow a future that would not be available without quality water. Now people will have opportunity to live, build business and play with hope for the future. There will be an increase in effectiveness and efficiencies realized in areas such as staffing, equipment, utilities.

Small rural Alberta communities cannot be sustainable without quality water. Without water rural Alberta would fade away. In order to afford the privilege of water, mutually beneficial cooperative partnerships seeking success are the best way to provide higher quality of life to rural Alberta. Without question, because of the success of this project there will be

OTHER INFORMATION**Suggestions:**

Please list relevant information sources that others might use or you would be willing to share (courses, Web sites, literature, experts).

Documents & Attachments:

Water and Nobleford article

Please attach (using the "Browse" button below) any documents you would be willing to share with others interested in your practice (e.g. a bylaw, a policy, approval documents, templates).

* Note: If you do not have an electronic copy of a document, please send Municipal Excellence a paper copy for scanning to:

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Municipal Excellence Network
17th Floor, Commerce Place
10155-102 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5J 4L4

Nominations:

Do you have any suggestions of other individuals or municipalities with municipal practices that we should add to the Municipal Excellence network? Please list their practice, municipality, and contact information.

Or, e-mail menet@gov.ab.ca and let us know about a municipal colleague that has a really good way of doing things.

COMMENTS

Have we missed something; anything you'd like to add to the areas we have touched on, or an area we have not mentioned?