



# Update: Reinfeld/Schanzenfeld Sewer Proposal

October 2020

Dear Property Owner:

We hope you had a great summer and were able to make the most of the beautiful weather. Let's hope we can have a nice long fall season before winter sets in!

While these past few months have been challenging on many levels, the RM has continued working on a number of projects affecting the future of our community. One of those projects is the question of whether sewer services should be introduced to Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld, the two largest communities in Stanley.

In the coming weeks, we will be reaching out to you again with a more detailed proposal and to hear your thoughts. Your input will help us determine whether we should proceed with this project.

Meanwhile, here's a quick update on our progress.

## Factors we've been considering

**Community intentions:** Last fall, we conducted a community survey to gather initial feedback on the idea of a new wastewater system for these two villages. We also received many letters, phone calls and emails. Based on this feedback, we understand that each property owner is in a unique position when it comes to sewer. Some property owners are looking for a sewer connection immediately, some would want to connect in the next few years and some question why a sewer system is proposed at all.

**Financial considerations:** At the same time, we know that there are compelling reasons to develop a sewer plan now – including the fact that there may never be a more affordable time to build one. Federal/provincial infrastructure grants could make it possible to construct connections to the new Winkler wastewater treatment plant for as little as 27% of what we would normally need to spend. If the RM's grant application is approved, and if residents are interested, it's important that we have a clear picture of how we would want to proceed.

**Future needs:** We are also mindful of new developments on the horizon for Schanzenfeld and Reinfeld. As provincial waste management regulations regarding septic field repair and replacement become increasingly stringent, a sewer system would be an important way to help these communities to move forward into the future.

## Where we are at now

With all of these factors in mind, we've spent considerable time discussing different options with government officials and the engineers advising us on this project. We now have a firmer idea of costs and time frames for various scenarios, as well as how we could assist property owners through implementation – should the project go forward.

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Our priorities for the proposal taking shape are:

**Flexibility for property owners:** An ideal plan would work for all property owners, including those who would want a connection immediately, those who would plan to connect in the near future, and those who would prefer to wait quite some time. Currently, provincial regulations say properties must connect within five years of a new sewer system being built. We're working with our MLAs and provincial government departments to seek a much longer time period. Because many septic fields in the area are newer and functioning well, we think there is a strong case for extending the timing.

**Keeping the price affordable:** If a sewer system is built, it will need to be affordable and sustainable. We've been looking at all options in consultation with the Manitoba Water Services Board and other municipalities, and are working hard on ideas to bring down the costs for property owners. Incentives for early connection would be part of the plan.

### Next stage of public consultation

Soon we'll provide more details and invite questions so you can provide informed feedback on this proposal.

**Mail-out package:** Later this fall, we'll mail out an information package on the type of sewer system proposed and the rationale behind it. It will explain costs, timing and other details.

**Feedback form:** The mail-out package will include a feedback form, which will ask you to share your thoughts on the proposal. Your responses will be very helpful as Council determines whether the project should move ahead. You will be able to mail in the paper copy, using the postage-paid envelope provided, or you can complete it online.

**In-person information sessions:** We will also hold a series of information sessions in Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld so that you can meet in person with RM representatives and others involved in our planning. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and gain clarity about different aspects of the proposal. Due to current group size restrictions, pre-registration will be required for these meetings. We will provide more details soon.

**Thanks again for sharing the views and ideas that help us move forward.**

### Learn more

Visit the project webpage: [www.rmofstanley.ca/sewerproject](http://www.rmofstanley.ca/sewerproject). We hope you will also sign up for the Connect news service so you can get all of the latest updates.

### Comments or questions?

Please contact the RM office at any time:

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