

July 8, 2010



City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor & Council

Fr: Richard Perchuk, Manager of Operations

Re: NOMA Resolution - Bill 13: Water and Waste Water Systems

Recommendation:

That the Council of the City of Kenora endorses the resolution received from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) regarding their opposition to Bill 13: Sustainable Water and Waste Water Systems Improvement and Maintenance Act, 2010; and further,

That if adopted Administration be directed to forward Council's resolution to the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment.

Background:

The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) is requesting support for the Resolution "Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association Resolution Bill 13: Water and Wastewater Systems" passed at the June 2010 meeting, see attached.

Bill 13 is an Act to sustain and encourage improvement in Ontario's water and waste water services and to establish the Ontario Water Board.

This is a Private Members Bill from David Caplan which has only had its First Reading on March 23, 2010.

The purpose of the Act is:

- to ensure that public ownership of water services and waste water services is maintained;
- to promote full-cost recovery and full-cost accounting of water services and waste water services;
- to encourage an increase in scale and capacity in the provision of water services and waste water services to minimize costs to the public;
- to improve transparency in the provision of water services and waste water services to the public through the establishment of publicly-owned corporations; and

- to create an independent economic regulator with the expertise and authority to administer this Act.

The Act provides for the creation of a Water Board that's mandate is to protect the consumer guided by the following objectives:

1. To protect the interests of consumers with respect to prices and the adequacy, reliability and quality of water services and waste water services.
2. To promote economic efficiency and cost effectiveness in the provision of water services and waste water services and to facilitate the maintenance of a financially viable water and waste water industry.
3. To promote water conservation and demand management in a manner consistent with the policies of the Government of Ontario.

The duties of the Board are to include reviewing business plans, certification and charge for service as well as administration of progress reports, contract templates and the holding of hearings. Also, the Board will act as a resource for the Minister for questions received directly and for the provision of information and advice regarding urgent and critical matters that are likely to require action.

It should also be noted the cost to run the Board shall be paid by operators of water and waste water systems.

Municipalities in Northwestern Ontario have demonstrated their ability to deliver safe potable water according to approved guidelines of the Province of Ontario and the distance between Northwestern Ontario municipalities will be an obstacle in the efficient operation of a Water Board.

I recommend Council endorse the position taken by NOMA for the Government of Ontario to not provide any support for Bill 13, Sustainable Water and Waste Water System Improvement and Maintenance Act, 2010.

Budget: N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

Resolution required.

Distribution: R. Perchuk, W. Ortlieb