



YARMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

REPORT TO COUNCIL, March 9, 2021

RESPONSE TO WATER SITUATION

BACKGROUND:

The issues of water shortage really began in 2016, continued in 2018 and we were saved by a major hurricane in 2019 which dropped over 120 mm of rain that summer. Last summer, 2020, the number of residents experiencing water shortage issues grew as well as the distribution of drinking water which proved to be very costly to the two municipalities, Argyle and Yarmouth. Both Barrington and Shelburne experienced the same issues with the lack of rainfall to various degrees.

REMO RESPONSE:

1. Due to the presence of COVID 19, we initiated the coupon program for both MODY and MODA in order to keep residents away from fire departments for health safety issues.
2. The Mariner's Centre was opened up to the public for non-potable water. GSR and fire department volunteers were tasked to pump water into residents' containers and Covid 19 regulations were adhered to. On an average 35-40, 1000 litre tanks were filled daily.
3. The well in West Pubnico, on the d'Entremont Road was opened up and used by mostly residents from West and East Pubnico. On an average 15 -21, 1000 litre tanks were filled daily.
4. There was an overwhelming response to the coupon program which proved very expensive.
5. We initiated a request to the Province to supply drinking water and at that point approached the fire departments to open their doors to the public to provide drinking water. This was done on a weekly basis at the 13 fire departments in Yarmouth County as well at the Mariner's Centre. Covid 19 regulations were again adhered to and Covid tracking was initiated. At this point we ended the coupon program.
6. We had discussions with both Dalhousie and NSCC engineers regarding alternative way to capture and conserve water as well as the senior hydrogeologist for the Province of NS.
7. We looked at various possible sites to drill wells within the Municipality of Argyle, assessing their value and service to various communities. Locations were identified. (see attached).
8. We accessed the possibility and value of the addition of a holding tank for any drilled well to increase its capacity.
9. The well loan program itself has almost reached the \$500,000 limit.