

**Order No. 61/17**

**AN ORDER RESPECTING THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOODLANDS  
WOODLANDS WASTEWATER UTILITY  
INTERIM LAGOON TIPPING FEES**

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**June 9, 2017**

**BEFORE: The Hon. Anita Neville, P.C., B.A. (Hons.), Acting Chair  
Carol Hainsworth, C.B.A., Member  
Allan Morin, B.A., ICD.D, Member**

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves, on an interim *ex parte* basis, initial tipping fees applied for by the Rural Municipality of Woodlands (RM), Woodland wastewater utility (Utility).

The new rates are to be effective as of June 30, 2017.

The approved rates are shown below.

Lagoon tipping fee (per load)	\$13.00
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Rationale for the PUB's decisions may be found under "Board Findings".

## 2.0 Background

The RM operates two utilities; a water and wastewater utility in Warren and a wastewater utility in Woodlands. Each of these utilities is operated separately.

The Woodlands wastewater utility last had rates approved in Board Order No. 138/12. At that time the lagoon was at capacity, and did not allow any truck hauling of septic waste. The RM advised it planned to expand the lagoon and the PUB instructed the RM to apply for approval of tipping fees once it had the capacity to accept outside haulers.

### 3.0 Application

The Board received a letter from the RM on March 22, 2017 requesting initial lagoon tipping fees of \$13.00 per load for the Utility. The RM has requested that the rates be approved on an interim *ex parte* basis.

The RM advised that the proposed rate is based on the rate currently being charged for lagoon tipping fees at the Warren lagoon. The RM requested that the PUB approve the same tipping fee in order to fairly accommodate its residents in both Warren and Woodlands.

The RM is currently pursuing a new low pressure sewer forcemain line in Woodlands. The project must be completed before March 2018 to qualify for grant funds. Once complete, the RM is expecting to complete a new rate study to determine proper rates for commercial users of the new wastewater line.

## 4.0 Board Findings

The Board will on an interim *ex parte* basis, approve the initial lagoon tipping fees as applied for by the Rural Municipality of Woodlands, Woodlands Utility, to be effective as of June 30, 2017.

In some cases, the Board establishes interim rates, which are rates that are subject to review following a more complete process. When setting initial rates, the Board will often approve interim rates, as applied for. These are then confirmed as final once there is sufficient information about the utility to provide accurate projections for rate setting purposes. In the case of the Woodlands Utility, the Board found this to be the appropriate way to move forward, given the requested rate is the same as that currently being charged for using the Warren lagoon.

## 5.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The lagoon tipping fees for the Rural Municipality of Woodlands, Woodlands wastewater Utility, BE AND ARE HEREBY APPROVED on an interim *ex parte* basis, effective June 30, 2017.
2. The Rural Municipality of Woodlands submit the sewer rate by-law for the Woodlands Sewer Utility once it has been updated to reflect the changes approved in this Board Order and had third and final reading, to Public Utilities Board.

Fees payable upon this Order - \$150.00

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. The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"The Hon. Anita Neville, P.C., B.A. (Hons.)"  
Acting Chair

"JENNIFER DUBOIS, CPA, CMA"  
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 61/17 issued  
by The Public Utilities Board

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Acting Secretary