

Resolution 1D

EXAMINE VIABILITY OF SMALL WATER UTILITIES (PASSED)

⇒ County of Colchester

WHEREAS the federal and provincial standards and regulation for water treatment and distribution infrastructure and facilities has resulted in significant cost increases that have resulted in significant water rate increases; and

WHEREAS the standards may not adequately consider the viability of smaller urban and rural water utilities with respect to insufficient economies of scale and settlement patterns; and

WHEREAS out migration from smaller rural communities will threaten the potential for smaller water utilities to remain viable; and

WHEREAS increased water costs to customers will reduce economic competitiveness and make it more difficult for families to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS the UNSM has identified the need for regulations to be flexible and risk based;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UNSM establish a committee to examine the viability of small water utilities to identify strategies and approaches to improve their viability, including consideration of the development of risk based regulatory framework related to both the capital and operating cost structure.

OUTCOME:

UNSM will work with SNSMR to set up working group to address this issue.