# Regional Water Operator Program

Clean and Safe Drinking Water Workshop 2014 Churence Rogers, Mayor CWT

## Regionalization Concept

- What is regionalization?
  - Sharing of services & human resources by municipalities in a geographic area.

#### **The Application Process**

- Initiative of the Bonavista North Joint Council
- Proposal submitted to the Department of Municipal Affairs to assist with hiring an individual to help manage and maintain water systems throughout the Bonavista North Loop road region
- > 90/10 cost-share funding
- Municipality financial contribution based on a per captia share
- One year pilot project

#### **Project Rationale**

Benefits of a regional water operator include:

- better trained maintenance personnel in each individual town
- cost savings in regular repairs through implementation of maintenance program
- safer and more efficient water systems
- improved emergency response times to repair water systems in event of equipment failure or shut down

## **Participating Municipalities**

- All towns within the Bonavista North Loop road region were invited to participate
- ~50% of municipalities agreed to participate in project
- > Participating municipalities included:
  - Centreville-Wareham-Trinity (pop. ~ 1120)
  - Carmanville (pop. ~ 750)
  - Musgrave Harbour (pop. ~ 1080)
  - New-Wes-Valley (pop. ~2480)
  - Dover (pop. ~ 690)

## **Types of Water Systems**

- Variety of different types of water systems being operated in these municipalities
- A few of the municipalities operate more than one system as a result of amalgamation processes (CWT and New-Wes-Valley)
- All systems use surface water supplies as their source water
- 1 hypochlorite system, 1 water treatment plant, remaining systems gas chlorination with filtration and pH treatment

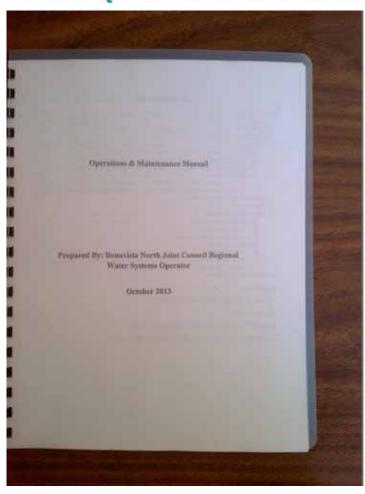
## **Key Objectives of Project**

- Regional water operator will be responsible for:
  - Constantly monitoring all water systems
  - Complete regular maintenance and provide assistance with resolving issues that arise within the water systems
  - Conduct an evaluation of each system's functionality and recommend upgrades
  - Instruct maintenance staff on importance of a proper and regular maintenance program
  - Recommend preventative maintenance methods and programs

#### **Project Results**

- Development of a *Maintenance and Operations Manual* for each individual town
- Improved recordkeeping and monitoring of water distribution systems
- Identification of equipment deficiencies
- Increased training opportunities
  - Coordinated on-site training sessions with Jim Pollett offered through Dept. of Environment (including sessions on fire hydrant maintenance, disinfection, hypo-chlorination, gas chlorination, leak detection and distribution system flushing)
  - Certifications obtained by some of the current municipal maintenance personnel

## Operations and Maintenance Manual (O & M Manual)



#### Purpose of O & M Manual

- A tool to aid municipalities in establishing and implementing procedures and practices that will ensure delivery of a safe and reliable water supply to consumers.
- Reduce repair costs by implementing a regular maintenance and monitoring program

## **Highlights of O & M Manual**

#### Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)

➤ Water Main Flushing & Disinfection, Hydrant Maintenance, O & M of Pocket Colorimeter, HACH Secondary Standards Verification, Changing Chlorine Cylinders, O & M of Chlorine Gas Sensors, O & M of SCBA, O & M of Water System Valves, O & M of Storage Tanks, Boil Order Procedures

#### Record-keeping Forms

Routine monitoring and maintenance

#### Disinfection Procedures

## **Highlights Continued**

#### Preventative Maintenance Procedures

Site specific equipment maintenance, valve maintenance, hydrant maintenance, corrosion control, leak detection, cross connections, storage tank maintenance

#### Water Quality Review

- ➤ Bacteriological and chemical parameters
- ➤ Review conducted on both internal data and 10 years of water quality monitoring conducted by the Department of Environment & Conservation
- ➤ Highlighted parameters outside guidelines (**GCDWQ**) for each municipality based on this review
- ➤ Discussed with each municipality significance of each exceedence and what if any action should be taken in response to parameters outside guidelines

#### **Future Direction?**