



GRAND VALLEY

STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Meghan Townsend, CAO/Clerk
Meeting Date: March 24, 2026
Report Number: 2026-039
Subject: Bulk Water Program

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the report Bulk Water Program

AND THAT Council direct staff to proceed with option three (3), increase the administration fee for “per occasion” connections to \$150, and establish a separate bulk water fee of \$5.00/m³

AND THAT Council direct staff to include this fee in the next update to the Town’s Fee and Charges By-law.

Executive Summary

Purpose

To present information to Council regarding the current and potential bulk water program and to present options for establishing a more appropriate fee and program structure.

Key Findings

Current residential water rates are not appropriate for bulk water taking. However, costs of implementing full system will be prohibitive. Recommended to maintain status quo program, with bulk water fee of \$5.00/m³ for external water takers.

Financial Implications

- Increased revenue to fund drinking water program
- Decrease frivolous requests for access to water

Report

Background

At the December 10th, 2024, regular meeting, Council discussed private access to the town's drinking water system and requested staff to provide a recommendation regarding the taking of water by private companies.

The hydrant at the Town's Public Works Shop is currently equipped with a hydrant backflow preventor and water meter. When a bulk water request is received, staff connect the equipment and supervise the filling process. There is no designated "bulk water rate", so charges are applied using the current 2025 residential water rates. The most common use of this setup is for internal purposes, such as watering municipal plants. Town staff have also indicated that they have not received any request for bulk water in the last year but have provided water in the past.

Discussion

Staff have reviewed and discussed several options for bulk water access:

Some Considerations

- Water taken out of our drinking water system must be kept in the Grand River Watershed to maintain base flow in the river
- Shelburne, New Tecumseth, and Wellington North already have bulk water programs
- Conservation of water resources for Grand Valley Businesses and residents
- Shelburne applies a bulk water rate equal to 1.5 times the current monthly charge for a 2-inch meter, plus an additional \$5.00 per cubic meter of water used.

Option 1: Status quo

- Bulk water access continues to be permitted only for Town use or at staff discretion
- Water is charged to the project at the current residential rate
- No changes to infrastructure or administrative process

Option 2: Full Project

- Installation of a bulk water filling station. (Shown in the pictures below)
- Private companies could make accounts and access water independently
- It would require significant investment to hook up to current water tower
- Requires ongoing administration (including setting new rates, monitoring and enforcement)

- Higher capital, operating and administration cost relative to other options
- Best to do at new water tower construction
- Example Scenario to establish this program is attached as Attachment 1

Bulk Filling Station Example Photos:



Option 3: Rate Change

- Continuing current practice of Town use/staff discretion for hydrant access
- Introduce a separate “Bulk Water Rate” of \$5.00/m³ to more appropriately reflect the use of the municipal drinking water system
- Increase the Town’s administration fee for connection to the filling station from \$50.00 to \$150.00

Financial Impact

Option 1: None

Option 2: Capital cost for installation and hookups, plus increased staff time and administrative oversight

Option 3: Introduce a new “Bulk Water Rate” of \$5.00/m³ and increase administration fee to \$150.00

Consultations

Shelburne, New Tecumseth and Wellington North program information

Dufferin Water Co.

Matt Bos, Director of Public Works

Steven Freitas, Director of Finance/Treasurer

Attachments

Attachment 1: Example scenario for Option 2 program

This report was submitted by

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