



MUNICIPALITY OF  
**BOISSEVAIN  
MORTON**

# **Public Water System Annual Report**

**-2020-**

Prepared By:

Doug Harper, Operator-in-Charge

## **Municipality of Boissevain-Morton**

### **Annual Water System Operation Report – 2020**

The Municipality of Boissevain-Morton strives to provide high quality drinking water in sufficient quantity to meet the needs of the public. It is our goal to meet all the regulatory requirements governing the provision of drinking water in a safe and cost effective manner.

It is our belief that the public has a right to access information related to drinking water they consume. Therefore, the following report has been prepared for the Boissevain-Morton water system.

#### **Where do we get our water from?**

Our raw water consists of 85% surface water from the Boissevain Reservoir, and the other 15% comes from 5 wells 1.5 miles south of the reservoir. It is pumped from the wetwell located at the west end of the reservoir.

#### **Why do we treat our water?**

We treat our water to ensure that safe and pleasing drinking water is supplied to the homes and businesses in Boissevain. Provincial Regulations have set health based drinking water standards for all public water systems. The Municipality of Boissevain-Morton is committed to meeting or exceeding the water quality standards set by the province.

#### **What type of water treatment do we use?**

We treat our water in a lime softening process to remove the hardness and the iron as well as the removal of microbial contaminants such as bacteria and organic materials that are naturally found in surface water. There are 4 rapid gravity filters as well as 2 Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters to help polish the treated water.

### **Why and how do we disinfect our water?**

The final step in the treatment of our water is disinfection. The Drinking Water Safety Act requires that the water is disinfected before it leaves the water treatment facility, and that an adequate amount of disinfectant is in the distribution system to ensure the water is safe right to the consumer's tap.

Chlorine gas is what is used as our disinfection treatment for our water supply to kill bacteria and viruses that are commonly found in surface water. An adequate amount of chlorine is added to the water as it enters the storage reservoir to ensure an effective kill of any bacteria and to provide disinfectant residual in the 14 km of water piping throughout the Town of Boissevain.

### **Are any other chemicals added to our water? Why?**

Fluoride is added as part of the Provincial Fluoridation Program at levels that help prevent tooth decay. Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Active Living funds and monitors this program, not the Office of Drinking Water.

### **How much water storage do we have?**

A reservoir beneath the water treatment plant has a capacity of 814,150 litres. The reservoir is designed so that the water is always moving so it never gets stale.

### **What is the distribution system?**

The water distribution system is the network of underground pipes used to carry the treated water from the water treatment facility to the homes and businesses in Boissevain. We have 10.7 km of 6" transite pipe, 0.6 km of 8" transite pipe, and 2.5 km of 6" C900 PVC pipe throughout the Town of Boissevain. The piping is interconnected (looped) to ensure that fresh safe water is continuously supplied. We carry out regular maintenance in the distribution system such as our seasonal flushing program.

### **Is our water tested? What for? When?**

Water tests are performed daily at the water treatment plant to ensure the water is safe and to monitor how well the treatment plant is performing. We also test

the distribution system at various times and locations and have all results submitted to the Provincial Office of Drinking Water for review.

**Bacterial Testing:** We test the raw water (untreated water), the treated water (leaving the reservoir), and the water in the distribution system (within the Town of Boissevain) every two weeks (bi-weekly) for the presence of Total Coliform and for E. coli bacteria. If these bacteria are present in the water it is an indication that disease causing organisms may also be present.

**Disinfectant Testing:** We test the level of chlorine in the treated water every day and continuously to ensure that the water leaving the water treatment facility has enough chlorine to ensure proper disinfection. Chlorine testing is also done when the bacterial samples are taken from the distribution system.

**Turbidity Testing:** Turbidity is a measurement of the clarity of the water. We use turbidity to see how well our treatment system is working. Turbidity is tested daily as the raw water enters the system and continuously after each filter and daily as it leaves the Water Treatment Plant.

**Trihalomethane (THM) Testing:** Trihalomethanes are formed when chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic matter in the water. Studies have shown a link between high levels of THMs and cancer. The province has set the base standard for THMs of 0.10 mg/L of water. The THM standard is based on an average of four samples per year. Our license requires we test for THMs every second year. We had to take samples in 2020 and the results are in the chart below.

**Haloacetic Acids (HAA) Testing:** HAAs are a group of disinfection by-product chemicals that are similar to THMs. The HAA standard of 0.08 mg/L is now applied as the standard in all water sources. Our license requires we test for HAAs every second year as we do with the THM sampling. Our license requires we test for HAAs every second year and we did sample in 2020 and the results are in the chart below.

**What are the results of these tests? Can we get copies?**

The following table summarizes all the treated water results for 2020.

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Raw</b>	<b>Treated</b>
Arsenic – Less than or equal to 0.01mg/L	0.00541 mg/L	0.00097 mg/L
Fluoride – Less than or equal to 1.5 mg/L	0.28 mg/L	0.612 mg/L
Lead – Less than or equal to 0.005 mg/L	0.00115 mg/L	0.000204 mg/L
Nitrate – Less than or equal to 10 mg/L	0.373 mg/L	0.482 mg/L
Nitrite – Less than or equal to 1 mg/L	0.0114 mg/L	<0.0010 mg/L
Uranium – Less than or equal to 0.02 mg/L	0.00360 mg/L	0.000182 mg/L

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Treated</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
Total Coliform – Less than one detected/100 mL	100% (26/26 samples)	100% (26/26 samples)
E.Coli – Less than one detected/100 mL	100% (26/26 samples)	100% (26/26 samples)
Free Chlorine – Entering the distribution system 0.5 mg/L	100% (365/365 samples)	100% (26/26 samples)

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Results</b>
Turbidity – Less than or equal to 0.3 NTU* in 95% of measurements in a month for each filter compartment	Continuous	100% compliance
Total Trihalomethanes – Less than or equal to 0.10 mg/L annual average of quarterly samples	Quarterly	Not in compliance  0.141 mg/L
Total Haloacetic acids – Less than or equal to 0.08 mg/L annual average of quarterly samples	Quarterly	100% compliance  0.050 mg/L

\*Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU)

**How do we plan to meet the Standard Objective for Trihalomethanes (THMs)?**

We have reached out to the engineering firm WSP Global to look into a solution for our Trihalomethane issues.

**What do we have in place to alert Public Works Staff to water emergencies?**

There is an alarm system in the SCADA program at the water plant. If there is an alarm, the computer dials the “On Call” cell phone to notify the person on call. There is always a water plant operator on call and are available at any time to respond to emergencies as they arise.

## **Were there any emergencies, regulatory compliance issues or other operational issues to report in 2020?**

There were four regulatory compliance issues in 2020.

We failed to meet the required THM standard (as mentioned previously) of 0.10 mg/L.

We also failed to meet the 3 – log protozoa barrier. We do not have a filter to waste system on our filters. Therefore, when the turbidity from a filter compartment goes higher than 0.30 NTU, the water from that compartment does not automatically go to waste. It must be diverted manually via opening a valve. Our operating licence requires that turbidity is less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 95% of the measurements in a month of the effluent from each operating filter. We never exceeded this limit in 2020. The filter to waste system was to be installed in 2020, however, due to delays with tendering process and complications because of Covid-19, it wasn't done. It will, however, be installed early in 2021.

We failed to submit the monthly monitoring report on time for November. It was submitted with December's report. We also failed to submit an Advisory Notification Plan. We will submit this by May of 2021.

## **Summary of Drinking Water Safety Orders**

There were no safety orders issued to the Boissevain PWS in 2020.

## **Summary of Boil Water/Water Quality Advisories**

There were none issued to the Boissevain PWS in 2020.

## **Summary of any charges laid/Enforcement Issued**

There were none issued to the Boissevain PWS in 2020.

## **Were there any major expenses incurred in 2020?**

There were no major expenses incurred in 2020 in regards to the treatment process. However, we had the heating system in the water plant replaced at a cost of just under \$30,000.

## **Will there be any major projects in 2021?**

The projects we had planned for 2020 weren't started until January of 2021. These projects were being funded by a cost share grant with the provincial government. A combination of grant and tendering procedures and Covid-19 concerns was the reason for the delays. Everything will be completed by the end of April of 2021. The items that are being dealt with are:

- Install filter to waste system on our gravity filter system
- Upgrade the gravity filter electrical panel (PLC)
- Upgrade the lime system electrical panel (PLC)
- Install updated exhaust system from the lime system

We acquired the services of WSP Global for engineering needs with respect to these projects.

## **Who can we call with questions or concerns regarding our drinking water?**

For any questions during regular business hours, call the Boissevain-Morton administration office at (204)534-2433. Business hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday. If the administrator cannot answer your questions, he will refer you to the operator in charge.

**OPERATING LICENCE NUMBER: PWS-08-115-02**



### **Municipality of Boissevain-Morton Water Treatment Plant Operators:**

- **Doug Harper, Operator in Charge – 30 years of service in Water Treatment Level III operator**
- **Dustin Pugh, 13 years of service in Water Treatment – Level II operator**
- **Bryce Adams, 6 years of service in Water Treatment – Level II operator**
- **Joe Goodon, 1 year of service – Operator in Training**

Training of operators is continuously on going and is funded by the Municipality of Boissevain-Morton. The certification of operators and classification of the facility is done through the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation under the Environment Act.