APPLYING AUSTRALIA’S NAMS TO CANADA – ACHIEVING COMMUNITY WIDE CHANGE AT ELECTED & NON ELECTED LEVELS

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Abstract

As a result of Canadian municipalities moving to full accrual accounting effective December 31, 2009, improved infrastructure awareness was created at the local government level. In an effort to expedite asset management capacity building, the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia’s (IPWEA) NAMS Asset Management Program was chosen to be piloted in 8 communities in British Columbia and Saskatchewan in 2011. Since June of 2011, there has been approximately 31 municipalities, including some of our largest, have used the NAMS program to start or enhance their asset management practices.

The knowledge gained from using the NAMS program has caused incremental spinoffs beyond the initial training in some provinces. In Saskatchewan, the training has caused a number of other initiatives to form such as extremely strong elected official engagement, Saskatchewanized Asset Management training, and improved communication and relationships with other stakeholders. The presentation will focus on highlighting the lessons learned from the municipalities that have used the program in the Province of Saskatchewan and more specifically, the direct experiences from the City of Humboldt. Similarities, challenges, successes, directions, and what’s on the horizon next as a result of the training will be discussed.

Key Words: Application; Canada; Saskatchewan; NAMS; Capacity; Province