

## Summary Fact Sheet

### PROPOSED MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM

This is a fact sheet that summarizes a separate Question & Answer Document prepared by HR Green for the purposes of identifying regulatory requirements, benefits, costs, and next steps for the City of Swisher to develop a Municipal Water System. The summary answers below refer to Question and Answer items in the separate Q&A document.

- I. Public Water Systems (PWSs) in Swisher and Regulatory Authority:**

Generally, a PWS serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. The Iowa DNR regulates PWSs. By comparison, Private Water Systems are regulated by local boards of health at the County level. Residents and businesses within Swisher are served by a combination of PWSs and private wells. See Q&A Items 1-4 for additional information.
- II. Swisher's steps towards Developing a Municipal Water System:**

The City of Swisher formed a Water Committee to investigate the feasibility of a Municipal Water System. The Committee worked with HR Green to develop a Preliminary Engineering Report to determine a preliminary plan for a Municipal Water System, recommend infrastructure needs, and identify planning-level costs. In addition, the City Council has taken steps to implement design and construction standards for installing water main as part of recent developments that could ultimately be used for a community PWS. Treatment is not required for the target source but could be implemented in the future, if desired. See Q&A Items 5-8 for additional information.
- III. Municipal Water System and Treatment Needs:**

A complicated and costly treatment process is not required for groundwater wells as included in the initial plan. In fact, water would be similar to current PWS wells located within the City of Swisher. However, treatment could be implemented in the future, if desired. See Q&A Items 9-10 for additional information.
- IV. Benefits of a Municipal Water System:**
  - Water system viability, reliability, and redundancy to provide fire service within the community. See Q&A Item 11.
  - Decrease homeowners' insurance costs with a community fire service, see Q&A Item 12.
  - Health benefits associated with increased monitoring and sampling of current and future emerging contaminants such as PFAS chemicals. See Q&A Item 13 for additional information.
  - System redundancy to continue to provide water during a power outage or natural disaster (e.g., Derecho), see Q&A Item 14.
  - Greater opportunity and control of potential growth and development, see Q&A Items 15 and 16.
- V. Disadvantages of a Municipal Water System:**

Infrastructure capital costs are the primary disadvantage for a Municipal Water System. Initial Improvements are targeted to develop critical infrastructure to provide initial water service to target areas and lay a foundation for long-term projects to expand water service throughout the community. The Initial Improvements are anticipated to result in water rates similar to the community's current sewer rates. See Q&A Items 19, 21, and 22 for additional information.



**VI. Phased Approach and Impetus for a Municipal Water System:**

HR Green worked with the City to develop a phased approach to target critical initial infrastructure to lay the foundation for a long-term, phased approach. Planned developments and infrastructure funding provide a unique opportunity to take initial steps towards a Municipal Water System in a cost-effective manner. See Q&A Items 17, 18, and 20 for additional information.

**VII. Current Private and PWS Wells:**

Existing private wells would be allowed to remain in operation for an Implementation Period to give the City time to ultimately develop an entire distribution system. Once the Municipal Water System is complete, wells could potentially remain for irrigation use and other exterior non-domestic uses. Current PWSs located within the community could be considered as part of a well buy-back program to integrate into the overall Municipal Water System. See Q&A Items 25 and 26 for additional information.

**VIII. Public Referendum Vote and Next Steps:**

A special election will be held on March 7, 2023 to allow the community to vote on a public measure to form a Municipal Water System. Several Public Informational Meetings will be held in January and February 2023 ahead of the special election to provide additional information. Questions can be submitted to [swisher-comm@southslope.net](mailto:swisher-comm@southslope.net). The City will be maintaining additional information on its website. See Q&A Items 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, and 30 for additional information.