

MINUTES

July 27, 2009

ST. MALO LAKE STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUP MEETING

Present: Marc Hamonic, Jules Gosselin, Luc Lahaie, Neil Loughran, Georges Beaudry, Gerry Maynard, Kristy-Layne Carr, Jodi Goerzen

Regrets: Pat Watson

Invited Guest: Arvid Ewashko

1. Adoption of the agenda

4-2009: Luc Lahaie – Georges Beaudry

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be hereby adopted with the addition of item 9. Gerry Maynard 'Quickies'

CARRIED

2. Review and adoption of the minutes (June 18, 2009)

5-2009: Jules Gosselin – Gerry Maynard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of June 18, 2009 be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

3. Old Business

- a) State of the Watershed report

-The State of the Watershed report will be compiled and completed in 2010.

-If committee requires information prior to the release of the completed State of the Watershed Report, request it from the specific Provincial departments.

- b) Terms of reference

-Patrick Watson will forward upon his return.

- c) Maps

-Jodi create in-depth maps of the planning area with 5m contours

- d) Resolutions brought to sub-districts 3 & 4 for approval by SRRCD

-The spending budget of \$2500.00 has been approved for the committee.

-BMP brochures will be discussed at the next meeting

4. Related projects through SRRCD by sub-districts 3 & 4

a) Crown lands retention in RM of De Salaberry

-Dean Gould has been detained for the creation of a water retention design plan for the area; public consultations are projected for this winter.

b) Cam-Mart Drain retention – PFRA Pasture

-The drain is under re-evaluation as it does not operate as well as expected.

-it is suspected that the drain was not constructed according to the original design plans.

-Original license and design plan are required, Arvid will forward to the SRRCD.

-Arvid explains that the overflow comes from the Rat River and is intended to flow North-West, but roads have been raised making it difficult to return the water to its natural path.

-Upon construction, culvert drops were omitted which lead to erosion and sedimentation as a result of the fine grain soil.

-SRRCD is looking into retention in the area to reduce flows to the drain.

5. Question Period with our invited guest Arvid Ewashko

I. Are the St. Malo dams structurally sound?

-Yes; Angela Mclean has been hired to inspect the integrity and assess damages and priorities of all structures.

II. Why was the gate installed and why is it not used?

-For maintenance; MIT follows operating instructions, not opposed to using the gate to fluctuate the levels with the correct approvals.

-Arvid will investigate if the gate is operable.

-Opening the gate may spread sediment throughout the river.

III. Is there existing topographic data from when the dam was built?

-PFRA would have the data, Arvid will try to locate the original plan of dam and reservoir.

IV. Were there projections or concerns regarding sediment, and was there a plan to deal with it?

-Before Arvid's time; was not the focus of the engineers, not aware of any other reservoirs that have been cleaned in the past, the Portage reservoir will be de-silted in winter 2009.

V. What is the most reliable method to de-sediment and combat plant overgrowth?

-Soundings with a boat is a good idea; however, sediments are soft and therefore may not respond truly, but would give a good idea once compared to an original survey of the area.

VI. What is the most thorough practise to evaluate the sediment impact on the lake?

-Arvid suggests discussing with a biologist.

VII. What are the principle sources of nutrients into the reservoir?

-General agricultural run-off

-Arvid uses the example of the Dauphin Lake Study Assessment, which was funded by DFO to study the use of increased buffers to reduce farm run-off into the lake.

VIII. Where can we get more information on rock wiers?

-Arvid uses the example of Wilson Creek, which used sheet piling weirs to trap silt out of the stream flowing steeply out of the park. Issues regarding the expense of the shale removal arose. All variables must be addressed for any design plan used.

IX. Any comparable attempts?

-Portage Diversion

X. Is there capital funding for reservoir maintenance?

-There are currently more capital funds available than ever, but not likely for reservoirs used mainly for recreational purposes.

-Approach province, as the owner should be responsible for maintenance.

XI. Any retention ponds built in other areas?

-Wilson Creek (Turtle River Conservation District)

XII. Are there any plans for changes to the Rat River upstream of the reservoir?

-Direct to Dave Buhler

-Raising of Mosenko Road increases the Rat River water level

-Caliento swamp drains to the Rat River.

XIII. How well do silt dams work?

-Small series of dams require regular maintenance, therefore one must know the material in order to effectively design a plan to reduce velocity and trap silt.

-Arvid not sold on the effectiveness of silt dams; however, an assessment would be required.

-Steinbach example used of buffers and cattails.

XIV. Why is the bank erosion rate less than projected from 1970?

-Arvid not familiar with bank issues, but probably resultant of the river channel getting filled in possibly, as most bank failure is caused by channel erosion.

XV. Is there a possibility of using the lake as a retention area?

-Deferred to Water Stewardship

-Idea was rejected by Steve Topping two years ago as a request from the RM De Salaberry.

XVI. Would lowering the lake level help to irradiate weeds?

-Deferred to biologist, possibly Ducks Unlimited would have resources.

XVII. When the dam was built was a fish ladder discussed?

-Arvid uses the example of Rapid City fish ladder funded by the local Game and Fish Association.

-Funding for fish ladders available through the Fisheries Enhancement Initiative, Arvid suggests talking to a consultant, possibly Denis Andrews.

6. Invited guests for next meeting – do we invite more than one?
Wendy Ralley – Water Quality specialist from Water Stewardship
Jason Lasuik – Environment Officer, Manitoba Conservation, Steinbach
Dave Stevens – Park Superintendant (no presentation required)

7. Next meeting
-August 24, 9am, De Salaberry Office.

8. Adjournment

9. Gerry Maynard 'Quickies'
-St Malo Wildlife Association is cleaning up the boat launch at the end of Gosselin Road to enhance the area for family use
-St Malo Wildlife Association would like to use small motors on the lake (5hp or less), currently only electric motors are allowed.