

SEINE RIVER WATERSHED

Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)

Watershed Planning Advisory Team
(which includes a previously established Technical Sub-group)

Notes on Meeting #1 [1st mtg. of entire Advisory Team]

Steinbach Legion Hall, Nov. 9, 2006

Present:

Barry Oswald – Manitoba Water Stewardship (MWS), Water Planning
Alan Skrepnek – MWS, Water Planning
Patrick Watson – Seine-Rat River Conservation District (SRRCD)
Cornie Goertzen – SRRCD
Laurie Evans – SRRCD / RM of Ste. Anne
Scott Herbert – MWS, Surface Water Management
Doug Leroux – MWS, Fisheries
Gerry Lux – Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre
Don Winnicky – Manitoba Cattle Producers Association (MCPA)
Aiyana Lajeunesse – Watershed planning consultant
Kimberly Ballance – Save Our Seine (SOS)
Ed Langois – Seine River Wildlife Association
Alfred Mezebroski – Seine River Wildlife Association
Bob Brandt – RM of Hanover
Jake Buhler – Cooks Creek Conservation District
Grant Sellen – RM of Springfield
Tamara Horechko – Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (PFRA - Beausejour)
Bob Bodnaruk – RM of Springfield
Ray Pelletier – Dairy Farmers of Manitoba
Rick Stiem – Seven Oaks Game & Fish
Mark Lanouette – RM of Ste. Anne
Meagan Henke – MB Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade – Community Planning
Marc Hamonic – RM of DeSalaberry
Bill Rannie – University of Winnipeg
Garry Gaetz – RM of Reynolds
Maria Neumann – Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC)
John McGregor – Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives (MAFRI)
Randy Eros – Manitoba Sheep Association (MSA)

Regrets: City of Winnipeg, MB Groundwater, Water Use Licensing, Drinking water and Highways (infrastructure and Operations)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and briefly stated which organization they were representing.

3. Welcome from the Water Planning Authority (WPA) – Seine-Rat River Conservation District (SRRCD) Board Chairperson

Cornie Goertzen welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of the SRRCD Board and briefly stated that the Board was pleased to be starting the IWMP with support from Manitoba Water Stewardship and other provincial departments. He explained the Board has been designated the Water Planning Authority. He stressed the importance of involving all of the local stakeholder groups like these in this watershed planning exercise and in the development of the community-based, resource management plan.

4. IWMP Overview – Manager, Water Planning Section, MB Water Stewardship

Barry Oswald gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Integrated Watershed Management Planning in Manitoba” (‘hard’ copies of his presentation overheads were distributed) and the following handouts (Attached) were also provided:

- IWMP Planning - Brief Notes/Overview of: Planning Process, Targets & Timing, Steps
- IWMP Planning Products & Uses: State of the Watershed (SoW) Report, Report Card, Source Water Protection Assessment, Draft IWMP and Source Water Protection Plan
- IWMP Responsibilities and Membership of Teams & Sub-Group: Management Team, Advisory Team, & Technical Sub-group
- IWMP Planning Process Cycle: Overview Table of general timelines and steps for the various products.

Barry mentioned that MB Water Stewardship will be soon be presenting \$25,000 to the WPA to assist with implementation of this IWMP. A similar grant might be forthcoming in year 2 and a Water Stewardship Fund is another potential source of funds for plan implementation. Significant in-kind support to the IWMP is also being provided by several provincial government departments.

Barry further mentioned that it is the intention of the Authority to have the State of the Watershed (SoW) report and Source Water Protection Assessment [report] completed and posted on the CD website and a limited number of copies placed in public locations throughout the watershed. This would give watershed residents a convenient and timely opportunity to consider this information prior to a first, public consultation (possibly in late February or March 2007) where watershed issues and opportunities such as flood control, water supply, drainage etc. are to be identified.

A second public consultation would be arranged approximately one year later to ‘finalize’ the plan—after the public has been given an opportunity to have reviewed/considered a draft plan.

5. WPA – Terms of Reference Review – SRRCD Manager

Patrick Watson provided a short presentation on the terms of reference for the IWMP highlighting the anticipated outcomes, responsibilities of the Advisory Team, deliverables, task schedule and budget.

6. State of the Watershed (SoW) - report status, MB Water Resource Planner

Alan Skrepnek reported that about 23 organizations, mainly provincial gov't agencies were initially contacted—with a request to have a representative named to participate on a technical sub-group to begin the process of preparing a SoW report. The intention was to start the planning effort ASAP during the summer, prior to when a full Advisory Team could be formed which would not be until the fall of '06. It is these technical representatives (a sub-group of this Advisory Team) who have the information, expertise and knowledge needed to compile and evaluate important watershed information and who are 'key' contributors to the SoW report.

It was explained to the Tech Sub-group that we are looking for more than just inventories, statistical data and tabular information. We are also looking for expert evaluations and interpretations concerning the condition and/or status of the respective resource(s) and for suggestions, opinions and ideas on how the resource(s) could be improved, protected or developed. We asked the technical sub-group to identify data gaps as well.

The first meeting of the Advisory Team's Technical Sub-group was held on June 23rd/06 in Steinbach (meeting notes attached). About 20 of the 23 agency reps indicated that they did have some pertinent data and all agreed to compile and submit it on a watershed basis. The initial Sept 15/06 deadline for inputs turned out to be too optimistic—but was in fact met by MB Fisheries.

As of Nov 9/06, nine (9) agencies have submitted their reports describing what the 'state' of the Seine River Watershed is for their respective resource. Several agency reps reported delays, mainly due to other work commitments with higher priority. Nearly all of these remaining inputs are anticipated to be submitted sometime in December '06.

Alan mentioned that the watershed's resources 'fall' into four general categories:

- 1) land and/or soil
- 2) water (including quantity, quality & fish)
- 3) habitat and
- 4) community or socio-economics (people and economic activities).

Representatives of about 40 non-government organizations (in addition to the 23 gov't or tech. orgs) were invited to tonight's meeting—for a total of potentially 63 orgs (list attached) represented on an Advisory Team (AT). There are 21 orgs represented (in attendance) here tonight—several were unable to attend and asked me to send their regrets. These include: City of Winnipeg, MB Groundwater, Water Use Licensing, Drinking Water, and Infrastructure and Transportation (old Highways—no pun intended). Additional advertising might have resulted in more non-government organizations having a rep attend this meeting.

The Advisory Team reps are asked to relay all relevant information to their respective memberships and to continue to bring their experience and information

to this planning process. Membership on the Advisory Team should continue to be open and transparent.

As the AT continues its efforts toward an IWMP, it was stressed by Barry & Alan that all participants, please bear in mind that the **plan objectives should be SMART**, that is, the

Objectives of the IWMP should be:

Specific – well defined outcomes/results (not ways & means or merely activities)

Measurable – what and when

Attainable – realistic (not overly optimistic with high associated costs)

Relevant – in line with local, regional and jurisdictional goals and

Time-bound

Alan asked Gerry Lux, MB Remote Sensing to briefly discuss the land use/land cover map he and his staff produced which is on display here tonight for the first time. Gerry reported the map was produced by interpreting Landsat satellite imagery. The percentages and areas for various land/use land cover categories are included on the map (Attached).

7. Future Meetings of the Advisory Team

- The consensus was that future Advisory Team meetings should be held in Steinbach @ 6:45 pm and the exact location is still be determined.
- Next meeting will be held **Thursday, January 11th, 2007**.

8. Wrap-up

- Alan agreed to distribute notes on this meeting by e-mail and attach the handouts and 'master' list of orgs contacted. **Attendees were asked to convey the names and possible reps of any other organization(s) they think might be missing from this list—and also to point out any corrections needed.**
- The notes from June 23rd, Technical Sub-group meeting will also be attached
- An Advisory Team contact list/directory is being prepared and will be distributed to the AT as soon as possible.
- As requested, a map of the Seine River Watershed will also be attached as will a brief (one-page) overview of the Seine-Rat River Conservation District.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

The alternate meeting place is:

Steinbach City Hall - 225 Reimer Ave. - this is a different (no rental cost) location

9. Agenda Item for next meeting

It is anticipated that the SoW report (which is essentially a compilation of all the resource-related inputs from the Technical Sub-group) will be made available to the Advisory Team prior to this next meeting--to facilitate discussion.