

SEINE RIVER WATERSHED – IWMP

Technical Sub-group of the Water Planning Advisory Team

Notes on Meeting #1 - Steinbach City Hall, June 23, 2006

Present:

Barry Oswald, MWS-Water Planning	Patrick Watson, SRRCD
Alan Skrepnek, MWS-Water Planning	Cornie Goertzen, SRRCD
Maurice Leclaire, SRRCD	Laurie Evans, SRRCD
Sudhansu Majumdar, Drinking Water	Laurie Frost, MWS–Groundwater
Wendy Ralley, MWS-Water Quality	Rick Tease, MC-Regional Ops
Lyle Campbell, MC-Regional Ops	Geoff Reimer, MWS-Reg. Water Mgt.
Bill Sawka, Community Planning	Eric Plamondon, MLA Assistant
Greg Kaletzke, Community Planning	Bob Gillis, Ag & Ag-Food Can. (PFRA)
Scott Herbert, MWS-Surface Water	Dennis Schindler, MAFRI
Greg Keller, MB Geological Survey	Brian Hagglund, MC-Wildlife
Prokopi Papadimitropoulos, Highways	Shannon Beattie, MWS-Water Licensing

Regrets:

Warren Coughlin, MB Fisheries; Keith Kristofferson - DFO

Absent:: Pat Rakowski, Env. Canada – Habitat

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Barry Oswald at 9:45 am.

2. Introductions

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

3. Welcome from 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 SRRCD was pleased to be starting the IWMP with support from Manitoba Water Stewardship and other provincial departments.

4. IWMP Overview – Manager, Water Planning Section, MWS

Barry Oswald gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Integrated Watershed Management Planning in Manitoba” and provided the following handouts:

- IWMP Planning - Brief Notes (Planning Process, Targets, Steps)
- IWMP Planning Products (SoW) Report, Report Card, Source Water Protection Assessment, Draft IWMP, and Source Water Protection Plan)
- IWMP Working Group Responsibilities and Membership (Project Management Team, **Watershed Planning Advisory Team**, Technical sub-group of WPAT). *Later this summer or fall, a full Advisory Team of stakeholder representatives will be formed.*
- Sample Agro-MB Watershed Report Card including Health Indicators' Category Ratings and Working Group Membership (provincial inter-departmental group that developed the watershed health indicators)

Barry mentioned that: *it is the intention of the Water Planning Authority to have the State of the Watershed report and Source Water Protection Assessment [report] completed in November 2006, posted on the CD website and a limited number of copies placed in public locations throughout the watershed.* This would give watershed residents at least two months to consider the information prior to the first public consultation [possibly in February 2007] where watershed issues and opportunities such as flood control, water supply, drainage etc. are to be established.

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. SoW Report, Task Outline – Manager, Water Planning Section, MWS

a. SoW overview

b. Other departments participation – Berezuk memo

Barry referenced the May 1/06 memo from MWS Deputy Minister, Gerry Berezuk to his counterparts (MB Agriculture; Conservation; and Intergovernmental Affairs) requesting participation in the preparation of IWMPs. It was emphasized that *it is the technical sub-group representatives of the WPAT who have the expertise and knowledge needed to compile and evaluate important watershed information and who are 'key' in preparing the SoW report.*

c. SoW inputs from Technical Sub-group members

Barry emphasized that we are looking for more than just inventories, 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 suggestions, opinions and ideas on how the resource(s) could be developed. We expect the technical sub-group will identify data gaps as well. The information should be submitted in electronic form wherever possible. A shape file will be created and e-mailed on request.

Highlights of inputs offered by the Technical Sub-Group

Prokopi Papadimitropoulos, Highways, Transportation and Gov't Services

-Receives feedback from other provincial (Conservation, Environment) and federal (DFO) departments.

Will provide: Info respecting road networks including highway locations, lengths, number of crossings and related thru-grade information such as location, elevation, size and related details as needed.

Brian Hagglund, MC-Wildlife Branch, Interlake Region

-stated that Jim Duncan and Kelly Leavesely would be better suited to represent this watershed. Brian agreed to contact them and relay details respecting inputs being requested.

-the Conservation Data Center has all the information that we would likely need but would like the Seine River watershed shape file in order to compile data. MB Wildlife can indeed identify/map the habitat heritage lands in the watershed.

-WPAT should include representatives from Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and Nature Conservancy Canada. Alan indicated he would contact them. Hunting outfitters in the area should also be contacted and invited to submit info or at least be kept informed of proceedings.

Will provide: Wildlife information including existing wildlife survey reports. It would be desirable if Brian could also provide the names and contact information for the hunting outfitters.

Geoff Reimer, MWS-Water Management

Will provide: Infrastructure inventory including locations, kms. of provincial waterways, proposed reconstruction projects, 5-year plans and recommendations, waterway crossing issues, # and details respecting drainage licences issued (by RM or watershed), # and types of water-related complaints dealt with such as flooding, maps etc. Survey information might not be readily accessible. A representative respecting environmental assessments would be desirable.

Dennis Schindler, MAFRI

Will provide: report card inputs including soil health indicators, ag-capability, wind/water erosion problem areas and other soils information. Regarding types of agriculture practiced, he is uncertain of the availability of census-based info. He agreed that it is important to provide narrative details to accompany the agriculture related data.

Bill Sawka, Greg Kaletzke, Community Planning Services

Will provide: Census data such as population and distribution, land use info (which is much more detailed and comprehensive compared to data available through the Remote Sensing Centre) including: development plans, zoning,

livestock operations, sub-divisions, community development changes over time, and recommendations for development and zoning. Together with Bill Sawka, Greg Kaletzke indicated he would provide analytical support as well.

Bob Gillis, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (PFRA)

-Made reference that Jarrett Powers has done some good work regarding livestock development such as decision-support, computer models for the RM of Hanover and La Broquerie and that SESCO should be contacted regarding past and current projects. Patrick indicated he would look into this.

Will provide: PFRA watershed reports, # of farm plans being undertaken, # of successful projects and details on PFRA infrastructure projects. Bob also indicated he would arrange for help with mapping insofar as possible.

Lyle Campbell, Rick Tease, MC, Regional Operations

Will provide: Crown lands coding, explanations what each means, lease information and recommendations. Since most land in the watershed is likely privately owned, there is little data that can be provided on Crown lands. Lyle indicated Wendy Dunlop should be contacted to obtain info from the Save Our Seine group. There may be some info available respecting the Fish Enhancement Initiative. Rick Tease indicated he will contact Doug Larue and request info and data analysis in this respect.

Barry mentioned that DFO has indicated its interest in participating but was unable to have a representative (perhaps Rich Janusz) attend this meeting.

Greg Keller, MB Geological Survey (I A & T)

Greg has been instrumental in constructing surficial geological maps, digital elevation models and 3D geological models of southern Manitoba.

Will provide: a number of these digital data sets.

It was noted that there is significant peat mining in the watershed and Greg agreed to determine and relay the name of a contact who would be able to provide information in this respect.

Sudhansu Majumdar, MC – Office of Drinking Water

Sudhansu has all info for the study area respecting water supply treatment.

Will provide: info on public water systems, water quality at each, treatment required, contamination areas, City of Steinbach water use and related info.

The Environment [enforcement] Officer responsible in the Steinbach area would be a good contact to have on the project [See Wendy Ralley inputs] as would be info respecting water well data [see below]. There is a data gap respecting semi-private water wells and lagoon discharges.

Laurie Frost, MWS – Groundwater Management

-Laurie noted that groundwater is very important in the Seine River Watershed. He will coordinate his inputs with Greg Keller.

Will provide: info respecting aquifers in the area, observation well data and analysis including quality and quantity info, municipal water well data (all data in digital form) locations of wells, data gaps that exist and recommendations. In the longer term, he will be able to update maps that are 20-30 years old since he has additional geological and aquifer info to add.

Laurie indicated he would be interested in working with the SRRCD to identify abandoned wells that should be sealed.

Wendy Ralley, MWS – Water Quality Management

-Wendy stated that the Environment Officers should be involved because they are the ones enforcing the Environment Act licences that get issued.

-Save our Seine should also be part of the WPAT.

-Mentioned that that the IWMP must be in line with provincial policies and adhere to requirements of the Water Protection Act.

-Has water quality indices data and historical data on the Seine River—not much data respecting ‘ambient’ water—off the main waterways.

Will provide: # of wastewater treatment lagoons and impacts on water quality, % of watershed calculated as water management Zone 4, # of Environment Act licences issued and types, ‘accountables’ such as supply and sewage inspection report details, recommendations on water quality management and future monitoring—recognized that interpretation needs to accompany this data.

Wendy suggested MB Hab. Heritage be contacted—particularly for info respecting riparian cover percentages. It was noted there may be a data gap respecting information along Tourond Creek and Manning Canal. Barry noted Roy Dickson, MB Remote Sensing and Floyd Phillips might have some info support in this respect.

Shannon Beattie, MWS – Water Licensing

Will provide: # and details respecting water rights licences issued, water use type (municipal, irrigation etc.), percentages allocated and remaining for allocation including similar info on groundwater licensing—even though this is not included in the report card. Amounts on licences issued vs. not issued could be provided as could recommendations on making it easier for people to apply (to complete the forms) for water rights licences.

Scott Herbert, MWS – Surface Water Management

-Questioned why the PFRA hydrological watershed boundaries were not used and how the current Seine River watershed boundary was decided upon.

Barry explained that the WPA made the final choice and took the PFRA watershed boundaries into consideration. Contributing areas to the south associated with Tourond Creek, Manning Canal & Seine R. Diversion will need to be estimated and added in.

Will provide: Hydrometric station data, historical data from old reports, flow changes over time, history of the Seine River Diversion, channel capacities, current channel conditions, instream flow needs (IFNs) and data gaps e.g. IFNs have not yet been determined on a watershed basis—they are only available for specific locations taking into account for example, variations due to sandy vs. clay soils. Recommendations to deal with current water volumes as related to aging infrastructure would also be desirable.

Timing & Deadline for Inputs

Barry informed members that **the WPA expects to have the technical sub-group inputs submitted to Alan or Patrick by September 15th, 2006.** This will allow some time to assimilate the inputs and obtain additional information that might be needed.

Additional handouts were provided detailing what is being requested from this Technical Sub-group: Source Water Protection Plan - Scope & Objectives; Source Water Protection Assessment – proposed report content; Source Water Protection Assessment – proposed outline for cycle/year one; and Table of Contents – “What to include in a SoW report”

- d. Other members on Tech. Sub-group
Environment Officer(s), Save our Seine, MHHC, provincial staff other than the people in attendance simply because it was more within their work region, MB Water Services Board, Nature Conservancy Canada

7. Other Business – none

8. Adjournment - 12:20 pm.