

# **SEINE RIVER WATERSHED**

## Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)

### **Watershed Planning Advisory Team**

Notes on Meeting #2 – Thurs., Jan. 11, 2007 - 6:45 pm to 9:30 pm

Steinbach Legion Hall  
295 Lumber Ave.

Present:

Cornie Goertzen, Chair – Water Planning Authority & SRRCD  
Alfred Mezebroski – Seine River Wildlife Association  
Art Bergmann – RM of Ste. Anne  
Bob Bodnaruk – RM of Springfield  
Frank Krasnianski – Seine River Wildlife Association  
Garry Gaetz – RM of Reynolds  
Geoff Reimer – MWS, Water Rights (Drainage) Licensing  
Jake Buhler – Cooks Creek Conservation District  
Jean-Guy Côté – MB Conservation, Environmental Operations  
John McGregor – CESCO & MB Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives (MAFRI)  
Kristy-Layne Carr – SRRCD  
Laurie Evans – SRRCD / RM of Ste. Anne  
Laurie Frost – MWS, Groundwater Management  
Lorne Vaags – RM of Springfield  
Maria Neumann – Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC)  
Martin Erickson – MWS, Fisheries  
Maurice Leclair - SRRCD / RM of Ritchot  
Meagan Henke – MB Intergovernmental Affairs & Trade – Community Planning  
Patrick Watson – MWS, CD Secretariat  
Ray Pelletier – Dairy Farmers of Manitoba  
Roland Chaput – SRRCD  
Roland Gauthier – SRRCD  
Sonny Peters – RM of Hanover & SRRCD  
Alan Skrepnek – MWS, Water Planning  
Barry Oswald – Manitoba Water Stewardship (MWS), Water Planning

Regrets: Doug Leroux, Grant Mohr, Shannon Beattie, Scott Herbert, Wendy Ralley, Dennis Schindler, Tamara Horechko, Claude Gagne, Randy Eros, Kim Ballance.

#### 1. Call to Order

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

## 2. Welcome from the Water Planning Authority (WPA)

Water Planning Authority (WPA) and Seine-Rat River Conservation District (SRRCD) Board Chairperson, Cornie Goertzen, welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased to introduce Kristy-Layne Carr, the newly appointed SRRCD Manager.

Kristy-Layne briefly described her background in agronomy at the University of Manitoba and MSc in Soil Science & Agriculture from the University of North Dakota. She indicated her strong interest and desire in working with the Seine River Watershed, Advisory Team representatives and all of the other local residents toward an integrated watershed management plan.

## 3. Introductions

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

## 4. IWMP Status- Manitoba Water Stewardship

Alan Skrepnek distributed a one-page listing and mentioned those members of the Advisory Team who have submitted inputs for the State of the Watershed (SoW) report. He also mentioned which agencies would likely present their findings at the next meeting in February. A timeline was given for when he expects reports from those members who have not yet submitted their information.

Alan Skrepnek and Barry Oswald described the next immediate steps once the information has been submitted by the Advisory Team. The SoW information will be posted on the SRRCD website and when all inputs have been submitted and compiled, binders containing 'hard' copies of the reports and perhaps a 2-3 page summary will be made available at R.M. offices, local libraries, CD offices and related government offices. Following that, public meetings will be held to discuss the information collected, identify watershed issues and priorities towards a plan including objectives with ways and means of achieving them.

## 5. SoW presentations

### ❖ Community (socio-economics) - Meagan Henke

Meagan presented a summarized version of her report. Her presentation included statistics such as area, population, dwellings, population change and density, and land holdings with livestock structures. Population and related info for Winnipeg was not included in her report. GIS was used to help collect the information.

Meagan also gave a breakdown of each R.M. including larger communities in the watershed and described each according to land use, development, population density and size of land parcels. She also displayed a map showing the concentrations of population. She anticipates that the Seine River Watershed will experience an increase in population and land fragmentation due to residential development.

Barry Oswald expressed a desire to see some information regarding the portion of the City of Winnipeg in the watershed in her final report. He would also like to see business development

data included if possible. In this latter respect, Alan mentioned that the value and spatial distribution of the commercial, industrial and manufacturing sectors in the watershed would be important considerations in a watershed management plan.

❖ Drainage and related issues – Geoff Reimer

Geoff began his presentation with a history of drainage in Manitoba, and also described the current structure of the department in the provincial government. He then talked about the creation of the provincial drainage system, which is the most comprehensive in North America and was done in-house. Geoff showed maps of the watershed, detailing provincial and municipal drains.

He went on to describe the licensing aspect of his department, whose role is to enforce the Water Rights Act and to license drainage projects. By and large, he says that there is a good working relationship between the department and its clients in terms of licensing. There has been a problem with a lack of enforcement, which is being dealt with in the Water Rights Amendment Act. Geoff also discussed changes in government structure, where Infrastructure and Transportation (formerly Highways) has assumed responsibilities for drainage and related infrastructure.

❖ Fisheries – Martin Erickson

Martin described the role of Manitoba Fisheries Branch in terms of examining fish species presence using health indicators (tolerant/intolerant species) and habitat indicators. He went on to describe the fishery ratings for the watershed. Displaying a map of all of the existing waterways in the watershed, Martin then talked about the existing fish species. He gave examples of game species, forage species and small fish species found in the watershed.

Martin went on to talk about the impacts to fish habitat along the Seine River. Some examples include nutrient and sediment loading, reduced flow and migration blockages. He mentioned that fish presence has been documented along other smaller waterways by Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). In terms of management recommendations, Martin suggested following the recommendations of the 2005 Seine River Survey, and that water quality and quantity issues should be addressed along the system to mitigate fish migration blockages. This should be done prior to any attempts at introducing more fish into the watershed.

## 6. Wrap-Up

Alan indicated he would be working with Kristy-Layne to try to have the SoW report inputs posted on the SRRCD website so they could be accessed by everyone most conveniently and expediently. From this central repository, it is anticipated that all of the reports and maps could be viewed, printed and e-mailed. This would help ensure the highest number of local watershed residents would have ready access to the same information as the Advisory Team. Residents would then be able to offer more-informed opinions on related issues at subsequent public meetings or other times.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

## 7. Next Meeting - **Wednesday, February 14th, 2007 @ 6:45 pm** -- meeting location not yet finalized