

SEINE RIVER WATERSHED

Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)

Advisory Team

Notes on Meeting #4

Date: March 12th, 2007

Time: 6:45 pm

Location: Smitty's of Steinbach - Conference Room

Present:

Cornie Goertzen, Chair – Water Planning Authority & SRRCD
Curtis Holowachuk – MB Office of Drinking Water
Art Bergmann – RM of Ste. Anne
Bob Bodnaruk – RM of Springfield
Bob Gillis - PFRA
Dave Menard – RM of Tache
Don Winnicky – Manitoba Cattle Producers Assoc.
Doug Leroux – MB Fisheries Branch
Garry Gaetz – RM of Reynolds
Grant Mohr – City of Winnipeg
Jacques Trudeau – RM of Tache
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)
Mark Hamonic – RM De Salaberry
Maurice Leclair - SRRCD / RM of Ritchot
Meagan Henke – MB Intergov. Affairs & Trade – Community Planning
Randy Eros – Manitoba Sheep Association
Randy Yestrau – Towne of Ste Anne
Roland Chaput – SRRCD
Roland Gauthier – SRRCD
Alan Skrepnek – MWS, Water Planning
Barry Oswald – MWS, Water Planning

Regrets: Dennis Schindler, Tamara Horechko, Jim Duncan

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.

3. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and stated which organization they were representing.

4. IWMP Status - Alan Skrepnek, Manitoba Water Stewardship

Alan reported that State of the Watershed Reports have been steadily coming in, however there are some still outstanding. The AAFC-PFRA report is expected at the end of March. Denis Schindler's MAFRI report has been sent in the mail and is expected shortly. Other submissions to come in are: MB Conservation – Environmental Licensing, MB Office of Drinking Water, and MB Surface Water Management, which is expected at the end of April. MHHC's report on Riparian Areas has been received and is available on the CD website. Alan also mentioned that a bibliography of related reports obtained from the Save-Our-Seine website is now available on the SRRCD website.

A management team meeting was held on Feb. 21st to discuss IWMP progress and next steps. Two public open houses are being held in April; one in La Broquerie on April 10th and the other in Ile des Chenes on April 16th. Barry Oswald discussed that he would like the Advisory Team to meet on two more occasions before a summer break. One full meeting would be devoted to finishing SoW presentations and the final meeting to get feedback from AT members on the direction of the draft IWMP.

5. SoW presentations

- **Grant Mohr – City of Winnipeg**

Grant described the importance of the Seine River to the City of Winnipeg, and the major outfalls into the River from the east portion of the City. He also mentioned the water control structures operated by the City of Winnipeg which handle 85% of the rural runoff that enters City limits. In 2005, there was significant flooding which reduced hydraulic capacity of the Navin drain, after which the City looked at ways to maintain hydraulic capacity. One such way was to clean out ditches and drains overgrown with cattails. The City uses a machine with a cutter head similar to swather. There are bars behind the knives which catch the cattails, prevented them from getting back into the water and clogging the culverts.

Other interesting information that Grant presented included the fact that Winnipeg has two different types of sewer systems. In older buildings, a combined sewer system is in place, whereas newer ones have a two pipe system. In the combined system, as waste flows toward the river, a weir causes low flowing material to go towards the treatment plant. During flood events, water is directly bypassed over the gates and into the outfall.

In new developments, Storm Retention Basins are being constructed to hold water and slow the flow using smaller trunk sewers. Other development policies of the City of Winnipeg include: requirement of a waterways permit for any development within 350 feet of a major river; as new lands are developed, green space is acquired through the "Seine River Waterway

Land Acquisition”; regulation of development in the flood plain; and the City has developed a BMP manual for work along the rivers.

6. **Walk-through: SRRCD website**

Kristy-Layne Carr gave a brief overview of the content on the SRRCD website and where to locate various information.

IWMP process details have been posted on the **SRRCD website**: <http://www.srrcd.ca/> . On the left-side menu, click on ‘Special Projects’. Heading this list is ‘Seine River Watershed, IWMP’ so click here and follow the links.

The first document posted is the Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) between the provincial government and the newly-designated Water Planning Authority--Board of the SRRCD.

You will then note the Terms of Reference (**ToR**) which documents the IWMP process. Our **meeting** ‘minutes’ **notes** (less formal than minutes) are also posted.

The State of the Watershed (**SoW**) **inputs** follow

You will note the SoW inputs are being posted in four general categories:

- People & Community
- Land
- Water
- Wildlife & Habitat

A ‘related reports’ section has been added--including several comprehensive, directly-related reports or commissioned (consultant) studies respecting the Seine River/Watershed as well as a master’s thesis and a report by PFRA and another by MAFRI. By posting these reports on the website in this manner, watershed residents will, for the first time, have ready-access to a great deal of resource information to consider as they help develop a management plan for their watershed. Kristy-Layne noted that some of the reports are very large and will take considerable time to download, especially if the computer has a dial-up internet connection. A bibliography was added from the Save-Our-Seine website which includes many relevant resources.

7. **AT Member Comments**

As the information gathering portion of the State of the Watershed Report is coming to a close, Barry asked the group if there were any information topics that were overlooked in the report. Members were of the agreement that the general topics had been covered. Barry then asked if there were any agencies that had not been contacted for their input. Members mentioned several groups that they wished to see information from: MB Forestry, Crown Lands, Peat Extraction operations, Land Titles (to settle the question of who owns the river?), as well as the Provincial Government department and staff in charge of operating the Seine River Diversion.

Barry told the group that he would look into obtaining information from these agencies but reminded everyone that there is a limited number of SoW presentation meetings left and he would still like to hear from the agencies already contacted. He also invited any non-government organization not previously asked, to submit science information for the report if they so choose. He asked that they respond within the next several weeks.

Advisory Team members (not Technical sub-group members) were then asked for their input on the top issues for the Seine River Watershed. In general, most members were concerned with: surface water quality, retention of head waters, decreasing nutrient loads (septic fields and municipal waste), development along rivers, groundwater protection, riparian areas, Seine River Diversion, increased government communication with public (water quality testing and results), deforestation of marginal land and irrational drainage.

Wrap-Up

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Next Meeting - Monday, April 2th, 2007 @ 6:45 pm (same location)