

PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE (PLC)
- Final Meeting Notes -

Thursday, September 20, 2007
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
RM of Macdonald Chamber
Sanford, Manitoba

PLC members in attendance:

- Mr. Dan Benoit, Manitoba Métis Federation, PLC Co-Chair
- Mr. Doug McNeil, MFA, PLC Co-Chair
- Councillor Valerie Rutherford, Deputy Mayor, RM of Ritchot
- Reeve Herm Martens, RM of Morris
- Councillor Doug Dobrowolski, RM of Macdonald
- Councillor Glen Basarowich, RM of St. Clements
- Ms. Patricia Nedokis, RM of St. Andrews
- Ms. Bonni Book, Public Member
- Ms. Melissa Hotain, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Mr. Doug Peterson, MFA

Regrets

- Mayor David Bell, City of Selkirk
- Reeve Clifford Dearman, RM of West St. Paul
- Reeve Lawrence Morris, RM of East St. Paul
- Reeve Peter Skrupski, RM of Springfield
- Councillor David Menard, RM of Tache
- Mr. Alec Stuart, City of Winnipeg
- Ms. Lorna Hendrickson, Public Member
- Mr. Bob Roehle, Public Member
- Mr. Gerry Jennings, Public Member

Others in attendance

- Mr. Bert Smith, P. Eng., KGS Group
- Mr. Ronuk Modha, MFA

Meeting Notes

1) Light Meal

PLC co-chair Dan Benoit called the meeting to order at approximately 5:45 p.m. following a light meal.

2) Introductions

Brief introductions were made among PLC members

3) Approval of Agenda for September 20 meeting

- Val Rutherford moved that the September 21 meeting agenda be passed. Seconded by Bonni Book. Motion passed.

4) Approval of Notes from June 21 meeting

- Herm Martens moved that the notes from the **June 21** meeting be passed. Seconded by Rodney Burns. Motion passed.

5) Update on Groundwater Monitoring – Bert Smith, P. Eng, KGS

- Bert Smith provided a presentation on the Surface and Groundwater Monitoring Programs. Smith indicated that there are approx. 160 domestic wells and 100 provincial and project wells that are being monitored. The presentation focused on floodway water quality and construction dewatering. Smith also outlined the Groundwater Interference Complaint Response Plan.
- Glen Basarowich requested specific locations on monitoring wells and Doug McNeil indicated that, due to third party confidentiality issues, specific locations can not be identified. However, he indicated that there is a significant amount of information including maps located in the Groundwater Monitoring Report that is on the MFA website (www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca). Doug Peterson added that MFA could provide maps of the provincial and project wells but specific detail of private domestic wells can not be provided due to third party confidentiality.
- Dan Benoit asked if there was any indication of rocket fuel. impacts from Rockwood. Bert Smith said that the testing for the expansion project has not indicated any related impacts.. Smith also indicated that there is limited pesticide impact (locally used brands not detected).
- Dan Benoit asked if there would be more instances of contamination with more summer floods due to climate change. Bonnie Book also asked about climate change regarding floodway operation. Smith indicated that no one can tell the impact of climate change at this time, however it is not expected to have an impact.
- Patricia Nedokis asked how is it determined when to monitor during major rain events since there is variability of rainfall from one area to the next. Smith indicated that precipitation is monitored at various locations.
- Glen Basarowich asked about two corrugated pipes at PTH 202 and Dunning Road. Smith said that they are probably historical monitoring wells and the pipes are there to identify them and protect the wells during construction.
- Doug Dobrowolski asked if the overall positive results were a surprise to Bert Smith and KGS Group. Smith indicated that the results were positive but it was premature to make any definitive conclusions from the studies. It is important that they continue to monitor because there are groundwater concerns as construction proceeds north along the floodway.

- Val Rutherford asked if the two monitoring locations on the west dike are for groundwater or surface. Smith indicated that these are surface water monitoring sites.
- Herm Martens asked to have a brief explanation of the RM of Springfield concern with floodway and the groundwater issues. Doug McNeil indicated that their concerns were regarding the loss of water escaping from the aquifer to the Floodway. McNeil indicated that the RM could install wells east of the Floodway to capture water before it enters the Floodway. Bert Smith added that if this groundwater didn't exit to the Floodway it does so anyway to the Red River further west. Val Rutherford asked if there is enough water flow from the Floodway to support Selkirk's water need. This may or may not be the case but MFA did not have the details.
- Doug McNeil and Bert Smith said less industrial consumption in the City of Winnipeg and wetter seasons recently have resulted in a higher water table throughout the region.

6) Report Availability on the Website – Doug Peterson, MFA

- In response to a questions regarding availability of reports from Jim Stinson, Doug Peterson indicated that MFA had reviewed the website and can report that all of the reports that are required to be posted have been available on either the MFA, Manitoba Conservation or Water Stewardship websites (the latter two sites are linked from the Floodway site)
- **Action:** Doug Peterson offered to post the weblinks to the meeting minutes.

7) Update on the volume of oily material discharged from the Kildare Drain – Doug Peterson

- After reviewing the matter, Doug Peterson said that it is estimated at about 1000 gallons (plus or minus 500 gallons) discharged but an exact number is difficult to determine.
- Doug Peterson indicated that this leak was the responsibility of the City of Winnipeg but MFA assisted in the clean up. This was a one-time discharge.
- Doug Peterson noted that the discharge triggered the MFA Surface Water Event Monitoring Program described by Bert Smith in his presentation.

8) Information on cross section of bridges and velocities – Doug McNeil

- At the previous PLC meeting Peter Skrupski had asked about the number for shear stress for a 1-in-700 flood at St. Mary's Rd. bridge and requested information be provided on the full number and not the rounded off number of 0.0. Doug reported that the actual figure for the shear stress at the PR 200 St. Mary's Road Bridge is 0.0096 N/m². The shear stress is almost zero since the energy grade slope at this location is almost zero.
- Doug McNeil prepared a summary of the velocities at the deleted bridges and a set of cross-section drawings of the same bridges to provide to Reeve Skrupski, which will be

mailed to him after the meeting. McNeil indicated that MFA will be re-armouring the bridge sites where sheer stress has been calculated to exceed the maximum allowable.

- Val Rutherford asked if there will be monitoring of the head loss at the bridges during a major flood. Doug McNeil responded yes monitoring of water levels occurs for each flood and the monitoring locations would include bridges if there was water against the girders to determine the actual head loss (drop of water level from upstream to downstream).

Intermission - 7:00 pm Dan Benoit asked the PLC members if they would like to take break and the committee indicated that they would like to proceed with the meeting.

9) Recreation Update – Ronuk Modha, MFA

- Ronuk Modha indicated that the Access to Earth Initiative has been very successful and the St. Mary's Road Depot location had 3000 loads of earth for approximately 26,000 cubic metres of earth. He indicated that private citizens, businesses and RMs (i.e. RM of Springfield) are accessing earth from the site. Modha indicated that the Duff Roblin site will be closed on September 30.
- Ronuk Modha indicated that the placement of excess floodway earth on the Springhill Ski Hill began in early September and the hill will be completed in time for this year's ski season.
- Ronuk Modha indicated that MFA is warning fishermen and recreational users to stay away from the Outlet Control Structure during construction (over two years) and in the upcoming weeks as blasting will be occurring on the site. MFA issued a news release highlighting alternate fishing locations. MFA also notified residents, erected signage and buoys, and undertook monitoring of adjacent properties and business.
 - Glen Basarowich indicated that he was in the area during the blasting earlier in the day and did not notice the blasting that occurred.
- Ronuk Modha indicated that the MFA Executive recently met with the RM of St. St. Clements regarding a recreation proposal in the Lockport area. MFA was supportive of the overall initiative. However, MFA did raise some concerns regarding specific components of the plan. MFA did indicate that they would be willing to work with the RM to address these matters and to coordinate with other government departments to review the proposal and provide input to the proponents. Modha also indicated that MFA can not allow any recreational development to occur on the site while construction is under way over the next two years.

10) Floodway orientation for new public members

- Doug Peterson indicated that an orientation session was held for new members of the PLC on Tuesday, September 11. Eight members attended.

- **Action:** Doug Peterson offered to provide a copy of the presentation to the other members on a CD. Any members who wish to get a copy of the presentation are requested to contact Doug Peterson.

11) Letter to RM of Macdonald regarding Glenlea Drain

- At the previous PLC meeting Rodney Burns had requested MFA to provide a letter to the RM of Macdonald confirming future work on the Glenlea Drain.
- Doug Dobrowolski indicated that Doug McNeil has provided a letter to the RM to confirm that the work will be occurring on the drain.

12) Update on Construction

- Doug McNeil provided an update on the entire project indicating that the overall project is on schedule and on budget.
- Doug McNeil indicated that PCL Contractors Canada had begun work on the Outlet Control Structure and a test blasting occurred today, September 20. Glen Basarowich asked about what the blasting was doing and McNeil said that it is being used to construct the cut-off wall.
- Channel from Inlet to PTH 59 North is approximately 90% completed
- Various stages for channel contracts on the north of PTH 59 North.
- West Dike construction is working from the Inlet to PR 330 and is being done as an Aboriginal Set-Aside. Three riprap tenders were issued today on the MERX system.

13) General Questions

- Dan Benoit asked about the proposed work at PTH 101 and PTH 15. Doug McNeil indicated that that is MIT's jurisdiction and wasn't aware of any immediate plans.
- Valerie Rutherford advised that the RM of Ritchot will be sending MFA a letter requesting that Harold Wiens be permitted to use the access across the West Dyke that is being built to allow access for Joe Sherwood.
- **Action:** Doug McNeil indicated that he would look into this matter and consult with Rick Hay, the Project Administrator, to determine if this was possible.
- Patricia Nedokis wanted to know if we can provide how far the rip rap will go on the West Bank of the Red River. Doug McNeil said that the engineering is still occurring. Nedokis also asked if the 1.2 km could supplement the 400 m that the RM repaired last winter. McNeil said we will be discussing this with the Federal Government, who fund half of the project.

- Patricia Nedokis asked about whether dredging in the Red River would be any benefit to the Floodway. McNeil indicated that prior to the CEC Hearings MFA investigated whether the dredging would be a benefit or if expansion would be a detriment to not dredging. There is no positive or negative impact with respect to a 1 in 700 year flood and Floodway Expansion. It is recognized that not dredging is an issue for navigation during normal summer flows. Ronuk Modha indicated that MFA, on behalf of various members of the public, had raised this matter with the Federal Government, who responded that this was an activity that they were no longer involved in dredging. Herm Martens indicated that this matter has also been raised by the Red River Basin Commission with the International Red River Board (of the International Joint Commission).
- Val Rutherford asked about whether there is a dyking program that will start in Selkirk similar to the program after 1997. Rutherford said that there are some residents in Ritchot who would like to access the program if it comes into existence. Doug McNeil said he had not heard about this.

14) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- **Action:** Doug McNeil will report on the Artificial Study Request for Proposal that was recently issued and will be closed on October 5, 2007.
- **Action:** Doug Peterson indicated that he expects to be in a position to provide an update on the Health Risk Study.

15) Next Meeting

- The PLC attempted to arrange a meeting for late November / early December but due to conflicting schedules and the Christmas interruption, Herm Martens suggested the PLC consider holding a meeting in January, 2008.
- A meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2008 in RM of Ritchot. MFA will work with the Val Rutherford to make arrangements.

Conclusion: Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:57 p.m.