

PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE (PLC)

- Draft Meeting Notes -

Thursday, October 16, 2008

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Gaffer's Restaurant

Lockport, Manitoba

PLC members in attendance:

- Mr. Doug McNeil, MFA, PLC Co-Chair
- Reeve Herm Martens, RM of Morris
- Reeve Peter Skrupski, RM of Springfield
- Ms. Valerie Rutherford, RM of Ritchot
- Mr. Bob Roehle, Public Member
- Ms. Bonni Book, Public Member
- Mr. Jerry Drobot, RM of St. Clement (on behalf of Glen Basarowich)
- Mr. Doug Peterson, MFA

Regrets

- Ms. Patricia Nedokis, RM of St. Andrews
- Reeve Clifford Dearman, RM of West St. Paul
- Mayor Lawrence Morris, RM of East St. Paul
- Councillor Glen Basarowich, RM of St. Clements
- Reeve Rodney Burns, RM of Macdonald
- Mr. Alec Stuart, City of Winnipeg
- Councillor David Menard, RM of Tache
- Ms. Lorna Hendrickson, Public Member
- Mayor David Bell, City of Selkirk
- Mr. Gerry Jennings, Public Member
- Ms. Melissa Hotain, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Others in attendance

- Mr. Ronuk Modha, MFA
- Mr. Jim Stinson, RM of Clements Alternate Member
- Mr. Bob Bodnaruk, RM of Springfield Alternate Member

Meeting Notes

1) Light Meal

- PLC co-chair Doug McNeil called the meeting to order at approximately 5:55 p.m. following a light meal.

2) Introductions

- Brief introductions were made among PLC members

3) Approval of Agenda for June 5, 2008 meeting

- Valerie Rutherford moved that the October 16, 2008 meeting agenda be passed. Seconded by Jerry Drobot. Motion passed.

4) Approval of Minutes from June 5 meeting

- Herm Martens moved that the minutes from the June 5 meeting be passed. Seconded by Peter Skrupski. Motion passed.

5) Vacant Co-Chair

- Doug Peterson advised that Dan Benoit has resigned as Co-Chair.
- To fill the vacancy, Doug McNeil made a call for any volunteers to act as Co-Chair. Peter Skrupski volunteered to be Co-Chair. Doug Peterson will be advising all members via email to see if there were any other volunteers. It was decided that at the next meeting the PLC will vote on those that have volunteered.

6) Construction Update – Doug McNeil

- Doug McNeil indicated that channel excavation is approximately 94% complete and the remaining channel excavation contracts are anticipated to be completed later this fall. He indicated that all channel excavation contracts will be completed approximately three months ahead of schedule.

The three channel excavation contracts currently underway include:

- C6C – Kelly Panteluk Construction is excavating the channel opposite Springhill Ski Hill and has installed a cut-off wall;
- C7A - Hugh Munro Construction is undertaking excavation on the west side of the channel and is close to done just south of Dunning Road; and
- C8B - Erickson Construction is undertaking excavation on the east side of the channel from Floodway Drive to Dunning Road.

Other construction components underway include:

- Expansion of the Outlet Control Structure is underway
- Mechanical and Hydraulic improvements with the Inlet Control Structure
- Improvements to the West Dike – work is continuing but rain and wet weather has impacted this fall's progress
- CP Keewatin Railway Bridge – Work is ongoing
- CP Emerson Railway Bridge – Work is ongoing
- Doug McNeil also identified contracts that have been tendered or are scheduled to be tendered in 2009 including:
 - CE2 - Rock Rip Rap across Outlet Structure – advertised on October 1, 2008 currently tendered with work expected to begin in December/January. 1.8 KM rip rap from existing rip rap to Lower Fort Garry and refurbish old rip rap.
 - W25, W26, W27 – West Dike rip rap tenders were advertised on October 2, 2008

- T16 – The tender to replace the Seine River crossing culvert under Prairie Grove Road near Emerson Rail line was advertised on October 3, 2008.
- Seine River Siphon Contract – to be issued in 2009.
- Additional West Dike Tenders – to be issued in 2009.

Questions

Bonnie Book inquired as to whether the floodway project was on budget and Doug McNeil indicated that MFA is confident that the project will be on budget.

Val Rutherford inquired if there were any DFO concerns raised in relation to West Dike. Doug McNeil and Doug Peterson indicated that MFA is working closely with DFO on the West Dike and no specific issues have been raised.

Bob Bodnaruk asked about whether Prairie Grove Road will be raised and Doug McNeil indicated that the road is being raised as part of the CPR Emerson project which necessitated the replacement of the culvert on the Seine River.

Peter Skrupski inquired about the aggregate being taken out beside the PTH 59 North Bridge. Doug McNeil indicated that under an existing lease, the material belongs to Mulder Construction. As a result, MFA is stockpiling better quality material for Mulder while poorer quality material is being spoiled and used to fill in the existing gravel pit.

Jim Stinson asked whether there was one or two cut-off walls in the vicinity of Springhill. Doug McNeil indicated to protect groundwater MFA has established two cut-off walls at the site – one on the east side of the channel (south of Springhill Ski Hill) and one on the west side of channel (opposite Springhill Ski Hill).

7) Studies Update

a) Report on Ritchot Artificial Flooding Study – Doug McNeil

- Doug McNeil indicated that a Public Open House was held on Thursday, October 9th in St. Adolphe to hear from the public regarding the potential mitigation measures being considered. The public can view the presentation on the MFA website and the deadline for public comments was recently extended to Monday, November 3, 2008. A draft report is expected to be released in January, 2009.

b) Update on Status of PTH 59 Pedestrian Crossing – Doug McNeil

- Doug McNeil indicated that a study is being undertaken to examine options for facilitating the crossing of pedestrians across PTH 59. The study is currently ongoing.
- Jim Stinson inquired as to whether the study will be made public and McNeil indicated that the report should be made public at some point.
- Related to this study, Ronuk Modha also provided a brief summary of the Floodway Opportunities Concept Plan. He indicated that the Consultant has held three open meetings and have had contact with all the user groups and is moving forward on the development of a conceptual plan

c) Report on Health Risk Assessment Study – Doug Peterson

- Doug Peterson indicated that this study was undertaken based on MFA's groundwater monitoring program and they concluded that there were no immediate health threats. But based on some uncertainty, they recommended that ongoing monitoring continue and that sentinel well be established. The report is available for viewing on the MFA website at <http://www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca/reports.html>

d) Update on Groundwater Peer Review Team – Doug Peterson

- Doug Peterson indicated that the Groundwater Peer Review Team met in August and received the Health Risk Assessment Study. They concluded that the consultant's report was appropriate and did recommend that the modeling should be completed. The team also recommended that the groundwater monitoring be continued.
- Bob Bodnaruk inquired about the Team's comment that there was a lack of data that was available specifically related to the domestic wells before 2002 and the distance of the impacts from the channel. Doug Peterson indicated that the domestic well monitoring began in 2005 but that the Provincial monitoring well data is available since the floodway was first constructed in the 1960's. Peterson indicated that the consultants choose the centre of the channel as the base line from which to measure effects. They predicted effects in the overburden aquifer within 300 metres from the centre of the channel.
- Jim Stinson inquired as to the whether they have identified the wells and are they going to increase the number of wells. Doug Peterson indicated that there are no sentinel wells currently but MFA is planning to install some in specific at-risk areas (ie. Birds Hill and Outlet Control Structure). Sentinel wells are specific monitoring wells that would be located on Floodway right-of-way between the channel and domestic wells. Herm Martens inquired as to how many wells are being planned to be installed but Doug Peterson indicated that this decision has not been made.

e) HADD options Study – Doug Peterson

- Doug Peterson indicated that if any project impacts the natural fish habitat, proponents are required to compensate and create fish habitat in another area. Doug explained that for the floodway project, MFA has requested from DFO the opportunity to identify options to compensate. MFA has enlisted Golder and Associates to identify these options.
- Bonnie Book inquired who determines if the compensation is equal to impact. DFO approves the compensation approach.

8) Recreation Update – Ronuk Modha

a) Duff Roblin Park Reserve

- Manitoba Conservation is moving forward on the development of the park.

b) Opportunities Concept Plan

- Consultant has held three open meetings and have had contact with all the user groups and is moving forward on the development of a conceptual plan

c) Floodway Trail

- Consideration is being given to options for crossing from the floodway trail across PTH 59 to Birds Hill Provincial Park, - all options are currently being reviewed.

Questions

Jim Stinson asked about whether MFA has any plans to discourage ATV / Snowmobile use along the floodway. Ronuk indicated we will be indicating a public awareness campaign to ensure the public stays away from active construction zones. In addition, MFA is working with enforcement agencies, whenever necessary, to enforce this and to address issues of vandalism etc.

Bob Bodnaruk noted that the entrance to old Duff Roblin Park is currently open and inquired as to whether the park will continue to remain so. Ronuk Modha indicated that MFA will look into this to determine the present status of the park. Modha indicated that the future of the site will be determined through the existing Opportunities Concept plan process and no decisions have been made regarding the site at present.

9) Communications Update – Ronuk Modha

a) Floodway Recognized as Engineering Marvel

- In July, the International Association of Macro-Engineering Societies (IAMES), a engineering organization based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with affiliated organizations throughout the world, recognized the floodway as one of the worlds 16 engineering achievements

b) Selenite Crystals

- MFA facilitated an opportunity for the Winnipeg Rock and Mineral Club and Manitoba Mineral Society to dig for selenite crystals at one location along the floodway for a three week period in August. In an attempt to educate the organizations on safety issues, MFA also required the organizations to submit safety plans to undertake the work.

c) Access to Earth Initiative

- This year, approximately 90,000 cubic metres of earth was made available to the public. In addition, the RM of East St. Paul accessed approx. 70,000 cubic metres of earth to cap their abandoned landfill site near the floodway.
- The total excavated this year was approximately 160,000 cubic metres and over the past three years approximately 230,000 cubic metres of earth have been moved.

Bob Bodnaruk indicated that Lorne Hill Road was impacted by vehicles using the Access to Earth Program. Doug McNeil indicated that the RM could put in a claim to the MFA which will be considered but the RM would have to prove that MFA activities were responsible. Doug McNeil indicated that the MFA takes no responsibility for the transportation of earth with private vehicles and that under the waiver signed by all those that access the program, individuals are responsible for complying with all municipal and highways regulations.

d) New MFA Website www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca

- MFA established a new website which is more user friendly and more accessible. The new site includes more pictures and historical components

e) Public Safety

- MFA is reminding all the PLC members to remind the public especially off-road users to avoid the entire floodway region and specifically Springhill, the bridge sites, and the Outlet Control Structure as these are active construction zones.
- In addition, the public is reminded that boaters should avoid navigating in the vicinity of the Inlet Control Structure due to high velocity of the water resulting from ongoing construction activity.

Questions

Val Rutherford indicated that Courchaine is closed and inquired about how long will the bridge be closed. Doug McNeil indicated that the road is closed until October 24, 2009 but may be closed again at other times. He indicated that the contractor is trying to keep the bridge open as construction activities permit. He noted that information is posted on the MFA website and key local contacts are contacted and advised about the closures.

10) Other Business

- Bonnie Book has requested that we get a list of upcoming meetings for the entire year to help plan for future meetings. The members indicated that having 3 months notice prior to the next meeting is appropriate.
- Jim Stinson indicated that there are MTS lines hanging over the floodway at the PTH 44 and this is a safety issue for snowmobilers. Doug M. indicated that these lines will be buried in the next week or so.
- Jim Stinson indicated that traffic on Old Henderson Highway has slowed down due to new signage that was installed after the last PLC meeting in June.

11) Request of Information for Next Meeting

Jim Stinson inquired about the emergency plans related to the Go Forward Plan for the next meeting. Doug McNeil indicated that we will have an update for the next meeting.

12) Next Meeting

- It was proposed that the next meeting date be Thursday, January 15, 2009 at Dugald.

13) Conclusion: Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.