

**PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE (PLC)  
- Final Meeting Minutes -**

**Meeting #8  
Thursday, September 17, 2009  
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
East St. Paul Recreation Complex  
264 Hoddinott Road**

**PLC members in attendance**

Mr. Doug Peterson, Manitoba Floodway Authority  
Reeve Peter Skrupski, RM of Springfield  
Reeve Lawrence Morris, RM of East St. Paul  
Councillor David Menard, RM of Tache  
Councillor Valerie Rutherford, RM of Ritchot  
Councillor Glen Basarowich, RM of St. Clements  
Ms. Patricia Nedokis, RM of St. Andrews  
Mr. Bob Roehle, Public Member  
Ms. Leanne Shewchuk, Manitoba Floodway Authority

**Regrets**

Reeve Herme Martens, RM of Morris  
Reeve Clifford Dearman, RM of West St. Paul  
Reeve Rodney Burns, RM of Macdonald  
City of Winnipeg, Vacant  
Ms. Bonnie Book, Public Member  
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**

Councillor Bob Bodnaruk, RM of Springfield  
Ronuk Modha, Manitoba Floodway Authority

**Meeting Notes**

**1. Light Dinner (5:30 – 5:50 pm)**

- a. PLC co-chair Doug Peterson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:45 pm following a light meal.

## **2. Brief Introductions of new attendees (5:45 to 5:50)**

- b. Doug Peterson, New Co-Chair to Committee
- c. Leanne Shewchuk, New MFA Member

Doug Peterson (Doug P.) advised that he will be replacing Doug McNeil as the MFA Co-Chair on the PLC since Doug McNeil has moved on to a new position as the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure & Transportation for the Government of Manitoba.

Doug P. also indicated that Ms. Leanne Shewchuk would be assuming his role as the Environmental Manager of the floodway and in this capacity will be replacing Doug Peterson as a committee member.

## **3. Approval of agenda (5:50 to 5:55)**

- a. The following items were added to the September 17<sup>th</sup> agenda:
  - Glen Basarowich – Costs related to the maintenance of the Dunning Road Crossing
  - Bob Bodnaruk - Long range plans for Groundwater
  - Valerie Rutherford - Control Lights at the Perimeter at St. Mary's Road and the recent closure of Courchaine Road
- b. Peter Skrupski Moved that the September 17, 2009 meeting agenda be accepted as amended.
- c. Seconded by Bob Roehle

## **4. Approval of notes from October 16, 2008 meeting (meeting #7) (6:00 to 6:10)**

- a. Peter Skrupski moved that the minutes from the meeting be accepted.
- b. Seconded by Bob Roehle
- c. Motion Passed

## **5. Vacant Co-Chair (6:00 – 6:20)**

Doug P. indicated that Dan Benoit was no longer a co-chair and a replacement was required. Peter Skrupski had previously volunteered to act as Co-chair but the decision was postponed until today's meeting to provide others with an opportunity to volunteer. Glen Basarowich indicated that he would be prepared to be a Co-chair but would be supportive of Peter Skrupski as Co-Chair.

Valerie Rutherford suggested that Bob Bodnaruk become a Co-chair but Doug P. indicated that Mr. Bodnaruk is not a member of PLC and as a result would be ineligible to co-chair.

The committee accepted Peter Skrupski as the co-chair.

## **5b. Discussion of Committee Members Participation**

Doug P. indicated that there were a few members of the PLC that had not attended for some time and inquired as to whether the committee would like to review this matter.

Bob Roehle asked as to how long the floodway and the PLC would be in existence. Doug P. indicated that MFA will be around for another year and a half but in the future there may be a requirement to have another provincial organization facilitate the PLC as the responsibility will move from construction to operation.

Patricia Nedokis suggested that if a member misses a certain number of meetings, the member should be replaced.

After a discussion on the matter, the committee resolved to send a letter to all of the members that had missed numerous meeting to determine whether they still wished to serve on the committee.

- a. Peter Skrupski Moved that the MFA contact all of the PLC members that had missed a number of meetings to inquire as to whether they still wished to be a member.
- b. Seconded by Glen Basarowich

## **6. Construction update (Doug Peterson) (6:20 to 6:40)**

Doug Peterson provided an update on floodway construction including:

- Channel excavation – completed
- Riverbank erosion protection on the west Bank - completed
- CPR Keewatin Railway Bridge – rail traffic restored and project close to completion
- CPR Emerson Railway Bridge – rail traffic restored and project close to completion
- PTH 44 Bridge – recently underway
- PTH 15 Bridge – recently underway
- West Dike – ongoing
- Inlet & East Dike – recently underway
- Seine River Siphon Inlet – recently underway
- Outlet Control Structure – close to completion

## Questions

The PLC members asked the following questions regarding floodway construction:

Glen Basarowich indicated that the RM has received a number of calls regarding the number of speed bumps installed on Rockhaven Road.

- Doug P. indicated that MFA will be taking out about ½ of the speed bumps.

Glen Basarowich also suggested that traffic lights be erected at the corner of Rockhaven and Henderson Highway.

- Doug P. Indicated that he would look into this matter.

Glen Basarowich inquired as to whether Emergency Services have been notified about the Rockhaven Road Detour.

- Doug P. indicated that it would be MFA's expectation that they would have been but we will follow up to see if they had been informed.

Bob Bodnaruk requested an update on Pineridge Road in the RM of Springfield because apparently it is still closed.

- Doug P. indicated that he would look into this matter.

Bob Bodnaruk asked whether the Perimeter will be four-laned at the junction of Perimeter and PTH 15.

- Doug P. indicated that he would look into it.

Patricia Nedokis inquired about what will be done to the temporary detour structure and Doug P. indicated that we are planning to sell the temporary detour structure.

Valerie inquired about using the temporary detour structure as a replacement to the Pierre Delorme Bridge in Ste. Adolphe and Doug P. indicated that these discussions have been ongoing for some time but MIT has not indicated an interest in the structure.

Glen Basarowich inquired as to whether the floodway is being operated and Doug indicated that due to Rule 4, the floodway is not being operated. Glen Basarowich also inquired as to whether the Outlet is holding back water but Doug P. explained that the Outlet culverts were open.

Bob Roehle inquired as to whether there will be a pedestrian crossing on the Inlet Structure. Doug P. indicated that there is no intention for this put a pedestrian crossing on the Inlet at this time.

Bob Bodnaruk inquired about some work on the east side of PTH 59 North/Springhill. Doug P. indicated that some erosion work was being repaired or there could have been some work on water lines. Leanne Shewchuk indicated that there may be some erosion protection and re-vegetation work being undertaken in the vicinity.

Bob Bodnaruk inquired as to whether the gates to old Duff Roblin Park could be extended to keep people out of the park area. Doug P. indicated that this is not within MFA's jurisdiction and that there are currently discussions underway to determine what will be done with the park area.

Bob Roehle inquired about the impact of this spring's flood on floodway operation. Doug P. indicated that Water Stewardship has reviewed the spring's flood and has indicated ice was a major issue but overall the floodway operated as expected.

Lawrence Morris inquired about whether there will be a chain link fence on Oasis Road and Doug P. indicated that MFA was approached by the RCMP to provide additional security for the area to protect the groundwater wells and to stop people from loitering in the area. MFA is working with the Municipality and RCMP to erect the fencing. Reeve Lawrence Morris indicated that council supports these measures.

## **7. Studies Update (6:40 – 7:20)**

### **a. Report on Artificial Flood Study (Doug Peterson)**

- i. Draft report is completed and in the process of finalizing the report.
- ii. Valerie Rutherford inquired as to whether there will be a public consultation on the draft but Doug indicated that there was a public meeting in October – Valerie requested that it is necessary to go back to the public once the report is finalized. Doug P. indicated that no decisions have been made regarding this at this time as the focus is on finalizing the draft report.

### **b. Report on Emergency Plans (Doug Peterson)**

- i. Jim Stinson asked Glen Basarowich to ask if Emergency Services were notified about the closure of PR 204 and the Rockhaven Road Detour
  - Doug P. indicated that this would be MFA's expectation but will confirm that this is the case.

### **c. Update on Groundwater Peer Review Team (Doug Peterson)**

- i. Peer Review Team and KGS are continuing with the groundwater monitoring program

### **d. HADD options study (Leanne Shewchuk)**

- i. Leanne discussed how the floodway project had impacted the habitat and how these impacts would be mitigated and compensated as per requirements by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- ii. 24 Projects have been identified to compensate the impact and this has been submitted to DFO and we are awaiting their response which is anticipated in October, 2009.

### **Questions by the PLC Members included:**

Patricia Nedokis asked about dredging in Red River north and whether that would have a benefit. Leanne suggested that dredging is something that is difficult to get approved by Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) and there may be other impacts that would have to be addressed (i.e. groundwater impacts). Doug P. also indicated that DFO is not supportive of dredging as this is considered to be harmful to fish habitat.

Valerie Rutherford commented that although DFO is concerned with dredging how was the floodway originally approved. Leanne indicated that the original floodway could have created fish habitat when it was originally created and for this reason making alterations to the floodway could potentially have a potential negative impact on the fish habitat

Rob Roehle asked if the entire floodway is considered to be “fish habitat” and Doug P. indicated that it is from the Seine River Siphon to the Outlet.

### **8. Recreation & Economic Development Update – Ronuk Modha**

- Ronuk indicated that two public open houses were held in February at the Convention Centre and in Transcona and the input was used to go into the Recreation and Economic Development Concept Plan. This plan has been submitted to Governments for consideration.
- A pilot project for a trail has been initiated between PTH 59 North and Dunning Road, beginning at Garven Road. Wet weather conditions have impacted the construction of the trail but we are hoping to have the first section completed by end of the year.
- Link to Birds Hill Provincial Park – we are continuing to examine options which include a stand alone pedestrian structure and the existing expansion of the expansion overpass.
- Funding - Manitoba has committed to landscaping and recreational trail development but discussions are still ongoing with Government of Canada regarding their commitment – Federal involvement will determine provincial commitment.
- Duff Roblin Provincial Park – Manitoba Conservation is moving forward with the development of the park. Their first priority is to construct an interpretive centre and work is still proceeding on this component.

### **8. Communications Update – Ronuk Modha**

#### **a) Courchaine Road Closure**

Ronuk indicated that recently the MFA was required to close Courchaine Road to facilitate floodway construction at the same time that the Pierre Delorme Bridge in St. Adolphe was closed. In an effort to mitigate the traffic disruption for local residents the MFA undertook the following measures:

- Delayed the closures to consult with government departments and officials from the RM of Ritchot
- Coordinated the closure with other bridge closures in the area (Perimeter Highway, Bishop Grandin Boulevard)

- MFA will also consider a partial opening of Courchaine Bridge between Nov. 1 and March 31, if construction work permits.

To advise the public and to ensure that the public could plan their travel, MFA undertook the following measures to advise the public:

- Issued a Traffic Advisory to the media
- Updated information on the MFA website
- Mailed out approximately 1000 public notices to the local residents
- Advised Emergency Services of the closure

Valerie Rutherford commented about specific wording in the “Traffic Advisory” that was issued to notify the public. Ronuk indicated that the RM was consulted about the closure but recognized that more appropriate wording could have been identified. Ronuk suggested that in the future, the RM and MFA could work together on the wording of future traffic advisories.

b. Access to Earth Update

- Ronuk advised that the Access to Earth Program has been very successful over the years it has been in operation with over 300,000 cubic metres of earth being obtained by the public and local municipalities
- However, this year’s wet weather condition has reduced the number of days that the sites were open.
- Ronuk advised that this year will be the last year that the Access to Earth Site will be open.

c. Public Safety

- Ronuk reiterated that the public should continue to avoid the floodway while construction continues and requested the assistance of the PLC members in reinforcing this message to the public.

**9. Expansion of Floodway Authority Mandate - East Side Transportation Initiative (Doug Peterson)**

Doug P. explained how the MFA has now been provided the mandate to undertake the construction of the East Side Road Project which consists of the following:

- Construction of the all-season road from the PR 304 to Berens River First Nation
- East Side Large Area Transportation Study

**10. Other Items**

1) Dunning Road – Glen Basarowich

Glen Basarowich raised the issue of costs associated with maintaining Dunning Road after the floodway is operated. Doug P. indicated that the road was constructed in response to requests from the municipality through agreement whereby the municipality assumed all costs related to maintenance of the road.

2) Long Range Plans for Groundwater Wells – Bob Bodnaruk

Bob Bodnaruk inquired about any long range plans for groundwater wells. Doug P. indicated that there are no plans at this time but this matter will be examined.

3) Traffic Lights at Perimeter at St. Mary's Road – Valerie Rutherford

Valerie Rutherford inquired as to whether MFA could try to get MIT to alter the operation of the turning lights at the junction to provide more time for turning. She indicated that there was concern raised from bus drivers.

- Doug. P indicated that he will raise the matter with MIT.

**11. Next Meeting**

It was proposed that the next meeting date be Thursday, February 18, 2009 at the Manitoba Floodway Authority Field Office, 7-1333 Niakwa Road E. Winnipeg, MB.

**12. Conclusion**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.