

FINAL APPROVED MINUTES
as of March 31, 2008**Meeting #2 – Monday, February 25, 2008**
55 Plus Centre
Steinbach, Manitoba 10:00 am - 4:05 pm**1. Call to Order**

Meeting #2 of the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan (SRGMP) group was called to order shortly after 10:00 am on Monday, February 25, 2008 at the 55 Plus Centre in Steinbach, Manitoba by Barry Oswald, Manager of the Aquifer and Basin Planning Section of Manitoba Water Stewardship and Lead Coordinator of the SRGMP group.

Present:

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Anderson	Kristina	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Andrusiak	Julian	RM of Stuartburn
Benoit	Dan	Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
Betcher	Bob	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Bodnaruk	Bob	RM of Springfield
Butler	Rob	Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
Carr	Kristy-Layne	Seine Rat River Conservation District
Chapman	Paul	Town of Lac du Bonnet
De Jong	Pieter	Dairy Farmers of Manitoba
Dugard	Mark	RM of Brokenhead
Evans	Laurie	RM of Ste. Anne
Funk	Henry	RM of Hanover
Goertzen	Cornie	Seine Rat River Conservation District
Grodzik	Bob	Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs
Groom	Heather	Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines
Heppner	Neil	RM of Taché
Hernandez	Helios	Manitoba Conservation
Hinrichs	Albert	RM of Whitemouth
Hovorka-Smith	Linda	Concerned Citizens of the RM of Piney and Buffalo Point
Jacob	Peters	RM of Hanover

Present (continued):

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Kalyta	Phil	City of Steinbach
Keller	Greg	Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines
Kopelow	Sacha	Manitoba Eco-Network
Koroluk	Glen	Beyond Factory Farms
Krozkin	Alex	Sky Blue Water Inc.
Lucko	Ken	RM of Springfield
Martel	Gordon	Pembina Valley Water Cooperative
Martens	Herm	RM of Morris
Matile	Gaywood	Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines
Matthews	Rob	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Maynard	Gerry	RM of De Salaberry
McRae	Curtis	Keystone Agricultural Producers
Melnychuk	Grant	Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs
Menard	Dave	RM of Taché
Mihaychuk	Ron	RM of Franklin
Moquin	Claude	RM of La Broquerie
Nedotiafko	Rob	Manitoba Water Stewardship, Coordinator
Oswald	Barry	Manitoba Water Stewardship, Lead Coordinator
Parks	Candace	Manitoba Water Stewardship, Coordinator & Secretary
Peterson	Doug	Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation
Riekman	Marla	Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
Rocan	Don	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Ross	Marc	Cooks Creek Conservation District
Sadorski	Shane	Manitoba Cattle Producers Association
Sawka	Earl	RM of Piney
Schaible	Frank	Holds industrial water bottling license
Seniw	Jane	Devils Creek Watershed Coalition
Stefaniuk	Bob	RM of Ritchot
Steinke	Glenn	Town of Beausejour
Stephens	Mark	Manitoba Conservation
Stewart	Jennifer	Red River Basin Commission
Swanson	Tim	Manitoba Conservation
Swidersky	Jim	RM of Stuartburn

Present (continued):

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Teillet	Mike	Manitoba Pork Council
Toews	Stan	RM of Hanover
Voisey	Sam	Sagkeeng First Nation
Wang	Jianrong	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Yosyk	Alvin	RM of Alexander
Young	Dave	RM of Reynolds

Regrets:

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Ball	Garth	Manitoba Conservation
Kern	Gord	Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
Venema	Hank	International Institute of Sustainable Development
Weiss	Phil	Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation
Wruck	Gus	RM of Lac du Bonnet

2. Acceptance of Proposed Agenda

The proposed agenda was accepted.

Moved by Paul Chapman – Town of Lac Du Bonnet

Seconded by Dan Benoit – Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.

Carried.

In response to a request for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation and notes given at the last SRGMP meeting, the lead coordinator responded that the presentation given today by Bob Betcher will be essentially the same as the one given at the SRGMP meeting #1 with added information. It is up to the individual agencies to make their own notes on the presentations.

Presentation hand-outs from today's meeting will be emailed with SRGMP meeting #2 preliminary minutes. For the next SRGMP meeting, presentation handouts will be distributed just prior to the presentations.

3. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting #2

The preliminary minutes were accepted.

Moved by Albert Hinrichs – RM of Whitemouth

Seconded by Bob Stefaniuk – RM of Ritchot

Carried.

4. Business arising from Meeting #1

a. Terms of Reference and Methods of Operation

The lead coordinator read over the terms of reference and method of operation.

In response to the concerns about why Manitoba Water Stewardship (MWS) will not pay for agencies to participate in the management process, the lead coordinator said his budget does not allow for these expenses.

Before approving the method of operation, it was suggested the word "honourariums" should be included thus the updated statement should read: "SRGMP group local members shall receive no payment or honourariums from MWS for attending meetings".

The method of operation was accepted based on the above wording change.

Moved by Dan Benoit - Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.

Seconded by Mark Dugard - RM of Brokenhead

Carried.

In response to the concern of whether or not the SRGMP group will be able to influence water policies, the lead coordinator replied that the management plan can include suggestions to update policies or include suggestions for new water policies.

In response to the concern if documents will be available in French as well as English, the lead coordinator responded by saying that the current plans for the working language of the group (minutes, presentations and discussions) were English and the draft and final plan could be produced in both languages if the group decides so at that time.

The terms of reference were accepted.

Moved by Alvin Yosyk - RM of Alexander

Seconded by Dan Benoit – Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.

Carried.

In response to a request for alternates to also attend the meetings the lead coordinator stated that the MWS process brought to the group allowed for only one person from each agency attending meetings in order to reduce group size and to keep discussions and voting fair. In response to a request that both representatives and alternates receive a binder and all information, the coordinator

agreed to send to alternates, who register their request with Candace, information available in electronic form only. He indicated that it is the responsibility of each representative to keep their alternate (or vice versa) and their agency's membership informed of the SRGMP process.

b. Agency Appointments of Representatives and Alternatives

Candace Parks outlined the following four points:

- 1) Four agencies including the Manitoba Public Utilities Board, Manitoba Wildlands, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and Save Our Seine River Environment Inc. are officially auditing the SRGMP process. These agencies will be emailed all the handouts as well as the minutes from each meeting. Likewise, they are always welcome to attend any upcoming SRGMP meeting.
- 2) To date, three agencies have contacted MWS in writing by either mail or email officially appointing a representative and an alternate for the SRGMP process. These agencies include Pansy Groundwater Committee, the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba and the RM of Whitemouth.

Six agencies have officially appointed a representative and have yet to designate an alternate. These agencies include Keystone Agricultural Producers, the Red River Basin Commission, the RM of Reynolds, the RM of Lac du Bonnet and the RM of Taché.

Candace asked for agencies that have not yet officially appointed a representative and an alternate to contact her by mail or email so that she can keep a record for her files. Her contact information is located on the bottom of the SRGMP directory.

- 3) The RM of Victoria Beach sent regrets for not attending today's meeting.
- 4) Three agencies invited to participate in the SRGMP process have officially declined involvement. These agencies include the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Buffalo Point First Nation and the Town of Powerview-Pinefalls.

c. Meeting Rooms and Open Houses

Rob Nedotiafko reviewed the open house / workshop advertisement handout. At the time of the SRGMP meeting the official ad was not completed. The handout includes information on the wording of the ad, the locations of the open houses (which were finalized at the SRGMP meeting #1), the publication dates and the newspapers in which the ads are to be placed.

In response to whether posters of the ad will be available to the RMs for additional advertisement, Rob said no. The ads will only be available in the newspapers. Rob also mentioned that the same information will be presented at all four open houses / workshops. A PDF copy of the final ad will be attached to an email with the meeting minutes so the ad can be distributed by the SRGMP group as needed.

d. Meeting Procedures and Logistics

Rob Nedotiafko reviewed the meeting procedures and logistics confirmed from the previous group meeting on January 21, including the standard meeting approach of three hour meetings (i.e. 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm), longer meeting timeframes to accommodate science member presentations (10:00 am – 4:00 pm), with meetings to rotate between Oakbank, Steinbach and Beausejour.

Rob suggested that by the April meeting, the SRGMP group will have a better sense of the overall planning process and timeframes to accommodate upcoming science member presentations, local knowledge presentations and to complete the draft plan.

e. Election of Chair and Vice-Chairperson

The lead coordinator asked the group for three nominations for the SRGMP Chair position.

Cornie Goertzen from the Seine Rat River Conservation District was nominated for Chair by Earl Sawka from the RM of Piney and Pieter De Jong from the Dairy Producers of Manitoba seconded the motion.

A request for a break in order to prepare for nominations was declined noting that the election was tabled from the last SRGMP meeting and was itemized on the meeting agenda send to all February 5, 2008. Dave Young from the RM of Reynolds nominated Bob Stefaniuk as the Chair of the SRGMP. However, Mr. Stefaniuk declined the nomination.

Marc Ross representing the Cooks Creek Conservation District nominated Ken Lucko from the RM of Springfield. Dave Young from

the RM of Reynolds seconded the motion however Mr. Lucko declined the nomination.

It was addressed that nominees must be present. In response to a concern about the magnitude or political nature of the Chair and Vice-Chair's roles the lead coordinator answered that he did not see that these jobs would be political in nature and that the Basin and Aquifer Planning staff would provide full secretariat support. He noted one possible additional task for the Chair/Vice-Chair could be media liaison for the group.

The lead coordinator made three last calls for any additional nominations for the Chair position. No other nominations for the Chair position were made by the SRGMP group.

Cornie Goertzen was officially appointed as Chair of the SRGMP.

Laurie Evans was nominated for the Vice-Chair position by Herm Martens from the RM of Morris. Claude Moquin from the RM of La Broquerie seconded the nomination.

The lead coordinator made a second and third call for the Vice-Chair position. Laurie Evans mentioned he wanted his name to stand. No other nominations for the Vice-Chair position were made by the SRGMP group.

Laurie Evans was officially appointed as the Vice-Chair of the SRGMP.

Cornie and Laurie were congratulated by the coordinator and the group. Cornie Goertzen asked the lead coordinator to proceed in leading the SRGMP meeting until the next meeting. The lead coordinator continued.

5. Coordinators Report

The lead coordinator stated he was happy to see the group up and running itself in time to launch into its first major task of collecting and studying the area's groundwater information. He reminded the SRGMP group to stay focused and to realize that the plan is dynamic; it will need be updated so new issues can be added to the plan in the future. The goal is to develop a plan that will stay valid for at least ten years.

6. New Business

Due to the fact there was 45 minutes remaining until lunch, the SRGMP group decided to proceed with item 6c on the agenda.

c. Agencies Preliminary Groundwater Issues Identification

Each agency had two minutes to identify themselves and the key groundwater issues their agency perceives. The lead coordinator mentioned that the science/knowledge members would not participate in this issue identification session as they will bring their issues to the table during their future presentations.

Overall the majority of the agencies agreed that preserving water quality, quantity and abundance for present and future generations was of utmost importance. Climate change, legal rights, water rights, alternatives to using groundwater, well contamination/sealing of abandoned wells, impacts of the Winnipeg floodway and geothermal energy on groundwater, the unnecessary use of potable water for functions such as toilet flushing and the need for a more holistic approach which includes obtaining additional science information so decisions are not solely based on politics summarized the general concerns made by the SRGMP group.

-----Lunch-----

a. Science Members Introduction, Responsibilities, Information

Rob Nedotiafko reviewed the “Science members of Groundwater Management Planning Group – responsibilities, and preliminary meeting.” section of the “OUTLINE OF PROPOSED PLANNING PROCESS FOR A SOUTHEAST REGIONAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN” with the SRGMP group in order to introduce the responsibilities of science members to the planning process.

On behalf of MWS, Rob expressed his appreciation towards the Science Members for their commitment to the process. Rob also expressed the important role of science members as “experts” and their responsibility to bring their information to the group, as relevant to the regional groundwater resources, and to outline their expert recommendations on what the management plan should address. Rob then facilitated introductions of the science members to the group. The science members introduced themselves, provided a brief background of their expertise and the information they would bring to the table for the SRGMP.

Science members not in attendance for the meeting included Phil Weiss and Garth Ball.

In response to the concern raised by Sagkeeng First Nation that First Nations did not appear on the study area map included in the SRGMP binders, the lead coordinator apologized for the oversight and stated the maps will be re-done to include First Nations communities as on

the larger wall map and distributed to the SRGMP group at the next meeting.

In response to the concerns about drainage alterations in peat moss harvesting areas, it was decided to address this concern in the future if it is evident that the surface water regime in these areas is connected to the groundwater regime. The SRGMP group can decide if they need to invite peat moss harvesting operators to the table.

b. Science Members Presentations

- i. Groundwater - Bob Betcher, Manager, Groundwater Management, MWS made a PowerPoint presentation from 1:30 to 3:30 pm and responded to questions. Bob identified an additional 16 groundwater lectures he would like present to the SRGMP group during the management plan process.

The lead coordinator cautioned the group that it will need to find a judicious balance between taking the time studying all aspects of all related science information and trusting the science professionals recommendations.

- ii. Rob Matthews - Manager, Water Rights Licensing, MWS in the interest in time, made a brief 15 minute presentation to the SRGMP group. The remainder of his presentation was tabled for the next SRGMP meeting.

d. Other Business

Tabled for the next SRGMP group meeting.

7. Next Meeting

The majority of the SRGMP group voted to have the SRGMP meeting #3 on Monday, March 31, 2008 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in Beausejour. Exact details of the meeting location are TBA.

8. Adjournment

The coordinators thanked the group for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.