

**FINAL APPROVED MINUTES**  
as of February 25, 2008

**Meeting #1 – Monday, January 21, 2008**  
Oakbank United Church  
Oakbank, Manitoba 1:00 - 4:20 pm

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting #1 of the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Planning (SRGMP) group was called to order shortly after 1:00 pm on Monday January 21, 2008 at the Oakbank United Church in Oakbank, Manitoba by Barry Oswald, Manager of the Aquifer and Basin Planning Section of Manitoba Water Stewardship and Lead Coordinator of the SRGMP group. Barry thanked everyone for responding to the invitation to participate on the group tasked with preparing a management plan for the groundwater in southeast Manitoba. Barry introduced his team comprised of Rob Nedotiafko and Candace Parks which hereafter will collectively be referred to as the coordinators.

**Present:**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Carriere	Les	Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
Chapman	Paul	Town of Lac du Bonnet
Chorney	Doug	Keystone Agricultural Producers
Dugard	Mark	RM of Brokenhead
Evans	Laurie	RM of Ste. Anne
Fontaine	Ron	Sagkeeng First Nation
Friesen	Peter	RM of Franklin
Gibson	Janine	Pansy Groundwater Committee
Goertzen	Cornie	Seine Rat River Conservation District
Griffin	Duane	City of Winnipeg
Heppner	Neil	RM of Taché
Hinrichs	Albert	RM of Whitemouth
Holtmann	Henry	Dairy Farmers of Manitoba
Kalyta	Phil	City of Steinbach
Kern	Gord	Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
Koroluk	Glen	Beyond Factory Farms
Krozkin	Alex	Sky Blue Water Inc.
Lucko	Ken	RM of Springfield
Martel	Gordon	Pembina Valley Water Cooperative

**Present (continued):**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Maynard	Gerry	RM of De Salaberry
McDonald	Bill	RM of Victoria Beach
Mihaychuk	Ron	RM of Franklin
Moquin	Claude	RM of La Broquerie
Morris	Lawrence	RM of East St. Paul
Nedotiafko	Rob	Manitoba Water Stewardship, Coordinator
Oswald	Barry	Manitoba Water Stewardship, Lead Coordinator
Ould	Phil	Concerned Citizens of the RM of Piney and Buffalo Point
Parks	Candace	Manitoba Water Stewardship, Coordinator
Ross	Marc	Cooks Creek Conservation District
Sadorski	Shane	Manitoba Cattle Producers Association
Sawka	Earl	RM of Piney
Schaible	Frank	Holds license for industrial water bottling
Shandroski	Donna	RM of Reynolds
Stefaniuk	Bob	RM of Richot
Steinke	Glenn	Town of Beausejour
Thornhill	Eric	Manitoba Forage Council
Voisey	Sam	Sagkeeng First Nation
Wruck	Gus	RM of Lac du Bonnet

**Regrets:**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Barron	Gerry	Manitoba Public Utilities Board
Hudson	Glen	Peguis First Nation
Moore	Mike	Nature Conservancy of Canada
Rutherford	Tammy	Save Our Seine
Whelan-Enns	Gaile	Manitoba Wildlands
Yosyk	Alvin	RM of Alexander

## 2. Acceptance of Proposed Agenda

The proposed agenda was accepted.

Moved by Paul Chapman – Town of Lac Du Bonnet

Seconded by Janine Gibson – Pansy Groundwater Committee

Carried

### 3. Coordinator's Report

#### Proposed Planning Process

The Basin and Aquifer Planning section of Manitoba Water Stewardship developed the proposed planning process which is included in the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan (SRGMP) binders which were handed out to *each agency* and not each representative. The section considers it a privilege to work with the stakeholders to develop a management plan for the groundwater in their area. This proposed planning process was discussed at the preliminary meetings held on Tuesday, December 4 in Steinbach and Wednesday, December 5 in East St. Paul. In a show of hands, 13 people in attendance at this meeting were not in attendance for either of the preliminary meetings.

#### SRGMP Group Membership

For the SRGMP process, each agency should decide/designate a representative and an alternate to represent each agency. Only one representative from each agency needs to attend the upcoming SRGMP group meetings.

To date the coordinators have recorded the agencies which will 1) intend to participate in the upcoming SRGMP group meetings, 2) audit the process by receiving minutes only, and 3) do not want to participate in the process. Additional groups may join but our mailing list from here forward will be based on this.

The coordinators made four to five attempts to solicit the six First Nations invited to participate in the process. The coordinators will follow-up one more time with the First Nations not in attendance during this meeting.

#### Location of Future Meetings

The lead coordinator mentioned the need for a venue that would seat upwards of 50 people in a round seating arrangement and that would be quiet enough for all to hear without using microphones.

In response to a request for copies of Bob Betcher's groundwater presentation at the preliminary meetings the lead coordinator responded that a similar but more detailed presentation on groundwater would be presented at the next SRGMP group meeting.

#### Introductions

The lead coordinator requested that all meeting participants take the opportunity to openly introduce themselves to the group, outlining the agency they represent and their agency's reason for participating in the planning process.

## 4. New Business

### a. Proposed Planning Process Overview

The lead coordinator gave a PowerPoint presentation called *Southeast Regional groundwater Management Plan: A proposed planning process introduction to groundwater management planning group*. A copy of the presentation is in the SRGMP binder.

Presentation comments:

The SRGMP Group Task (slide 2 on page 1 of the presentation hand-out)

- The plan this group completes will likely be redone every 10 to 15 years in the future.

The Study Area (slide 3 on page 1)

- Includes approximately 19,425 km<sup>2</sup> (7,500 mi<sup>2</sup>),
- Is based on hydrogeologic boundaries as were explained in the preliminary meetings and will be explained at the next meeting.
- Manitoba Water Stewardship has been managing these crown owned resources for over 50 years and has been watching the development pressure mount, particularly in the capital region, for some time.
- This pressure has reached the point where a formal management plan is necessary.

In response to concerns about cooperation with the SRGMP group and integrated watershed management plans, the lead coordinator mentioned that they were portions of several watersheds (nine) in the study area and that it would be appropriate to first develop the groundwater management plan for the entire southeast regional system then use/reference the appropriate portions of the SRGMP in the individual Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMP).

Planning Process in Three Steps (slide 4 on page 1)

- Entire task will likely take approximately two years.
- The handout (in plastic sleeve in binder) titled *Outline of a Proposed Planning Process for the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan* was distributed at the preliminary December meetings will be commented on later.
- Process is not new. It is commonly used in resource planning in Manitoba and in most provinces and states. A version of it has been used for three previous aquifer

management plans in Manitoba and for three watershed plans. These can be viewed on the Manitoba Water Stewardship website ([www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/reports](http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/reports)), an introduction to which is in binder tab #4. A very similar process is also used for integrated watershed management planning in Manitoba (seven underway, four additional to be started this year).

#### Plan Implementation (slide 5 on page 2)

- The process is consensus-based and stakeholder-led. The group is urged to seek unanimous consensus.
- If the plan is science-based and agreed to unanimously it would be very hard for a Minister to reject it.
- If, on the other hand, the plan is agreed to by a small majority the Minister could find herself lobbied extensively and the plan could end up on a shelf.
- Five of the six watersheds and aquifer plans on the branch website achieved unanimous consensus, the other had only one small aspect that was approved of by a vote.

#### Process Support by Manitoba Water Stewardship (slide 6 on page 2)

- The SRGMP coordinating staff from Manitoba Water Stewardship assigned to this task are resource planners experienced in facilitating stakeholder-led planning and they will provide secretariat services including bringing any necessary information to the planning table.

#### Process Consensus-Based (slide 7 on page 2)

- Trust the process; it has worked successfully in the past.

#### Consensus Planning Principles (slide 8 on page 2)

- Purpose of the plan is to produce a groundwater management plan that will get implemented.
- The process is inclusive; if there is any agency that has been missed, please inform the coordinators.
- All agencies participate at their own cost.
- The recommended process is adaptable and is not carved in stone. All agencies are encouraged to be flexible on SRGMP content expectations.

Consensus Planning Principles (slide 9 on page 3)

- Each agency representative is tasked with representing your agencies opinions as well as keeping your agency apprised of the SRGMP progress and direction.
- It will take approximately two years to complete - if we stay on track. SRGMP group must realize the world goes on (i.e., forest harvesting, drainage activities, development etc) while the plan develops thus if the plan take too long to develop, it may be obsolete before it is ever implemented.
- The Groundwater Management Section of Manitoba Water Stewardship will implement the plan.

Management Plan Contents (slide 10 on page 3)

- Content of the plan is dependent on the views of the SRGMP group however focusing on the groundwater resources and the related aspects of the surface resources.
- Foresee a few limits on the scope of the plan which will likely be information availability. In cases where information is short, use the precautionary principle.
- Included in the binder is a copy of the completed Assiniboine Delta Aquifer Management Plan (in tab 5). There has been two other aquifer management plans completed; Winkler and Oak Lake aquifers. The main difference between those plans and this plan is that the SRGMP area Includes a sand and gravel aquifer complex (The Sandilands) as well as the associated portions of two large regional bedrock aquifers. The other two aquifer plans dealt with single sand and gravel aquifer bodies.

SRGMP Group Method of Operation Proposed (slide 11 on page 3)

- The entire process is stake-holder led which includes electing a chair and vice-chair of the SRGMP group.

SRGMP Group Terms of Reference Proposed (slides 12 on page 3)

- Public open houses will facilitate obtaining local inputs regarding groundwater issues.

SRGMP Group Terms of Reference Proposed (slides 13 on page 4)

- The draft SRGMP will be made available on the Water Stewardship website, and hard copies can be made to be distributed during the second open house.
- A copy of *The Manitoba Water Policies* is included under tab 4 in the SRGMP binder. These policies shall apply to the

development of the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan.

SRGMP Group Meetings Overview (slide 14 on page 4)

- Number in brackets represents the proposed number of meetings required to cover each item.
- Thirteen meetings are proposed as the minimum number of required for the SRGMP process.
- Timeline discussed in more detail in agenda item 4c.

SRGMP Challenge (slide 15 on page 4)

- The groundwater management plan must be realistic, it will need to be redone every 10 years or so.
- It is critical to take all perspectives into account.
- A consensus based plan will get implemented.

The role of the open houses is to gather public input. The coordinators will arrange booking the halls, the advertising and will create any necessary outreach material (i.e., maps and poster boards for the open houses.

The science member meeting held on December 6, 2007 was to inform the group of their responsibilities to bring relevant information to the SRGMP group meetings that the lay person can understand.

It was agreed by the majority of the SRGMP group to table the acceptance of the proposed method of operation and the proposed terms of reference until the next meeting.

In response to concerns that the SRGMP is based on limited information it was pointed out that the plan must be done with the available information. If current information is insufficient to make necessary decisions then the plan will call for the collection of the necessary information. If decisions must be made now - use the precautionary principle.

The coordinator emphasized portions of the *Outline of the Proposed Planning Process for a Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan* handout from the plastic sleeve in the binder. This document was compiled last fall in order to apprise Manitoba Water Stewardship of the planning task and what we are proceeding with.

- On page 3, the SRGMP group responsibilities are outlined.

- On page 4, the first SRGMP group meeting agenda is included.
- On page 4 in the set-up of the second meeting section, it was noted that the task of seeking agreement for open houses was to occur in February, however to ensure proper advertising this task is needed to be done today.
- Page 5 includes information about the science/knowledge member's responsibilities and science member preliminary meeting. The Manitoba Water Stewardship's Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) had written to all the science/knowledge member's ADMs and Directors informing them of their staff's participation in the SRGMP process.

**b. Agency Expression of Interest**

Each SRGMP group member representing an agency was asked to voice their expression of interest for being a part of the SRGMP group. Overall the majority of the SRGMP group would like to ensure the groundwater resources that lie below the study area are properly protected and will be available for future generations.

**c. Meeting Procedures and Logistics**

Rob Nedotiafko outlined the following five points:

1. **Information Binders** –The SRGMP information binders include information for the group to reference during the process. The front section of the binder included: a map of the study area; a contact list for the Basin and Aquifer Planning section of Manitoba Water Stewardship, and; the outline of the proposed planning process and a timeline for the SRGMP. The back of the binder included eight tabbed inserts intended to organize information provided throughout the process including: a SRGMP group directory; agenda and meeting minutes; presentations; background information; management plan examples; issues identification; draft management plan, and; management plan. PLEASE bring your binder to each meeting since additional information will be provided at subsequent meetings.
2. **Meeting Minutes** –
  - a. Email is the preferred method to distribute minutes.
  - b. All submitted minutes are preliminary.

- c. Once amended as necessary and approved at the following SRGMP group meeting, the preliminary minutes will then be considered “Final”. Copies of the final minutes will not be re-distributed unless changes are extensive.
3. **Identification** – The coordinators will provide name tags for each agency’s representative and alternate in addition to tent cards at the next meeting.
4. **Process Timeline** – Considering the proposed planning process, there would be a seven month hiatus between SRGMP group meetings (last meeting before the summer would occur in May and next meeting to be held in fall would occur in November). To increase process efficiency, Rob asked the SRGMP group if additional meetings could be held in the months of April, May, September and October. In a show of hands, the majority of the SRGMP group was in favor of having meetings in April and the first three weeks of May. September was not a preferred month to hold meetings, however the majority voted to have meetings in October.

Including the 13 science/knowledge members, eight to 10 SRGMP group members also expressed an interest in making a presentation to the rest of the SRGMP group. Considering the proposed timeline, and the number of presentations, Rob asked the SRGMP group what the possibility was of having a longer meeting, say for example have a three hour morning meeting, a lunch break then a three hour afternoon meeting to accommodate the presentations. The majority of the SRGMP group said they were flexible with longer meetings. Some of the SRGMP group voiced concern of the long driving distances to attend shorter SRGMP meetings, preferring to accomplish more through longer meetings, and make best use of a meeting date and time. It was proposed and agreed to by the SRGMP group in principle for two meeting formats based on length and start times: standard meetings, 3 hours in length, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, and; longer meetings (when required to accommodate multiple presentations or agenda items) from 9:00/10:00 am - 3:00/4:00 pm.

5. **Next SRGMP Group Meeting** - Majority of the SRGMP group voted to have meeting #2 on February 25, 2008.

The majority of the SRGMP group decided that future meetings would rotate among Steinbach, Beausejour and Oakbank, Manitoba. The location of the next meeting will be determined based on venue availability.

The majority of the SRGMP group agreed to have four separate public open house sessions in Steinbach, Ile de Chênes, Oakbank and Beausejour, Manitoba.

In response to concerns for obtaining a full set of plan recommendations from water and water-related professionals it was agreed that if all aspects were not covered by the present science/knowledge members additional inputs would be sought.

**d. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

Tabled for the next SRGMP group meeting

**e. Agency Appointments and Representatives and Alternates**

Tabled for the next SRGMP group meeting

**f. Other Business**

Tabled for the next SRGMP group meeting

## 5. Next Meeting

10:00 am Monday, February 25, 2008

Location: TBA

## 6. Adjournment

The coordinators thanked the group for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.