

FINAL APPROVED MINUTES**Meeting #10– Monday, March 9th, 2009**

Oakbank United Church

Oakbank, Manitoba

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Meeting #10 of the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan (SRGMP) Group was called to order at 10:13 am on Monday, March 9th, 2009 at the Oakbank United Church by Cornie Goertzen, Chair of the SRGMP.

Present:

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Anderson	Kristina	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Andrusiak	Julian	RM of Stuartburn
Barker	Corinne	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Betcher	Bob	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Brown	Bob	RLB Consulting
Carriere	Les	Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
Evans	Laurie	RM of Ste. Anne
Fontaine	Ron	Sagkeeng First Nation
Forbes	Don	Assiniboine Delta Aquifer Management Advisory Board
Goertzen	Cornie	Seine Rat River Conservation District
Hinrichs	Albert	RM of Whitemouth
Holtmann	Henry	Dairy Farmers of Manitoba
Kalyta	Phil	City of Steinbach
Kopelow	Sacha	Manitoba Eco-Network
Martens	Herm	RM of Morris
Maynard	Gerry	RM of De Salaberry
McRae	Curtis	Keystone Agricultural Producers
Mihaychuk	Ron	RM of Franklin
Moquin	Claude	RM of La Broquerie
Morris	Lawrence	RM of East St. Paul
Nedotiafko	Rob	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Oswald	Barry	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Peterson	Doug	Manitoba Floodway Authority
Prochera	Jennifer	Red River Basin Commission

Present (continued):

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Rackham	Jay	Manitoba Conservation
Riekman	Marla	M.A.F.R.I.
Ross	Marc	Cooks Creek Conservation District
Sawka	Earl	RM of Piney
Schellenberg	Sam	Pembina Valley Water Cooperative
Smith	Derek	Red River Basin Commission
Stefaniuk	Bob	RM of Ritchot
Steinke	Glenn	Town of Beausejour
Strang	Steve	RM of St. Clements
Summach	Dwayne	Manitoba Forage Council
Swidersky	Jim	RM of Stuartburn
Thibert	Lorraine	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Toop	David	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Wang	Jianrong	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Yosyk	Alvin	RM of Alexander
Young	Dave	RM of Reynolds

Regrets:

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Heppner	Neil	RM of Taché
Gibson	Janine	Pansy Groundwater Committee
McCulloch	Gabriele	Canadian Gold Beverages

2. Acceptance of Proposed Agenda

The proposed agenda was accepted.

Moved by Alvin Yosyk – RM of Alexander
 Seconded by Albert Hinrichs – RM of Whitemouth

It was proposed that Don Forbes' presentation be moved up on the agenda, to occur before the lunch break

Carried.

3. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting #9

The preliminary minutes were accepted.

Moved by Bob Stefaniuk – RM of Ritchot

Seconded by Albert Hinrichs – RM of Whitemouth

Barry Oswald addressed the Group regarding his statement in the central paragraph on page 6 of the preliminary minutes, regarding the issues and responsibilities that may come out of this plan. The following changes were provided:

“... if we do happen to seek a plan that outlines issues and responsibilities that fall under other agencies’ priority areas, that we should confirm this cooperation beforehand”

Duane Kelln provided the following statement to Corinne Barker regarding the question “Where is the monitoring station on the Whitemouth River?” on page 11 of the preliminary minutes.

“Whitemouth station (WSC 05PH003) is located on PTH 44 just south of the town of Whitemouth. The legal description is SW 30-11-12E”

Carried.

4. New Business

a. Science Members Presentations

- i. **“Well Head Protection”**, David Toop, Hydrogeologist, Groundwater Management Section, Manitoba Water Stewardship

Barry Oswald provided a comment to the group regarding the portion of David Toop’s presentation regarding source water protection. He stated that David’s talk can be used in an educational capacity towards private wells. Barry stressed that the group must remember that the province has an Integrated Watershed Management Planning (IWMP) process, which is expected to be completed for all of municipal Manitoba by 2015. It is required that IWMPs include a Source Water Protection Plan for all public and semi-public water supply systems. Barry stressed that we do not want to duplicate this for our process.

Q: Are there any regulations in place regarding the grouting of wells?

A: (Kristina Anderson) The Ground Water and Water Well Act covers this, and the Act is currently under some revision.

A: (Bob Betcher) Currently the Ground Water and Water Well Act states that if a well is abandoned that it must be sealed in a manner that allows for no movement up or down in the well. We are now looking at revisions and considering new regulations for acceptable methods of sealing wells. Another proposed revision would include a training certificate for anyone who seals a well, which would also state which types of wells they are able to seal and those that they are not able to seal.

Q: Would that also include new wells that are drilled?

A: (Bob Betcher) Yes.

A: (David Toop) There is still some debate about the best way to seal a well. Current practices differ greatly from what was acceptable previously. Bentonite grout is usually used now as a standard approach.

Q: If you are going through multiple aquifers, would proper sealing avoid movement of water between aquifers?

A: Yes. Now drillers will seal everything down the well except for where you want to draw your water.

Q: If we are not considering source water protection, what exactly is our purpose?

A: (Barry Oswald) I think we should look at educational aspects of source water protection for private wells, but we are planning for the larger groundwater flow regime for the entire study area.

Q: How many wellhead protection plans are currently in place in our area?

A: (Barry Oswald) Are you referring to wellhead protection plans or source water protection plans?

Response: I am referring to those plans that were referenced in the presentation.

A: (David Toop) In South-western Ontario there are a number of communities that have wellhead protection plans.

Q: Is there any regulation in place or being considered for discharge from artesian wells?

A: (Bob Betcher) This is currently being worked on. The Ground Water and Water Well Act states that if flow is occurring from a well in an uncontrolled fashion, the Minister may require that it be controlled. Therefore, capping is not required, but if it is considered to be a problem, the Minister can decide to have it controlled. It is only regulated where we would get a complaint. There is no “Yes/No” answer regarding uncontrolled flow. If it is brought to our attention it may be dealt with, but we are not seeking them out.

Q: Are there any examples where an artesian well has had to be controlled?

A: Yes, in the Interlake the flow from a well was controlled after much debate. The driller tried to control the flow when he drilled the well, but couldn't and left the site. The way the Act is written, the owner is then responsible, which isn't fair. The Province ended up paying for a valve to be installed on the well, and now if the well owner requires water it may be turned on. There are a number of other examples.

Q: In the late 70s and early 80s, Manitoba Hydro was mandated to stop using creosote treated poles, yet railroad companies still use creosote treated ties. There are thousands of them that run along creeks and rivers, so why wouldn't the Province do something about this?

A: I haven't heard of treated ties leading to problems. It is usually the facility where the ties are treated that becomes a problem. Creosote is an infamous contaminant, but it is mostly due to the facilities where products are treated.

Q: We could have left today with the impression that these types of events are common occurrence. My impression is that these events are few and far between.

A: It all depends on where you live, and how long there has been a history of industrial development.

Q: There have been a few experiences with these issues in the ward that I represent. There is an abandoned filling station with the tanks still in the ground. The tanks are not capped, and when you walk up to them you can smell gasoline. However, it has been determined that remediation is not necessary as this is a very low risk site. I believe that we would have the potential here of making a mountain out of a molehill.

A: There are all kinds of scenarios out there, and I hope that this gives you some information to think about. The Group will then be able to decide what information is meaningful.

Barry Oswald informed the Group that Rob Nedotiafko has been trying to bring an Office of Drinking Water representative to the table as a Science Expert. The Coordinators are aware that there are some boil water advisories in the study area, but do not think that there are causes other than poor well or field maintenance by the well owner. He stated that the Coordinators will continue to work to clarify this issue.

ii. **“Westroc Story”** David Toop, Hydrogeologist, Groundwater Management Section, Manitoba Water Stewardship

b. **“Aquifer Management Planning and Plan Implementation: The Experiences of the Assiniboine Delta Aquifer Management Advisory Board”**, Don Forbes, Chairman, Assiniboine Delta Aquifer (ADA) Management Advisory Board

Barry Oswald introduced Don Forbes as the representative, during the Assiniboine Delta Aquifer (ADA) management planning process, of the Carberry and District Community Development Corporation and as the elected chair of the planning group and of the plan implementation group, the ADA Management Advisory Board. He referenced the displayed study area map and the ADA management plan example distributed at meeting #4. He also spoke briefly about the similarities and differences between the SRGMP process and the ADA process. He indicated that the ADA planning process was essentially identical to the one used here but

the study area and the resource being planned for differed somewhat.

The similarities between the two planning processes were listed as: 1) the size of the Group; the ADA had a 45 member volunteer “round table”, 2) the involvement of science members; the ADA had a separate “technical advisory group” and the SRGMP has brought in “Science Experts” to present information, 3) all of the information was brought to the table through presentations for both groups, 4) the meetings were conducted in similar ways; ADA meetings were approximately 3 hours in length and occurred in the evenings, SRGMP meetings have been during business hours and 4 to 6 hours in length, 5) A first-cut plan was provided to and edited by the Round Table and the Technical Advisory Group members, that Draft Plan was then presented to the public in the study area; and their comments were then incorporated, by the entire planning group into the final plan.

The differences between the two planning processes were listed as: 1) The size of the study area and the type of resource; the ADA was on a large sand and gravel aquifer body with a 1500 square mile footprint, SRGMP is for the general groundwater regime in a 7500 square mile study area that contains several sand and gravel bodies. 2) the ADA was implemented by a voluntary advisory board; the SRGMP plan will be implemented by the provincial government, 3) There was a large amount of scientific information available regarding ADA (boundaries, capacities, sustainable yield, etc.); SRGMP has substantially less information available to us.

Q: Have you had any restrictions on development proposed for the ADA?

A: The aquifer is broken into 13 sub-basins. So far there have not been restrictions on development, but there have been some restrictions on expanding irrigation in 6 of the sub-basins.

Q: What would you have done if you had not had all of the scientific information about the aquifer? Would it have made your job a lot harder?

A: Yes, because I believe it would have made it much more of an emotional process. The scientific information was necessary to overcome some of the more emotional problems. One example was a dispute between some environmentalists and industry people, concerning the theory that when a certain irrigation pump was turned on, the creek levels dropped. Manitoba Water

Stewardship was able to determine that the draw down was mostly due to the increase in use from the trees in the area.

Q: How much of the ADA is covered by Conservation Districts (CDs)?

A: There are 4 CDs that cover the aquifer, with a small strip in the middle that is not covered by a CD. This is part of why we ended up having a volunteer implementation group.

Q: Was there concern expressed to your round table by downstream users on the Assiniboine or Whitemud, concerning possible withdrawals on the aquifer affecting stream flow?

A: There was no representation at the round table from Portage. Gladstone participated, and they had concerns, but they now have their water source hooked up from the water treatment plant at Elie. Austin and MacGregor were concerned as well, and they wanted access to the supply.

Q: Who pays for the continued research? How is the Group funded?

A: The board has no budget. The well monitoring is done by Manitoba Water Stewardship. There is a research station located on the aquifer that focuses on irrigation and horticultural enhancement through the use of irrigation. Water licensing staff from Manitoba Water Stewardship is based out of the research station. We prefer not to have a budget and like to work with the provincial departments.

Q: You received a draft report at some point from the Coordinators; what did your committee do when they received this report? Were there any amendments?

A: The board literally went through the report line by line, tore it apart and revised it. The Manitoba Water Stewardship secretariat discussed with the Group what was going to be included in the report, drafted the first cut plan, and came back to the group for input. The board literally had to approve every paragraph.

Q: You provided guidance to the people who were going to draft the report, they wrote it, came back, and was it what you were expecting?

A: Yes. We went through 2 or 3 drafts, which were based on our comments. Many issues were fairly controversial and involved a lot of discussion, for example the issue of access to water under Spruce Woods Provincial Park. The environmentalists were against the use of this water, and the irrigators were all for it.

Q: In the final report you have included some of the things you rejected, without stating who the advocates were. Do you think that was a good idea?

A: Yes, I believe it is helpful to those who read it. For example, the Minister is then informed about issues that are touchy with the public. We put them in there as potential ideas, but stated that for the majority of these issues there would be no proceeding until extensive research was done. We wanted to make sure that the Minister didn't decree something due to a lack of awareness. I personally presented the report to the Minister and her senior staff.

Q: When you made this plan, you had a lot more information than we have. In our case, the area is a lot bigger, we don't know how much water there is, we don't know where the recharge areas are, so this is a completely different ballgame.

A: I believe that the ADA is one of the most studied aquifers in the province. I do believe that this process would be more difficult with less information. But this is part of your mandate – to ensure that the research becomes a priority in the process.

Q: Can you briefly explain the steps that a new license applicant would go through to acquire a license?

A: The applicant would make an application to water licensing. There are different priorities for different uses (e.g.: municipal water use, industry, irrigation). After a certain level of water usage you need to have a water license. A large user would need to apply, listing what they will be using the water for, how much they plan on using, and water licensing looks at it. They do a study of potential impacts including drawdown, timing of withdrawal, how much will be used, and see if there is enough surplus water. In some of the ADA sub-basins there is still water available for allocation, but on the Western side there isn't. If there is not water available for allocation, the applicant would be refused.

Q: The aquifer management plan is a tool for water licensing to use?

A: Yes. Currently licenses are being granted based on the 50% rule, which was just a number that we picked out of the air. At some point this number may be reassessed.

Q: Was this plan approved in the Water Protection Act?

A: (Barry Oswald). No, the Water Protection Act did not exist at that time. Currently the only plan that it recognizes is Integrated Watershed Management Plans.

Q: Was this planning adopted by the planning districts in the area?

A: We had 3 or 4 planning districts involved. There is no entity that covers the aquifer in its entirety.

Q: Was this adopted into any land use planning processes?

A: No.

Q: A big part of your plan was the follow-up action plan. How is that progressing?

A: Quite well. WE have had an increase to 100% compliance with irrigators for their annual use reports. The working groups are composed mainly of technical people and the meetings are open to any of the stakeholders to participate. We don't necessarily control anything directly; we have no budget, but we "lean on" provincial departments to get things done.

Q: Has there been any work done on water quality and identifying high risk areas?

A: Manitoba Water Stewardship and Conservation have done a fair amount of testing over the years. That was something we were very interested in. There are no real "danger" areas. We have seen some increases in nitrates in a few areas, but nothing has exceeded drinking water standards. The province does this.

Q: Have you had any decrease in water use?

A: Probably not overall, as we have had increases in the number of users. We have had industry decrease their water use substantially, and McCains has created an irrigation project using their lagoon water.

Q: If for example the Shilo area were at 100% capacity, and looking at restrictions, would residential use be restricted?

A: If use is less than 25000 litres a day you don't require a license.

Q: What if Shilo were to expand, and required an increase in their license?

A: They fall in one of the two municipalities in Manitoba where there is no municipal water source and everyone has private wells. The population is growing, and this is ongoing.

Q: At the round table stage, was there any discussion about priorities of use?

A: I believe that this is all carved in stone in the Water Act. There was no concern expressed to change this.

-----Lunch Break-----

c. Issues Identification by Agency Representatives: Group Session

Rob Nedotiafko introduced the issues identification session, and introduced Mr. Bob Brown to the Group. Rob explained that Bob was brought to the Group in order to facilitate the issues identification and prioritization meeting on March 23rd. He stated that Bob is here today in order to experience the conduct of the meeting and the issues identification go-around. He also stated that there is no time limit for each agency to identify their issues.

Ron Fontaine – Sagkeeng First Nation

- Sagkeeng First Nation is located at the mouth of the Winnipeg River
- Sagkeeng FN would like the province to monitor what is being dumped in the river, as they lie downstream from everyone else.

Les Carriere – Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.

- MMF is concerned about long-term sustainability

- Would like to be able to pass on water rights and usage to the next generation
- We need to consider local knowledge for approaches on how we can better prepare and implement this plan
- Concerned with proper allocation of the resource
- Would like general consensus on this plan, and to ensure that this is a living document

Claude Moquin – RM of La Broquerie

- We need to ensure that there is an adequate source of water
- If there is to be allocation, it needs to be well controlled

Cornie Goertzen – Seine-Rat River Conservation District

- Through this GW study, the CD hopes that they will be able to strengthen their offered programs, which include:
 - o Abandoned well sealing
 - o Riparian fencing
 - o Buffer strips along waterways
 - o More water retention projects to slow water flow, prevent flooding and erosion of the banks of waterways
 - o Look for ways to lessen the impact of sewage from cities, towns and villages on nutrient loading of the lake.
- Hopefully this will help in reducing the excessive use of GW, despite the fact that we do not know how much there is
- GW seems limitless now, but with climate change we will not realize the value of this resource until it becomes depleted.
- Hopes this management plan will help those taking part and the province to realize the need for increased knowledge of this resource through further studies
- This plan is not a conclusive statement, but a good starting point

Laurie Evans – RM of Ste. Anne

- In the RM of Ste. Anne, excess water is a problem. We need to try and maintain the Seine River in decent shape, while trying to have a sustainable source of potable water in the long-term
- SRRCD has an IWMP sitting on the Minister's desk, and feels that this will keep the CD busy for a long time. They

- expect that the CD will place more emphasis on the IWMP than on this SRGMP plan.
- 60% of SRRCD's budget is for flooding mitigation
 - Feels that the biggest issue for this group is focus; this plan is meant to be for the next 10 years, and therefore hopes that it will not take 3 years to make a plan for the next 10 years.
 - The Group will never have all of the information we need. The Group needs to deal with urgent issues and realize that water is a natural resource that requires maximization of its utilization.
 - Feels that we need to "get on with it" and complete the plan

Alvin Yosyk – RM of Alexander

- The Winnipeg River runs through Alexander, and therefore they have the same concerns as Sagkeeng First Nation
- Feels that the fencing of livestock adjacent to the Winnipeg River is important
- The use of salt and chemicals on roads is of concern, and the RM feels that there should be some pressure put on the government to reduce their use
- Water Stewardship has a lot of regulations, but it doesn't seem to have a lot of teeth to bite
- Is there anything that we can do to give the province more power regarding leaking septic tanks?

Duane Summach – Manitoba Forage Council

- The protection of groundwater quality should be priority
- There is a need to identify and quantify the sustainable yield estimate

Dave Young – RM of Reynolds

- 1) (A) The interests of present water users and their existing water uses, domestic, commercial or industrial, and economic, esthetic or recreational, should be sustained and preserved inviolate from the impacts of any new use or withdrawal of water from the aquifers, or any transfer of water from one aquifer to another, or from any change in water quality, including change in temperature, caused by any new use of water. This policy, based on the principle of "first in time, first in right", should apply to all present water users and all present water uses and should include any changes

deriving from impacts on surface waters, including wetlands, ponds, lakes, rivers and streams, caused by withdrawal of groundwater from the aquifers.

- 1) (B) Responsibility for affecting this policy should rest ultimately with the Province of Manitoba, and the full cost of investigating any alleged breach of the policy by any licensee or any other party should be borne by the Province of Manitoba and the cost of any remedy should also accrue to the Province of Manitoba. This should not prevent the Province, or any agency of the Province designated to manage the groundwater resource, from recovering the costs from responsible parties.
- 2) The use of GW as a heat source should be encouraged. It should be recognized that some measure of regulation of such use may be necessary in order to avoid unacceptable impact on third parties and third party uses, and that the need for such regulation is likely to be more significant in areas with high population density. Regulations should be designed to minimize inconvenience to residents and potential residents of areas with low population density.
- 3) The Plan should recognize the singular importance of improving knowledge of the impact on surface water of the withdrawal of groundwater, and should encourage, and if possible, mandate accelerated investigation of this phenomena.
- 4) South eastern Manitoba is a large region with sharply diverse patterns of settlement, ranging from high density urban in eastern Winnipeg, through smaller cities and towns, such as Steinbach and Beausejour to agricultural settlement patterns in the prairie portion of the region, and very light density patterns in the forested, eastern section. These accommodate regulatory systems designed for uniform settlement patterns. Regulations and controls appropriate and necessary for Winnipeg may be inappropriate or onerous in lightly settled rural municipalities, and measures necessary to protect the resource base in lightly settled areas may be inappropriate or inadequate in towns and cities. The management of effluent disposal and geothermal heating are examples of resource management issues where variation in settlement patterns can be very significant. The design of regulations, incentives, and management systems proposed in the plan should be sensitive to these variations.

- 5) The draft plan should address issues of water conservation and wasteful use. It should attempt some definition of “wasteful”. The Committee should discuss whether or not classes of water use, such as “Municipal”, “Household”, “Agricultural”, and “Heating and Cooling” should be prioritized or treated differently from one to another.
- 6) The guidelines contained in the plan and the actions of those administering the plan, should be mindful of the presence of endangered species within Southeast Manitoba, and should carefully consider the implications of any proposed allocation of water which might, by affecting such species, trigger intervention under Federal legislation.
- 7) The Plan should contain guidelines concerning the conservation of water, both qualitatively and quantitatively, and should specify administrative procedures and processes appropriate to the implementation of the plan.
- 8) The Committee should advise the Minister of concern respecting the intrusion of water from one aquifer to another through wells, excavations or other works, and suggest the prudence of a program to seal wells contributing to such intrusion.
- 9) The Committee should discuss the issue of external review of the proposed plan, and should advise the Minister of its views on this matter. Any review of the plan should include review of recommended measures for conservation, allocation, and administration, and should not be limited to assessing the quality of information available to present and future administrators.

Jim Swidersky – RM of Stuartburn

- The RM of Stuartburn is small and sparsely populated. This plan is addressing issues with growth, and the RM is somewhat fearful of what this plan will deal with.
- The RM of Stuartburn has an over-abundance of surface water, good groundwater, and is afraid that they will become a holding area for surface area. The RM wants to ensure that these issues do not impact growth in the RM, especially agricultural growth.

Earl Sawka – RM of Piney

- There is a need to know the quantity of water that is available. Studies need to continue in order to determine this.
- Want to ensure the protection of the rights of existing users and ensure that groundwater remains available to local residents
- There is a need to determine how much water is being used
- Contamination of groundwater resources is of concern (intensive livestock, grey-water discharge, peat moss extraction, fertilization) and the RM would like to ensure that it is protected and that there will always be a supply made available to their residents.
- If a shortage does occur, who will be made responsible for compensation?

Ron Mihaychuk – RM of Franklin

- The eastern portion of the RM of Franklin has better groundwater than the western portion
- The RM is concerned about quantity/quality of good groundwater
- The RM is considering extending water availability to all residents, as they have had areas where wells have become contaminated. There is a fear that this may occur more frequently in the future.
- Ensuring that there is adequate recharge to the aquifers is of concern. The protection of areas where water is retained and water becomes purified as it is recharged is important.

Phil Kalyta – City of Steinbach

- The City of Steinbach has a population of approximately 12,000 people and growing. The only practical source of water for the City is groundwater, as there are no streams.
- The City is concerned that we have a sustainable water source, and wants to manage it well.
- Has become aware that the Group has very little information about the aquifers in the area.
- Would like to see some equity in other people coming with well applications doing the same thing and being required to do more study, acquiring more data and science – so the Province can get more information out of it.

- Believes that the minimums for licenses should be lowered below 25000 litres per day so that the Province will have more information regarding use
- The City has decided to set limits for themselves.
- There is a need to give the licensing branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship a little more authority. There is a need to get proper licenses from all of the users, not the big municipalities. There are a lot of huge users out there that are not licensed.

Herm Martens – RM of Morris

- Was under the impression that there were no wells in the RM, but is now aware that there are 3 within the Winroc area.
- The reason that the RM wanted to come and be a part of this planning process was to gain a better understanding of the issues with groundwater.
- The RM is bombarded with a lot of excess water due to its situation, but there are also times when you have the opposite problem.
- If there is a possibility of getting some of the water that is flowing out of the aquifer, the RM would like to tap into it.

Sam Schellenberg – Pembina Valley Water Cooperative

- Have a well in the Sandilands and a number of monitoring wells
- The investment there has been over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars, and they have found that the well flows without real impact to the surrounding area.
- PVWC have taken other measures for their water supply and do not have a need for this particular well for a long time.
- PVWC has no intention of taking water at a cost to anyone else, or in a way that would jeopardize anyone else's supply.
- If PVWC were to access the Sandilands well, anyone along the pipeline that has a water shortage would have access as well.
- Agree with the comments of the RM of Reynolds
- Will not proceed until they are assured that there is a sustainable supply.

Jennifer Prochera – Red River Basin Commission

- Ensure that an integrated approach to natural resource management be recognized within the plan. Need to

- recognize the integration of ecosystem components, take into account what is occurring within the watershed
- Ensure the application of sound research and data in the planning process, recognizing that we have to work within limits due to limited data
 - Need for meaningful engagement of all stakeholders within the study area
 - Ensure appropriate use and sustainability of the basin's water use (considering long-term use)

Glenn Steinke – Town of Beausejour

- Ensure sustainability; that there will be sufficient water for growth
- RM has concerns regarding small subdivisions with onsite sewage treatments and private wells and the possibility that this may lead to future problems. RM of Brokenhead has no facility to collect solids from septic tanks; there is a need to better deal with solid waste management.

Sacha Kopelow – Manitoba Eco-Network

- Gather and provide access to reliable data on water use, including the volume of withdrawals (both licensed and actual amounts), the amount consumed, the timing and purpose of use and the quality of water returned to the environment. Link the SRGMP process with watershed planning and development planning processes. Ensure adequate participation in planning processes by providing financial assistance to ENGOs, including compensation for time and travel expenses as well as funding to capacity-build among the public. Identify and put in place strategies to overcome barriers/disincentives to First Nations participation, recognizing the value of what an Aboriginal perspective has to offer a planning process, the rights of First Nations in regards to water, and the water concerns involved. Provide speakers to the group on applicable watershed and development planning processes, and how they can be incorporated into SRGMP's plan.
- Prioritize ecosystem and human health over economic activity by implementing a multi-barrier approach, which counters threats to water all the way from watershed landscapes to the household tap, including source water protection (Gather and provide information as to particularly sensitive areas, including recharge/discharge

areas, groundwater-reliant surface water, areas of thin overburden, or highly penetrable soils/rock formation, etc.), adequate treatment, well maintained distribution systems, strong water quality standards, regular inspection, testing, monitoring, operator training and certification, public notice, public reporting and involvement, contingency planning, research, adequate funding and rigorous enforcement. Provide speakers to the group on how the multi-barrier approach can be incorporated into groundwater planning.

- Prioritize ecosystem and basic human needs over economic activity by establishing a sustainability boundary ensuring that water demand does not exceed capacity. In the absence of sufficient data, implement a precautionary approach favoring environmental needs. Recognize ecosystems as legitimate water users with specific requirements for water quality, quantity and timing to maintain their health, integrity and productivity. Recognize the value of ecological services such as carbon sequestration, erosion control, purification of water and air, water retention and maintenance of biodiversity, and incorporate landowner compensation planning for restoration and maintenance of ecological areas. Provide speaker to the group on ecological goods and services valuation and manifestation of concept in groundwater planning.
- Prioritize conservation over supply expansion by maximizing the productivity of existing infrastructure and water takings through integrating water efficiency technologies, conservation-oriented water fees, and public education. For example, in the agricultural sector, funding currently directed at expanding infrastructure such as dams and pipelines should be shifted to finance studies and implementation of innovative demand management techniques such as water scheduling, efficient end-use technologies, public education, reducing losses in conveyance systems, water reuse and recycling and exploring into the limited and carefully planned use of off-stream storage. Prohibit the export of water resources. Provide speakers to the group on available conservation-oriented strategies for industry, agriculture, municipality, and domestic levels.
- Incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy including flexible water sharing approaches,

building safety buffers into water supply calculations and flood, drought, and emergency response planning.

Marc Ross – Cooks Creek Conservation District

- Concerned that negative items or complaints have not been included in the meeting minutes (ex: visitor at Beausejour meeting)
- Concerned about responsibilities around water quality testing, remediation, funding, etc...

Gerry Maynard – RM of De Salaberry

- Water Quality: We are concerned about water quality because we are situated at the bottom of the aquifer. Whatever goes on upstream will surely affect the water at our end. We have noticed that a lot of development has occurred upstream over the last 10-20 years. One point is that lowlands have been drained and turned into spread-acres for ILOs. This is noticeable because of increased flash flooding at our end in spring and during heavy rainfalls. We would like to see increased monitoring to reassure us that this activity on porous soils will not contaminate the aquifer for years to come.
- Water Quantity: We would like to see a report giving us some assurance that there is water in the aquifer for generations to come. We need a calculated guess at least as to the size of the reservoir, the rate at which it is being drained (how much water is everybody drawing out of it), the rate of recharge etc... Records of well-head depths, we have reports in this RM of artesian wells stopping flowing and people noticing water levels dropping in the wells. We also have reports of salt water moving eastward in the aquifer indicating a drop in pressure in the good water. The draining of the recharge areas also concerns us that we could run dry in the future. We would like to see more monitoring wells and better records of water usage in the Southeast.
- Information: We want to see clear, explicit records come out of this study. We would also like to see the reports on the monitoring of water quality and quantity in the future. We have meters in towns, City of Steinbach, ILOs, individual homes etc... It wouldn't take much to come up with a good idea of how much we are using and then through other monitoring wells etc... We could come up with an idea of how the aquifer is doing. We

need to set a base line in the least at this time before it is too late.

- Conclusion: We are all in this together; humans, plants and animals. If we run our supply dry or contaminate it for whatever reason, we all lose. Nobody has more right to the aquifer than the next. If we are drawing too much then we all need to curb usage. If there is plenty, then let's keep on developing. And monitoring too maintains a clean supply for generations and centuries in the future.

Henry Holtmann – Dairy Farmers of Manitoba

- This plan can be looked at as leverage with Manitoba Water Stewardship; for example, regarding wells that need to be sealed or research that must be done in the area.
- There is a need for better data. In agriculture they want science-based policies put in place and not policies based on emotions.
- A lot of good programs are out there already (Environmental Farm Plans and Conservation Districts) and these need to be funded and extended.
- Need for MAFRI, Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship to work together better
- Want to ensure good quality water and access to all

Bob Stefaniuk – RM of Ritchot

- 20% of the RM's land lies west of the red river and is located on a saline aquifer
- Following the 1997 flood, flood water moved into the aquifer from abandoned and poorly maintained wells, which was very expensive to deal with. Thankfully there was a Federal program to deal with this.
- Had groundwater contamination in St. Adolphe and Ile des Chenes in 2001, due to wet summer conditions and rotting vegetation seeping into abandoned/poorly maintained wells.
- Reason for being here is to preserve the aquifer, to do what we have to do to ration the water, and to make sure that the aquifer is preserved

Steve Strang - RM of St. Clements

- Water is a major concern for all of us. Believes that we should be proactive rather than reactive.
- Importance of sustainable development for the future; it is not just about us as human beings, but also about the

- plants and animals. We do not want to get to the point where there is no clean potable water for our children.
- Need to protect our water source from fertilizers, cattle in waterways, need to protect riparian areas.
 - Have concerns regarding the consideration of development based on the amount of water available.
 - Consensus will be difficult, but the points of common interest and the need for making an effort to protect what we have are important.
 - Are not afraid of making decisions today, but want to make sure the science is on the table in order to make the right decisions for the future.

Lawrence Morris – RM of East St. Paul

- RM is small, but heavily reliant on the upper and lower limestone aquifers
- One third of the RM relies on municipal water source and the rest on wells
- Have invested thousands of dollars over the years trying to find the source of a hydrocarbon contamination to the Bird's Hill aquifer, to no avail.
- East St. Paul's residents want to make sure that quality and quantity of groundwater is there. The RM relies heavily on the surrounding municipalities, as they lie on the bottom end of the chain. In dry years they have discovered that river water has flown into wells in the area.

Albert Hinrichs – RM of Whitemouth

- Has many of the same concerns as the RM of Reynolds
- We need to ensure that we have sustainable use, but still develop to its potential for future generations

Curtis McRae – Keystone Agricultural Producers

- There are large benefits to programs for ecological goods and services, for example the reimbursement to landowners for wetland rehabilitation
- Beneficial Farm Practices has given money to farmers to do good work for the environment, and there has been very good uptake by farmers
- Using the carrot approach rather than the stick approach will work well for water issues
- Believes that although it is always possible to find "bad apples", for the most part farmers are looking to reduce water use

Marla Riekman – Science Expert – MAFRI

- Concerned with water quality and management of more sensitive lands
- Have had great success in the past with the old BMP program and with Environmental Farm Plans. This allowed for “self-diagnosis” by producers, where producers are able to look at their operations, decide where they can make changes, and apply for funding. There will hopefully be a new program rolled out in the next few months.

Doug Peterson – Science Expert – Manitoba Floodway Authority

- As a result of the floodway expansion, they have been acquiring additional information about groundwater along the floodway, which has been provided to the committee
- The MFA is doing what they can to make beneficial changes, and information is available to Manitoba Water Stewardship and this Group

Bob Betcher – Science Expert – Manitoba Water Stewardship

- Did not come prepared to discuss this topic, but all issues were identified in their talks.
- At the next meeting Bob and his team will help at round tables, circulate and help out with the discussion

Kristina Anderson – Science Expert – Manitoba Water Stewardship

- Sees that there is confusion about the Water Rights Act and the regulatory framework
- Would like to clarify that although the regulatory framework sets out drainage regulations, these regulations are administered by a different section. Water Use Licensing is more of a resource allocation section.
- Has seen issues from other jurisdictions being brought into a Manitoba context, but it is important to note that Manitoba was developed much later, and the environment was considered much more heavily here. This planning process is a great proactive step.

Rob Nedotiafko asked the Group if they had any questions for the Science Experts.

Q: The design, use and management of onsite septic systems have become much broader. It is thought that up to 40% of illnesses worldwide are due to septic systems. Is it possible to get more information about all septic systems in Manitoba including information regarding malfunctions, etc.?

A: (Jay Rackham) There is an information sharing agreement between Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship. It is important to note that privacy is of great concern for these matters. If you would like more information you can contact me directly.

Q: I was actually thinking in a much broader sense, for example the number of systems in various areas, etc.

A: (Jay Rackham) I believe that a lot of this information is available on Manitoba Conservation's website.

A: (Barry Oswald) The Group did have representatives from Manitoba Conservation come and speak to us on this subject on January 26th, 2009.

Q: Confidentiality seems to be a big problem when it comes to this issue. Septic pumpers tell the RM that they aren't able to disclose any information about where/when they pump, as it is confidential.

A: (Barry Oswald) Point well taken. Those of us that work in the public domain realize that there has been a huge increase in confidentiality in recent years. How can we do resource planning if we can't get access to information? It is being discussed.

d. Other Business

Rob Nedotiafko spoke to the Group regarding the next meeting, which is scheduled as a workshop for issues identification and prioritization, which will be facilitated by Bob Brown.

He also informed the Group that everyone's statements from today have been recorded, and will be consolidated with the information gained at the public open houses in 2008. Rob stated that those issue identification documents that have been submitted by agencies will be circulated to the Group via email.

Barry Oswald addressed the Group regarding a concern that was raised by a Group member that an incident at the March 31st, 2008

meeting in Beausejour was not recorded in the minutes. A man abruptly interrupted our meeting and in an emotional way, proceeded to bring up an issue of manure piles on the banks of a river near his residence.. The Coordinators decided not to include this in the minutes because the man was not part of the meeting and this was a surface water issue not a groundwater planning issue. Barry indicated that he spoke with the gentleman in the hallway on that occasion and a number of times following the meeting and the incident was reported internally. The man was apprised of progress over several months and Manitoba Conservation eventually had the manure piles removed.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 23rd, 2009 at the Oakbank United Church from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

6. Adjournment

The Chair thanked the group for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Moved by Gerry Maynard – RM of De Salaberry
Seconded by Claude Moquin – RM of LaBroquerie
Carried.