

Final Approved Minutes

Meeting #13 – Monday November 2, 2009

Southland Community Church
Steinbach, Manitoba
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Meeting #13 of the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan (SRGMP) Group was called to order at 10:20 am on Monday, November 2, 2009 at the Southland Community Church in Steinbach, Manitoba by Connie Goertzen, Chair of the SRGMP.

The attendees introduced themselves to the gathering.

Present:

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Betcher	Bob	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Bodnaruk	Bob	RM of Springfield
Carriere	Les	Manitoba Metis Federation
Crooks	Lloyd	Beaverbrook Communications
Evans	Laurie	RM of Ste. Anne
Goertzen	Cornie	Seine-Rat River Conservation District
Heppner	Neil	RM of Tache
Hinrichs	Albert	RM of Whitemouth
Holtmann	Henry	Dairy Farmers of Manitoba
Kalyta	Phil	City of Steinbach
Kopelow	Sacha	Manitoba Eco-Network
Martel	Gordon	Pembina Valley Water Cooperative
Martens	Herm	RM of Morris
Maynard	Gerry	RM of De Salaberry
McCulloch	Gabriele	Canadian Gold Beverages
Michaels	Sean	RM of Brokenhead
Mihaychuk	Ron	RM of Franklin
Moquin	Claude	RM of La Broquerie
Morris	Lawrence	RM of East St. Paul
Oswald	Barry	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Ross	Marc	Cooks Creek Conservation District
Rucha	Jay	Manitoba Conservation
Sawka	Earl	RM of Piney
Schaible	Frank	Holds Industrial Water Bottling License
Smith	Derek	Red River Basin Commission
Stefaniuk	Bob	RM of Ritchot
Steinke	Glenn	Town of Beausejour
Young	Dave	RM of Reynolds

2. Acceptance of the Proposed Agenda

Moved by Herm Martens, RM of Morris that the proposed agenda be accepted.
Seconded by Albert Hinrichs, RM of Whitemouth.
Carried.

3. Adoption of the preliminary minutes from Meeting #12

Moved by Bob Stefaniuk, RM of Ritchot that the preliminary minutes for Meeting #12 be adopted.
Seconded by Earl Sawka, RM of Piney
Carried.

4. New Business

Barry Oswald reviewed the meeting handouts including;

- Paper copies of the illustrations for the plan, indicating that they are still preliminary. He is hoping to have the final copies by the December meeting.
- A new Group Directory. Barry asked that if anyone had any changes to make to it, to let him know.
- Hard copies of the preliminary minutes for meeting #12.
- Copies of the First-cut Draft with tracked changes to indicate last meeting's edits.

Barry thanked the group for approving, at the October meeting, the First-cut Draft as a starting point towards a Draft SRGMP for presentation at Public Open Houses. He pointed out that there is only this meeting and the December meeting to complete the Draft Plan. He stressed the importance of keeping the December meeting near beginning of month to;

- maintain attendance, and
- to allow at least 1.5 months to book halls and buy newspaper advertisements (some monthly) for the open houses at end January 2010.

After the open houses, this group will meet again in February and March to incorporate public comment into final SRGMP for the Minister.

a. First-cut Draft SRGMP editing

The session began with a review of the editorial changes made to the plan up to the end of Section 2.2.4 as a result of the discussions at the previous meeting. Barry led the group, pointing out the changes asking for the group's acceptance of each. He introduced all to the formatting conventions utilized. Tracked change formatting displays new text in red and underlined, and deleted text as struck-out with a red line. He indicated that he had received editorial comment from several government and producer agencies to be tabled during editing, a couple which were mentioned last week meeting.

In general, the changes were accepted with the following discussion, and required action noted:

Section 1 The SRGMP Planning Process

Page 1

The question of whether an introductory section was necessary to explain the need for the plan arose. Barry pointed out he had added a sentence to the end of the second bullet explaining the reason for the plan.

Page 3

Spelling of Ile des Chenes – Barry to correct.

Section 2 Study Area: The Southeast Region of Manitoba

Page 5 – Paragraph 1 in Introduction

Change “west” of the Red River “east”. Also, in the second sentence, add “predominantly” to “... area is underlain...” and make reference to the Red River Floodway.

At this point the discussion shifted to the concern over the perceived lack of information regarding groundwater locations and quantities. Bob Betcher pointed out that in fact, there is a fair amount of information available. On the same point, Barry said that the plan needs to include a strategy for filling the information gaps for future plans. The plan is a living document that can be changed as more data are collected.

Page 5 – Last paragraph

In the third bullet, use the term “wetlands”, with “open water, marshes and bogs” in brackets.

Section 2.1 Landscapes and Land Use

While most in the group agreed there is no need for more information in the text relating to surface water, it was the general consensus a map showing the watershed boundaries should be added to the document. Barry will do so.

Figure 4

A suggestion was made to change “Infiltration” to “percolation”. Barry will check with the provider of this information on this.

Sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.3

Barry introduced the discussion on these sections by telling the group that, in the week prior to the meeting, Bob Betcher had presented him with completely new text for the 2.2.2 Geology and 2.2.3 Hydrogeology sections.

When compared to the October 28 First-cut Draft, the new material includes the following altered information.

- Describes the overburden layer as not being an aquifer.
- Describes a previously un-discussed aquifer, in the southern portion of the study area, called the Jurassic Sandstone aquifer.

Barry and Bob met on Thursday, October 29 to discuss this. At that meeting:

- Barry expressed his disappointment with Bob’s approach and timing.
- Barry was unable to dissuade Bob from wanting to require his re-write of these two sections.

- They agreed to Bob submitting his suggested re-write to the group in person.

Bob Betcher distributed his re-writes of sections 2.2.2 Geology and 2.2.3 Hydrogeology. The group was given time to read the new sections before deciding whether to deal with them at the meeting or postpone discussion on them until the next meeting.

LUNCH BREAK

Following the lunch break, the group agreed that Bob Betcher's rewritten sections should be adopted into the plan, but that discussion on them should be postponed until the next meeting to allow those not present at the meeting to review the material beforehand. Barry will distribute the new sections to the entire contact list.

Section 2.2.4 Aquifer Development

Page 18 – Third paragraph

Change "...early 1900s." to "...1960s."

Page 20 – The table.

Barry will see if it is possible to identify what categories of allocations are included in "Other".

Review of previously unedited material.

Section 2.2.5: Groundwater Studies.

Page 22 – Key Activities table.

Date/Period labeled "1990s" will be changed to "1960s through 1990s".

Date/Period section labeled "2000s" and "Since 2000 and currently underway" will be combined. Correct spelling of Dugald in first paragraph.

Section 2.2.6: Monitoring Network

Page 23

Add "Groundwater" to the heading.

Paragraph 1, first line.

Change to read "The first observation wells were installed in the Carbonate aquifer in the early 1960s. Today there are...." Remove the line beginning "By 2005, there were 49 observation wells..."

Paragraph 2.

In first line, change "... from all stations..." to "...from most stations..."

No need to list all of the analytes – simply refer to them as "chemistry".

There should be a mention of the monitoring by other agencies such as conservation districts and others in the area and along the salt/fresh water interface. Bob Betcher will provide Barry with some wording.

Section 2.2.7: Water Quality

Page 25 – Paragraph 1

Last line – remove "...infiltration or".

Bob and Barry are to consult and write something in the paragraph to make reference to saline areas and the transition zone.

Paragraph 3

First line – change “Monitoring” to “Sampling”, and “isolated” to “local”. Second sentence – add after “... gravel aquifers” “in the southwestern part of the area.” Third sentence – after “... have been found” add “particularly east of Lac du Bonnet.”

Paragraph 4

A discussion of whether the potential sources of contamination should be expanded beyond livestock and wildlife. Sacha Kopelow (Manitoba Eco-Network) and Derek Smith (RRBC) will provide some additional wording for consideration.

Paragraph 5

Barry will check to see if the aquifer referred to is a sand and gravel, or bedrock aquifer.

Paragraph 6

Last sentence – change “infiltration” to “leaching”. Also add “a range of typical rates”, and at the end add “in their study area”.

Section 2.2.8: Sustainable yield

A discussion ensued concerning the 3-Dimensional digital model – whether it is an adequate tool, reliable. Bob Betcher said the model is under development. It is software used widely and is mathematically sound. The issue will be the inputs. It has had a couple of test runs and has performed fairly well.

Page 27

Second last paragraph: the model should be referred to as “*one of the key management tools*”

Last paragraph: “... declines are not being *monitored*” should be changed to “...declines are not being *observed*”.

A question arose of whether demand management and climate change should be addressed in this section. Barry pointed out that anything mentioned in the recommendations should be supported in the science introductory sections. He pointed out that currently, we have no information on potential climate change impacts on groundwater in the study area over the 10 to 15 year intended duration of the management plan and we currently have no recommendations on demand management.

After a lengthy discussion on these points, Barry emphasized, that because of the very tight schedule the group is on to edit the plan, it was imperative that the group spend its limited time on the most important sections of the plan – the recommendations and plan implementation. When the question was put to the group, an overwhelming majority of those in attendance expressed their desire to end this discussion and move on to begin editing Section 3: Groundwater Management.

Section 3: Groundwater Management
Section 3.1: Management Responsibilities
Page 29

A small change in the wording of the role of Manitoba Conservation.

Section 3.2.1: Management Goals and Recommended Actions
Page 30

In the first sentence, ecosystem needs should be considered a priority water user and included in the list. Also, “maximizing” should not be the target, but “balancing supply and demand” should be.

Second bullet: The point was raised as to whether the need to identify the locations where new monitoring stations should be established should be included. However, since needs and priorities change, it would not be possible to be more specific at this time. But, a stronger statement is required here. A suggestion that more “action words” are required, and to take out the “weasel words”, and that a statement something like the following should be used:

“The Province should evaluate the network for effectiveness within two years to determine whether it meets the needs of this groundwater management plan. A report of the findings should be published for public information.” Barry will re-write this bullet based on these suggestions.

A new bullet should be added to this list with reference to the Province working more closely with conservation districts and municipalities in monitoring water quality in private wells, and to help develop a well inventory. Barry will draft a statement.

Section 3.2.3 Goal: Further Research
Page 32

Under Recommended Actions – the first bullet: Reword the 3-D model discussion to include a timeline (2 yrs). Barry will do.

A statement of the fact that the model is essential to the management of the groundwater in the area should be added. Also a suggestion was forwarded to include an action such as *“Over the next five years, the Province should conduct studies to determine the changes in the fresh water/saline water interface.”*

Also some reference to small aquifers and local needs should be included.

It was suggested, and generally agreed to, that this section should be moved to become 3.2.1 and renamed Data Acquisition.

Editing the document ended for the day in Section 3.2.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Monday, December 14, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm – location to be determined and indicated to all.

6. Adjournment

Moved by Marc Ross, Cooks Creek Conservation District, that the meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Gerry Maynard, RM of De Salaberry.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.