

FINAL APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting #12 – Monday October 5, 2009

Sun Gro Centre
Beausejour, Manitoba
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Meeting #12 of the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan (SRGMP) Group was called to order at 10:10 am on Monday, October 5, 2009 at the Sun Gro Centre in Beausejour by Connie Goertzen, Chair of the SRGMP.

The attendees introduced themselves to the gathering.

Present:

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Anderson	Kristina	Manitoba Water Stewardship
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
Gunning	Ed	RM of St. Clements
Heppner	Neil	RM of Tache
Kalyta	Phil	City of Steinbach
Lucko	Ken	RM of Springfield
Martel	Gordon	Pembina Valley Water Cooperative
Maynard	Gerry	RM of De Salaberry
McDonald	Bill	RM of Victoria Beach
Michaels	Sean	RM of Brokenhead
Mihaychuk	Ron	RM of Franklin
Morris	Lawrence	RM of East St. Paul
Oswald	Barry	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Ross	Marc	Cooks Creek Conservation District
Schaible	Frank	Holds Industrial Water Bottling License
Schroeder	Cheryl	Dairy Farmers of Manitoba
Smith	Derek	Red River Basin Commission
Stefaniuk	Bob	RM of Ritchot
Steinke	Glenn	Town of Beausejour
Swidersky	Jim	RM of Stuartburn
Yosyk	Alvin	RM of Alexander

Regrets:

Elliot	Jessica	Manitoba Conservation
Kopelow	Sacha	Manitoba Eco-Network
McRae	Curtis	Keystone Agricultural Producers
Sadorski	Shane	Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

2. Acceptance of the Proposed Agenda

The proposed agenda was accepted.

Moved by Alvin Yosyk – RM of Alexander

Seconded by Gerry Maynard – RM of De Salaberry

3. Adoption of the preliminary minutes from Meeting #11

The preliminary minutes were accepted.

Moved by Alvin Yosyk – RM of Alexander

Seconded by Gerry Maynard – RM of De Salaberry

4. New Business**4a. Coordinator's Report**

Project coordinator Barry Oswald explained there has been a loss of two staff positions (Rob and Corinne) from the Basin and Aquifer Planning Section and a hiring freeze is in place. He introduced Buzz Crooks of Beaverbrook Communications who has been hired on contract to provide secretarial services to the group because of the shortage of staff within the section.

As a refresher, and an update, Barry presented an overview of the process involved in the preparing the plan.

a) The Task

The Planning Group's task hasn't changed. It remains "Formulate a management plan for groundwater in the southeastern Manitoba study area that will guide the sustainable development of these resources for the next 10+ years."

b) The Planning Process – three steps.

- Collect and study the area's groundwater information (science and local).
- Itemize and prioritize groundwater issues (GMPG and Public).
- Formulate the management plan (Draft and Final).

The group has completed step one – study of the information. As identified in step two – the issues have been prioritized for the plan to deal with.

Now, the task of formulating the management plan begins. It is important to keep your agency's members apprised of the plan content and to bring your agency's thoughts back to this group so the Final Plan is realistic. It is equally important that science members keep their Directors apprised of Plan content and represent their department's views so that when the Minister vets the Final submitted Plan through the Departments there are no embarrassments.

c) Timeline

A potential timeline to complete the SRGMP task this winter season was presented. Meetings will be held at the beginning of October (this meeting), November and December to review and edit this First-cut Draft Plan.

Once completed, the Draft Plan will be presented to the public at four open houses, hopefully in January and likely at the same locations the group used in 2008 for the Issues Identification Open Houses.

Following the public review there will be two, or perhaps three meetings of this group in February and March, and April if necessary, to review the public comments and incorporate them into the plan, if appropriate. Scheduling meetings at the beginning of the months will protect the possibility to have a meeting in April if needed.

Barry pointed out that a First-cut Draft was distributed to all on August 31, 2009. If it is acceptable we could start editing this meeting. During editing;

- Everything is on the table.
- Please keep in mind that unanimous support of the Final Plan provides the best shot at Ministerial acceptance and full implementation.
- Seeking unanimity effectively gives all groups veto on Plan content.
- He hopes all groups interpret this to mean, if your agency can't live with it, it comes out.
- To make unanimity possible all groups will have to be realistic.
- When addressing each issue, focus on what would be acceptable to your agency, even if it may not be what you would consider the "ideal".
- This is the first generation Plan of many to come in the future.

General Discussion

Several individuals expressed the concern about technical information gaps for developing the plan, and in particular, the uncertainty of how much water there actually is in the area.

In response, Barry acknowledged there are information gaps, but that we have to work with what we have. This plan should identify gaps and provide guidance as to how to fill those needs for the next generation plan.

Bob Betcher (Manitoba Water Stewardship) suggested as the group goes through the draft plan, if questions arise, bring it to attention, and perhaps the science – the presentations – can be re-examined to see if the answer is there.

4b. First-cut Draft SRGMP Introduction

Barry presented overheads of the illustrations that will appear in the plan, and described them. Several are still being worked on and he expects they will be complete in time for the December meeting.

Most in attendance wanted to have copies of the illustrations. Since the files are too large to email, two options were presented – make them available on CDs, or provide hard copies. Since most preferred to have paper copies, Barry agreed to print colour copies for distribution at the next meeting.

Barry made the following introductory remarks on the First-Cut Draft:

- The text is based on “What we Heard” over the past two years of work.
- Some questions still remained at the time of writing, and these appear in the copy in red.
- The goal for this meeting is to edit sections 1 – The SRGMP Planning Process and 2 – Study Area: The Southeast Region of Manitoba.
- He expects and hopes the group will pay particular attention to the editing of section 3 – Groundwater Management and to section 4 – Plan Implementation.
- He provided an introduction to the five sections in the plan and their subsections and led the group through an overview of sections 1 and 2.

Lunch Break

4c. Vice-Chairperson’s Report

Vice-chair Laurie Evans offered his points of view on the Plan. He began by saying that the theory of 50 years ago that we would over-populate the world and starve ourselves to death has proven to be nonsense. We are now producing more food than ever. And as far as water goes, we have the technology (conservation, desalinization, etc) to solve the water shortage crisis wherever that occurs.

Laurie offered his thoughts on the Plan. In general, in his opinion, the group is faced with information overkill, and it is difficult to sort it all out and make sense of it. He focused on three points.

a) Aquifers

What is an aquifer, actually? There must be many in the region, but how many? And how significant are they? We need to identify the locations and sizes of all the aquifers in the southeast. The Sandilands complex for example, needs to be identified as a priority.

b) Recharge/Discharge

We assume surface water is important to the recharge of groundwater. The Clean Environment Commission has stated that southeast Manitoba has significant water resources. However, we don't know how much (surface water recharge) is coming from groundwater. Should we be confining the artesian wells and seeps so we don't lose it? And what impact is the Red River Floodway having on groundwater in that area?

c) Sustainable yield

Three aquifers in the province have had sustainable yields identified – Oak Lake, Assiniboine Delta and Winkler. These yields have been based on science. Will modeling help to determine sustainable yields in our area? This issue must be dealt with.

And as a final question, Laurie asked how was this planning initiative begun?

In response to Laurie's presentation, Bob Betcher told the group that they, and the municipalities and other agencies they represent, must define what they are looking for. Then he raised several questions for consideration.

- Will climate change and drought cause local wells to go dry?
- Will there be enough water to support economic growth? Will you have enough water to attract industry, for example?
- How much water can we pump before problems begin to arise?
- What impact are land use practices having on water quality – salts, hardness, for example?
- Is there enough monitoring of water in place to be able to track any changes that might occur?

Bob then pointed out that many changes are only localized, and are not broad geographically.

Barry addressed Laurie's question of how the plan was initiated. The process was initiated by Manitoba Water Stewardship because it was felt a plan was needed because of the growth in demand for water in the Capital Region portion of the study area. The task, as mentioned previously, is to develop a management plan for the southeast with a focus on groundwater.

Bob Betcher added that another reason for the plan was the Clean Environment Commission's decision to turn down the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative's request to draw water from the Sandilands complex. The Commission stated that

no development of the aquifer should take place until more is known about the resource.

4d. First-cut Draft SRGMP Members Initial Comments

SRGMP members had provided initial comments about the plan during the morning session, as noted in general discussion under Agenda Item 4a. An additional comment was added at this juncture that the group is providing an ounce of prevention by preparing this plan. The plan should include recommendations to keep the aquifer in place and clean.

The Chair, Cornie Goertzen, asked for a motion to accept the first-cut draft plan as presented by Barry as a starting point and to begin its editing.

Moved by Gerry Maynard – RM of De Salaberry
Seconded by Bill MacDonald – RM of Victoria Beach
Motion Carried.

4e. First-cut Draft SRGMP Editing

Section 1 – The SRGMP Planning Process.

Barry then led the group into the edit beginning with Section 1.

A question was raised whether the plan should focus on water quantity or water quality. After some discussion, a general consensus was reached that the plan should address quality as well as quantity.

Discussion then shifted to the need for an explanation somewhere in the plan of what the purpose of plan is, who would use it and how it would be used. Suggestions for presenting this information included adding it to Section 1 or writing an Introduction or Foreword.

Barry agreed to take that under advisement and prepare something for review at the next meeting.

It was noted that on page 1, in the last sentence of paragraph one, the word “Planning” should be change to “Plan”

It was noted that on Page 3, Isle Des Chene should have a circumflex on the first “e”.

Section 2 – The Planning Process

Introductory paragraphs:

Paragraph 1 – change “the land area west” to “land area east”.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 – should add something about why the area was chosen with a reference to groundwater boundaries. Barry will address this.

Paragraph 3 – the population statistics are difficult to sort out. Suggestions for making it more clear were to use an illustration (pie graph, chart or table), or breaking it into different paragraphs with a focus on the fact that the area is one of the fastest growing populations in the province.

Barry will review and rewrite.

Section 2.1

For paragraph 2, it was suggested that the land cover types could be put into bullets, or a table.

Marshes and bogs are listed as 16 %, but on page 8, wetlands are listed as 15 %. Barry to correct.

Section 2.2.1 – no changes.

Section 2.2.2

Bottom of page 10 – Barry to reword the last line “...xyz quarry.”
On top of page 12 “Precambrian” is spelled wrong.

Section 2.2.3

Paragraph 1 – “Figure 7” should be “Figure 5”.

It was felt that the illustration showing the cross-section of the area is a little misleading as to how much water comes from the Sandilands. Bob Betcher will check to see if he can get a new illustration.

Change references of “overburden aquifer” to “overburden layer”. Barry will do.

It was suggested that a general number of how many acres the recharge area is should be provided. Bob Betcher will provide a number and Barry will add it to the text.

In the last paragraph of this section, Barry will add additional information on recharge areas, with a positive statement that we *do* know where some of the recharge areas are.

Section 2.2.4

Last line, paragraph 3 page 17 – Barry to change “... heating and cooling.” to “... heating and/or cooling”.

At the bottom of page 17, Barry will add some information to help clarify what a decametre is.

Paragraph 2, page 18 – Barry will add a date to number of licensees – “...218 licensees as of (date).”

Paragraph 2, page 18 – Barry will produce a table to show license categories that will include volumes and percentages.

In the last line on page 18 – “3,154 cubic decametres”, a new number is coming.

The editing session ended at the end of Section 2.2.4.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 2, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Location: Likely in Steinbach, members will be notified.

6. Adjournment

Moved by Gerry Maynard – RM of De Salaberry that the meeting be adjourned.
Seconded by Alvin Yosyk – RM of Alexander

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.