

## Preliminary Minutes

### Meeting #16 – March 8, 2010

Sun Gro Centre  
Beausejour, Manitoba  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

#### 1. Call to Order

Meeting #16 of the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan (SRGMP) Planning Group was called to order at 10:10 am on Monday, March 8, 2010 at the Sun Gro Centre in Beausejour by Cornie Goertzen, Chair of the SRGMP.

#### Present:

Last Name	First Name	Agency
Anderson	Kristina	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Ball	Garth	Manitoba Conservation
Betcher	Bob	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Bodnaruk	Bob	RM of Springfield
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 Taché
Kalyta	Phil	City of Steinbach
Kopelow	Sacha	Manitoba Eco-Network
Lucko	Ken	RM of Springfield
Martel	Gordon	Pembina Valley Water Cooperative
Maynard	Gerry	RM of De Salaberry
McRae	Curtis	Keystone Agricultural Producers
Michaels	Sean	RM of Brokenhead
Mihaychuk	Ron	RM of Franklin
Rackham	Jay	Manitoba Conservation
Smith	Derek	Red River Basin Commission
Stefaniuk	Bob	RM of Ritchot
Steinke	Glenn	Town of Beausejour
Watson	Patrick	Manitoba Water Stewardship
Yosyk	Alvin	RM of Alexander
Young	Dave	RM of Reynolds



## 2. Acceptance of the Proposed Agenda

**Motion:** Moved by Alvin Yosyk, RM of Alexander that the proposed agenda be accepted. Seconded by Gerry Maynard, RM of De Salaberry.

It was suggested that, under new business, a recorded vote to accept, or reject, the Plan should be taken. That item was added to the agenda.

Motion to accept the agenda with the addition was **Carried**.

## 3. Adoption of the minutes from Meeting #15

**Motion:** Moved by Sean Micheals, RM of Brokenhead that the minutes for Meeting #15 be adopted. Seconded by Dave Young, RM of Reynolds.

In reference to item 4b.ii in the minutes of Meeting 15 – a submission from the RM of De Salaberry expressing their concern over the amount of water used by livestock operations, and that better monitoring is necessary:

A letter to the RM of De Salaberry from the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Planning Group was drafted responding to the municipality's concerns. It was read aloud to the Group by Chair Goertzen. If satisfactory to the Group, the Chair will sign the letter and have it sent. (A copy of the letter has also since been emailed to members of the Group.)

**Motion:** Moved by Ken Lucko, RM of Springfield that the letter be accepted and sent to the RM of De Salaberry. Seconded by Sean Michaels, RM of Brokenhead.

The motion was **Carried**.

The Manitoba Eco-Network requested that its objection be noted to the descriptions of "general agreement" on a number of items in the minutes of the February 22, 2010 meeting. Manitoba Eco-Network was not in "general agreement" with the following:

4.b.i: *"The discussion focused on the need to educate the public on what is happening to the groundwater resource, including clearing up the mistaken impression that agriculture is the biggest use of water in the region."*

The Manitoba Eco-Network requests that the actual usage (of groundwater) amounts be monitored and detailed in the Plan.

4.c Section 2: *"Next, a discussion of whether the groundwater management plan itself was going to be peer-reviewed took place. The conclusion was that in the process of developing the plan over 2 ½ years, it has been, in essence, peer-reviewed by the representatives of the groups and organizations on the Planning Group. In addition, the Minister will be forwarding the Plan on to the Manitoba Water Council which in effect, could be considered peer-review."*

The Manitoba Eco-Network's position is that the Plan should be peer-reviewed by independent experts, and that definition (of peer-reviewed) does not apply to members of the Planning Group of the Manitoba Water Council.

4.c Section 4: *“In response to local concern over water exports the following will be added to the Plan:*

- *A discussion on the regulatory framework, including the need for an Environment Act license, and how that process would deal with issues such as water export.”*

The Manitoba Eco-Network advocates recommendations against water export be included in the Plan.

4.c Section 5: *“As a result of the discussion surrounding ecosystem concerns, the following will be addressed in the Plan:*

- *A short discussion on climate change basically stating that there is a very short timeline of data that exists and that decisions are made with the best available information.*
- *A paragraph regarding municipal development plans and other planning tools that could help to protect wetlands and critical areas.*
- *Expand on the description of what occurs in Figure 5: Water Cycle.*
- *A statement about the importance of wetlands to groundwater recharge.*
- *Mention of the importance of the surface water/groundwater interaction.”*

The Manitoba Eco-Network submitted data and recommendations related to climate change at the December 14, 2009 meeting, and do not agree that this information was adequately included in the Plan, considering current scientific knowledge.

It was agreed that the points presented by the Manitoba Eco-Network would be recorded in the minutes of this (March 8<sup>th</sup>) meeting as above, and the minutes of the February 22 meeting need not be amended.

Motion to adopt the minutes as presented was **Carried**.

## **4. New Business**

### **a) Edits to March 2010 Draft SRGMP**

Copies of the pages of the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Plan containing the edits and changes suggested at the February 22 meeting were distributed to those in attendance. Patrick Watson led the Group through the changes with an “on-screen” display of the document.

A number of minor editing and word changes were made during the discussion and are not listed here. The most noteworthy changes are discussed below.

*A letter of submission from the Chair to the Minister of Water Stewardship will be drafted and added to the document.*

#### *Section 1.0: Introduction*

More information has been added in reference of why the Plan was initiated, as well as more information about the three completed groundwater management plans – Oak Lake Aquifer, Assiniboine Delta Aquifer and the Winkler Aquifer.

#### *Section 3.0: Groundwater Resources*

In Section 3.1, more information on the Global Water Cycle and the interaction of surface water and groundwater was added.

On page 26, discussion on the Red River floodway was expanded, and the amount of water entering the Floodway has been expressed in litres and gallons, in addition to cubic decametres.

Whether or not to include the Modeling Results-1 graph from the Study Update Powerpoint presentation was discussed. It was pointed out that the graph represented modeled results and not necessarily the actual situation. In addition, information on the amount of groundwater lost to the Floodway has already been included in the text on page 26.

In addition, the location of the monitoring station represented in Figure 18 on page 26 will be mentioned.

On page 27, the section on the responsibility for water management was re-written, including expanded discussion of the water rights licensing process. It was suggested something related to water export could be added.

A pie chart – “Issued Groundwater Licences” – was added. This illustration has been used rather than the “Licensed Groundwater Usage” graph from the MWS PowerPoint presentation, as was requested on February 22.

#### *Section 4.0: Groundwater Management*

On page 36, the introductory paragraph was re-written. However, it was suggested that the two paragraphs from the previous edition should be re-inserted. They will be.

Under Section 4.1: Management Responsibilities and Efforts, some of the sections have been split into different sections to better describe the responsibilities and roles.

Additions or edits:

- Manitoba Water Stewardship – Water Control Works and Drainage and Licensing
- Manitoba Conservation – Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Cooks Creek Conservation District
- Seine-Rat River Conservation District
  - (Described separately instead simply as “conservation districts”)
- Rural Municipalities – discussion expanded
- Planning Districts – discussion expanded
- Citizens

Section 4.2: Coordinating Planning Efforts is a new section. The intent was to replace the “Triangle” diagram in the earlier edition illustrating the “pecking order”. It includes a discussion of:

- Land Use Planning
- Groundwater Protection
  - (The discussion of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives still has to be reviewed by MAFRI.)
- Source Water Protection Planning

- Conservation Districts

Group requested that the triangle be left as was but a few explanatory paragraphs are required.

*Section 5.0: Management Goals and Recommended Actions*

Section 5.1: Goal: Further Research – had been edited. It was suggested to return to the original text. That will be done.

Section 5.2: Goal: Protect Groundwater Quantity – the introduction has been edited. Merge this with the points from the original regarding the City of Winnipeg.

Suggested edits in this section include:

Page 42, second bullet, rewrite to read: “Encourage long-term water supply planning throughout the region. (Lead Responsibilities: MWS, Municipalities, Planning Districts, Local Government and Conservation Districts.)”

Page 42, fourth bullet, rewrite to read: “Identify and protect groundwater recharge areas and ecologically significant areas dependent on groundwater recharge.” Add Municipalities to list.

Page 42, fifth bullet, the beginning should read: “Maintain existing and develop new provincial....”

Section 5.3: Goal Protect Groundwater Quality – The introduction was shortened to one new sentence. It was suggested to re-insert the first two sentences from the previous edition in addition to the new sentence.

Section 5.4: Goal: Public Information and Awareness – the introduction was edited down to one sentence. It was suggested to include the last sentence from the previous edition.

A bullet will be added to the Recommendations stating that a link should be provided on the SRGMP website that leads to more information on integrated watershed management planning efforts in Manitoba.

Section 6.0: Plan Implementation – the text has been edited – accepted.

Other points:

The Transient Calibration-1 graph from the MWS PowerPoint presentation: Bob Betcher will write some discussion related to it, and it will be added to the Plan in Section 3.8.

The group had a short discussion on the need to add a glossary and had mixed thoughts on the benefit of adding one.

Bob Betcher agreed to add some material about the groundwater model testing.

**b) Recorded vote to accept/reject the Plan**

This item was added to the agenda during the vote to accept the proposed agenda.

The ensuing discussion resulted in a number of attendees indicating that while they might have the authority to approve the document in principle, it was the organizations they represented (whether a municipality or NGO) that would have to review the final document and submit a formal decision.

Patrick Watson offered to make the final changes as discussed at this meeting, pass the document through the Department's internal proofreading/editing service and send the final document to all those listed as members of the Planning Group. He will also check with his department to see how best to deal with later comments from member organizations who have not been active participants in the process.

**Motion:** Moved by Ken Lucko, RM of Springfield that Manitoba Water Stewardship (Patrick Watson) completes the edits to the document and submit it to the department's internal editing process after which it will be sent to all members of the Planning Group for review. Each member organization/agency will have six weeks from the time it receives the document to submit a formal response either "in favour", or "not in favour" of the Plan.

Motion seconded by Dave Young, RM of Reynolds.

The motion was **Carried**.

## 5. Next Meeting

In general, it was felt that another meeting would not be necessary unless there were major objections to the Plan which not be dealt with otherwise. If that be the case, the next meeting, if necessary would be at the call of the Chair.

## 6. Adjournment

**Motion:** Moved by Bob Bodnaruk, RM of Springfield, that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Ed Gunning, RM of St. Clements.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.