

## **Boyne River Watershed Action Group Meeting Minutes - August 5 2009**

Attendees:

- George Friesen, RM Lorne, Pembina Valley Conservation District /David Marginet, RM of South Norfolk /Rick Prejet, MB Pork Council /Scott Beston, MHHC /Al Bourier, MHHC /Ray LeNeal, Victoria Norfolk Cattleman Association /Marc Balcaen, Office of Drinking Water /Fred Dunn, RM of Dufferin /Jim Hoger, Town of Treherne /Ted Ross, Pembina Valley Conservation District /Ray Timmerman, LaSalle Redboine Conservation District /Rejean Picard, MAFRI /Keith Wallcraft, LaSalle Redboine Conservation District /Cliff Greenfield, Pembina Valley Conservation District

Met at the Golden Age Club in Notre Dame de Lourdes on Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 930-12noon.

Chairman Ray Timmerman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

1. Progress on the Lake Fencing Project and Livestock access issue was presented by Keith Wallcraft. Keith and Fred Dunn have talked to all the landowners around the lake and progress is being made. There are only a few holdouts. Funding is being provided by the Water Stewardship Fund.
2. Keith presented a report on a potential water storage project at Pellies Lake that was completed by ACC Land and Water Students. The report was well done and will assist the Conservation District in pursuing this project. Copies are available from Keith.
3. Surface Water Quality samples are being taken this year at one location along the Roseisle Creek as part of an ongoing study that started eleven years ago. The BRWAG would like to keep gathering data so that they can obtain a long term record to see if changes are taking place in the watershed. Water Stewardship Water Quality Monitoring staffer Dave Green is retiring and it is hoped that the Province will continue to fund the lab costs and provide an interpretation of the results. Shipping and sampling costs are picked up by the Conservation Districts. Three to Five samples are taken throughout the spring and summer. Jennifer Havelock is replacing Dave Green and she has been contacted and asked to attend the next BRAWAG meeting and discuss this situation with the Action Group. The data should be used and put out there for review. Cliff will write a couple of articles for the paper and target the Treherne Times, Dufferin Leader and the Valley Leader.
4. Source Water Protections Assessments are being considered by the Conservation Districts. The Province is working on a format and process that can be followed. Currently the PVCD is working on Source Water Protection Assessments for the Pembina River Watershed and the process is evolving.
5. Fisheries Study – The Conservation Districts need to look at the projects suggested in the fisheries study completed by North South Consultants and prioritize and develop an implementation plan. If RM infrastructure is part of the problem then this information needs to get to the RM's. Keith and Cliff will review the study and pass on information relevant to RM infrastructure. An example of this would be a perched culvert that prevents fish passage.
6. Elections – Chair Ray Timmerman and vice Roy Wood agreed to let their names stand.

7. MHC Presentation by Scott Beaton and Al Bourrier – MHC is addressing some of the concerns brought about by the work of the BRWAG by delivering a voluntary Conservation Agreement program that interested landowners can take advantage of. A partnership has been established between MHC, BRWAG, LSRBCD and PVCD. Letters of support have been sent to MHC to deliver a CA Program in this watershed targeting water quality improvements. There are two types of CA's that MHC is looking for. One is for no ag use riparian areas and the other is for wetland restoration projects. There is about \$273,000 available in the MHC budget this year for these programs. Scott handles Dufferin, Thompson, Interlake, SE MB and Rosser while Al handles the western area of MB.

#### RIPARIAN CA

- Payments are typically around \$200/acre which is around 100% of the assessment for these riparian and wetland areas. In the BRWAG watershed two agreements have been completed to date with four others in progress.
- No ag use is allowed under the conditions of the CA.

#### WETLAND RESTORATION CA

- For the wetland CA's the wetland had to be degraded prior to 2007 and in need of enhancement. An existing pristine wetland is not eligible. No bounce is allowed in terms of enhanced catch and release. A no burn, break or drain perpetual caveat is placed on the property. Typically an earthen plug is placed to restore the degraded wetland. The payment is based on the flooded land based on the top of the plug plus six inches. The program is tied to carbon sequestration. Haying and grazing are allowed and sod seeding may also be allowed to rejuvenate the stand.
  - Wetland CA payments are based on approx 85% of the assessment up to \$700/acre plus an EG&S payment of \$200/acre.
  - For CA's in general MHC has a 40 acre minimum policy but will consider smaller parcels.
8. Growing Forward presentation by Rejean Picard. No details are out yet but an announcement is expected soon and MAFRI will be able to present details at BRWAG next meeting hopefully. An environmental farm plan is good for 5 years, which if someone has a "certificate of completion," then it is good for a five year period at which time they would have to go through the process again. The process involves attending two half day workshops and then the landowner completes a self assessment farm plan. Once a certificate of completion is received the landowner qualifies for funding. Producers that received a certificate of completion through the

Equivalent-Agri Environmental Plan delivered in the Stephenfield/Boyne River watershed. For more information please check out the MAFRI website.

9. New Initiative in RM of Dufferin and RM of Grey spearheaded by Councillor and BRWAG member Fred Dunn. The RM's are committing dollars to sign up interested landowners on a voluntary and time limited basis to hold back runoff to reduce downstream flood-peaks. The RM's are looking for landowners in key areas to partner with. Landowners will be paid rent for keeping wetlands and flooded areas. Fred feels that with the depressed cattle industry there will be increased pressure to improve drainage with more land being in cultivation. Dufferin is targeting 1000 acres for this year and will pay approx 30 – 35 \$/acre. Dufferin has committed approx \$35,000 for this program. Lots of erosion is being caused by an increase in drainage in this region. This program is targeting average years and not extreme wet or dry years.
10. Discussed letters from the Treherne Dam Committee to Provincial and Federal politicians dated July 2009. (Copies Attached)