

Stephenfield Lake Watershed Management Plan Action Group



Minutes Action Group Meeting – November 2nd, 2007 – Club D'Age Dor at Notre Dame - 930am – 12noon (Minutes recorded by Cliff Greenfield)

Present:

-Ray Timmerman	*Action Group Chairman / MB Pork Council / LSRBCD CR Sub-District
-Keith Wallcraft	Stephenfield EAEP Coordinator / LSRBCD Manager
-Cliff Greenfield	PVCD Manager
-Roy Wood	*Action Group Vice-Chairman LSRBCD
-Cy Hoorne	RM of South Norfolk
-Ted Ross	Roseisle Creek Watershed Association
-Reg Marginet	RM Victoria
-Dave Marginet	RM of South Norfolk
-Marc Balcaun	Office of Drinking Water
-Denis Bibault	Village of Notre Dame
-Ray Theroux	South Central Soil & Water Association
-George Friesen	RM Lorne, PVCD Pembina Escarpment Sub-District
-Andre Comte	PVCD Pembina Escarpment Sub-District
-George Jackson	RM Thompson, PVCD Pembina Escarpment Sub-District
-Don Alexander	PVCD Pembina Escarpment Sub-District
-Jim Hoger	Town of Treherne / Cypress River SD of LSRBCD
-Crawford Jenkins	Town of Carman / Cypress River Sd of LSRBCD
-Laury Brisson	RM Of Lorne
-Raymond LeNeal	Victoria-Norfolk Cattleman's Association

1) Ray Timmerman chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

2) Approval of Agenda – done

3) Approval of Minutes from previous meeting – done

4) Presentation by Barry Oswald from Water Stewardship about a recent report released by the Province that shows a protocol to follow to complete a Source Water Assessment. This protocol is being adopted by the province and Barry encouraged this group to follow the process. Barry indicated that it is basically a simple process using GIS technology and datasets that should be generally available. Barry went through the report and left copies. The report was commissioned by the Province and completed by Golder Associates and is entitled "Manitoba Source Water Assessment Recommended Method For Public Water supply Systems." Barry had chaired a working group made up of Government agency staff that worked with the consultant to produce this document. Golder Associates reviewed what other jurisdictions with similar landscapes or conditions to Manitoba were doing with Source Water Assessments. This activity considers "Public" systems only. This protocol follows the "checklist" approach as opposed to the "matrix" approach. The "checklist" approach is much simpler. The Assessment will include the following:

- Map
- Fact sheet
- Identified Risks and Ranking
- List of key issues (look at big picture and pick larger risks to water safety)

- List of mitigating factors (ie what has been done already to protect water quality)

This is a Source Water Assessment (SWA) and the Province has not indicated what they would like to see in a Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) that would address the risks identified in the assessment.

The new provincially led Integrated Watershed Management Planning efforts in future will include the SWA in the process. Stephenfield watershed started before this was part of the process although it was identified as an action item to complete.

Two critical zones or geographical areas within a watershed are identified in this process and their detailed definition is contained in the report. The "Watershed Zone" is the entire watershed area and the "Management Zone" is a smaller area and based on the speed of the surface or ground water flow. Typically streams in Manitoba flow between 0.5 meters per second and 2.0 meters per second. For a surface water supply and assuming a 0.5 meter per second stream velocity it works out to 40 kilometers upstream of the intake pipe measured along the stream channel. If the channel has a sinuosity or meander ratio of two kilometers of stream length to one kilometer of valley distance or distance as the crow flies. The management area would be 20 kilometers upstream of the intake pipe and a 400 meter buffer on each side of the waterway including all tributary designated drains.

TO DO – The Stephenfield Lake Watershed Management Plan Action Group to review document and discuss further / Keith and Cliff to work on completing assessment as outlined in this protocol for the Stephenfield Water Plant.

5) Presentation by Keith Wallcraft on Stephenfield Equivalent Agri-Environmental Plan (EAEP) Keith presented an update on EAEP activity. As the program has to be completed by March 31 2008 and all project activity completed and reported by the end of December 2008 there is some uncertainty about projects going ahead or being able to be completed in time. Over the last 3 months Keith has contacted 36 producers and visited 20 producers to work with them on project development. Some sites were visited several times to work out the details. At this time 26 On-Farm Action Plans have been submitted and approved. This represents in excess of 10,000 acres in the watershed. As of Sept 10th, 2007, 23 BMP projects have approved, 2 have received conditional pending permits and licensing review, 7 have yet to be adjudicated and 1 application is being considered by another producer. The following is a summary of proposed projects taking place through this program:

- BMP #5 Runoff from confinement yards totaling 35 acres will be directed to containment lagoons.
- BMP #6 Livestock relocation of more that 750 cow-calf pairs and 50 sheep pairs to a more suitable location will reduce the impact on 44 acres where the livestock previously wintered and the wetlands, streams, and riparian areas adjacent. Nearly 1000' of wind break panels are requested.
- BMP #10 Riparian Area Management removes or controls livestock access across 500 acres, 2 km of Stephenfield lake shoreline and tributaries. Also 17ms of riparian fencing will be established and 16 off-site watering stations will be developed.

BMP #11 Bank stabilization will be done on the Boyne River with willow plantings. Also a 0.7km runoff channel will be shaped and grassed to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

Overall the project has been well received and is being used by PFRA as a very successful example to show other groups. A group from Ontario is being toured through this area. The EAEP provided watershed related information to producers and this increased their incentive to do something. They saw this as way to help their neighbours and community.

Keith organized a tour of some of the BMP projects in the watershed on October 30th. The tour was well attended and Action Group members and others has a chance to see a number of the projects and talk to some of the producers involved. There were several stops and some drive-bys.

There sounds like the definite possibility of an extension of this program. This would be beneficial and allow more producers to take part or at least complete projects that they were contemplating. No official work at this time.

TO DO

The Board feels that this story should be told. Keith and Cliff will work on getting newspaper stories in local papers. Get quotes for producers that are taking part.

The Board feels that producers that have done BMP projects should be recognized. Not sure how to proceed on this issue. Producers will receive some top-up funding from CD's but there should be some other recognition. The action group needs to think on this and work with LSRBCD and PVCD on something.

5) Lake Sediment Study Update – Update by Cliff Greenfield

- Cliff reviewed the study findings and it indicates that there has been no loss of lake at Full Supply Level (FSL).
- The report contains a chart that plots the original survey of the lake before it was flooded along with a 2004 conventional survey and a survey done in 2005 using GPS and ultrasonic soundings. There is some concern that the ultrasonic soundings do not provide an accurate reading off the silt bottom of the lake. Provincial Senior Hydrologist Bob Harrison indicates that the lowest contours of the lake show some sign of sedimentation although the volume has not changed.

TO DO

Include this information in the yearly report card sent out to people in the watershed (Cliff to work on).

6) Lake Cattle Issue Update and Discussion (Keith)

- Keith reported on activities to date.

- Significant progress is being made with landowners around the lake. 2 out of the 5 landowners have responded favorably to the friendly and non-confrontational approach the CD has tried to address the issues of unrestricted access of cattle in the Reservoir.
- The exclusion fence on the south west shore of Stephenfield Lake is basically finished with the exception of tightening the wire in the spring. Some wetlands along Roseisle Creek were included in this fencing initiative for a total of approximately 2 kilometres. Two watering systems, a solar and stationary 110V, have been purchased to be installed in the spring. A sturdy panel fence for the fishers to climb over has been provided. The north shore watering system has yet to be purchased, hopefully from Water Stewardship funds. Discussions with the south shore landowner suggest the possibility of a meeting at some point in the future and fencing their shoreline.

7) New Name for Committee – Discussion

- The name “Stephenfield Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan Implementation Action Group” was thought to be too long and an alternative name should be developed. Also the area has been expanded to take in the watershed below the lake up to the McEachern Dam which is just downstream of Carman. The word “watershed” was deemed very important to the group and it’s activities. The group decided on Boyne River Watershed Action Group (BRWAG)

TO DO

Update website information with the new name of watershed organization. Cliff and Keith to do on their respective CD websites.

8) Upcoming Meeting with Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (PVWC)

Keith Cliff and Dave had met with PVWC executive Sam Shellenberg and had arranged for a presentation for their Board on December 7th, 2007. Keith, Cliff, Roy wood and Don Alexander will make a presentation to give the PVWC an update of activities in this watershed and request some funding assistance from the waters users of the watershed.

9) Next Meeting – April 4th, 2008 Club D’age Dor (Golden Age Club) in Notre Dame 930 – 12 Meeting originally to be held February 8th 2008 postponed until April 4th

10) Notice of Appreciation Dinner for Don Alexander November 23rd, 2007 in Miami