

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

**PROPOSER:** Rural Municipality of Piney  
**PROPOSAL NAME:** R.M. of Piney Wastewater Treatment Lagoon  
**CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT:** 2  
**TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:** Waste/Scrap Wastewater Treatment Lagoons  
**CLIENT FILE NO.:** 5042.00

### OVERVIEW:

On May 7, 2004, the Department received a Proposal from J.R. Cousin Consultants Ltd. on behalf of the R.M. of Piney for a Development to construct and operate a new wastewater treatment lagoon in the northeast quarter of Section 25-2-11 EPM in the R.M. of Piney. The treated wastewater will be discharged between June 15<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> of any year and proceed into a natural drainage path which discharges into West Pine Creek.

The Department, on June 15, 2004, placed copies of the Proposal in the Public Registries located at 123 Main St. (Union Station), the St. James-Assiniboia Public Library, the Manitoba Eco-Network and the Jake Epp Public Library (Steinbach). Copies of the Proposal were also provided to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members. The Department placed a public notification of the Proposal in the Steinbach Carillon on Thursday, June 24, 2004. The newspaper and TAC notification invited responses until July 21, 2004. On July 7, 2004, the Department added the R.M. of Piney office as a Public Registry.

On July 30, 2004 Manitoba Conservation forwarded comments that had been received from the TAC and the public to the proponent. Additional information that would address the requests presented in the comments was requested.

On August 3, 2004, Manitoba Conservation submitted comments from the TAC members and the public to the appropriate Public Registries.

On August 9, 2004, Manitoba Conservation forwarded an additional letter received from the public to the proponent. Information that would address the requests presented in the comments was requested and the comments were submitted to the appropriate Public Registries.

On September 9, 2004, the consultant submitted responses to the comments and requests from the TAC and the public.

On September 10, 2004, the consultant's responses were distributed to the TAC members and the public that had provided comments or requested additional information. If responses were found to be unsatisfactory, requests from the TAC and public for additional information were required by October 15, 2004.

On September 14, 2004, Manitoba Conservation submitted responses from the consultant addressing requests for additional information by the public and the TAC to the appropriate Public Registries.

On October 22, 2004, Manitoba Conservation forwarded comments that had been received from the public to the proponent. Additional information that would address the requests presented in the comments was requested.

On October 25, 2004, Manitoba Conservation submitted responses from the public requesting additional information to the appropriate Public Registries.

On November 3, 2004, the consultant submitted responses to the comments and requests from the public.

On November 8 2004, the consultant's responses were distributed to the public that had provided comments or requested additional information.

On November 9, 2004, Manitoba Conservation submitted responses from the consultant addressing requests for additional information by the public to the appropriate Public Registries.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Address:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Summarized Comments/Concerns:</b>
Lawrence and Barbara Szalanski	Box 38 Piney, MB ROA 1K0	July 18, 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not agree with site location. Believes that location is a pristine area, and may become contaminated, and that the lagoon should not be located in a sand based area.</li> <li>• Concerned that facility will be prone to vandalism.</li> <li>• Concerned that the lagoon site may be subject to flooding.</li> <li>• Feels that plant life and animal life in the area will be adversely affected.</li> <li>• Suggests that area is a bog area that should be protected.</li> <li>• Is concerned with long term effects of effluent discharge in the area.</li> <li>• Concerned that effluent will pollute the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area in Minnesota.</li> <li>• Does not believe that adequate notification of the proposal was given to land owners in the area.</li> <li>• Does not agree with the type of wastewater treatment method chosen.</li> <li>• Concerned that synthetic liner will not provide adequate protection to ground water, and that contamination may occur.</li> <li>• Does not agree with the discharge period of July 15 to Nov. 1 due to low flow in Pine Creek at that time.</li> <li>• Concerned that chemicals in the effluent to are not being tested for.</li> <li>• Concerned that beaver dams may disrupt creek flow.</li> <li>• Concerned that the consultant has not adequately address potential</li> </ul>

			<p>destructive effects on the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerned that lagoon will negatively impact the local economy.</li> <li>• Feels that the lagoon will contribute to the spreading of diseases.</li> </ul>
Al and Betty Coates Piney-Fine Natural Spring Water Inc.	Box 30 Piney, MB R0A 1K0	July 18, 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objects to the discharging of treated wastewater into West Pine Creek.</li> <li>• Feels that further study of long term effects of the discharge and its possible effect on the natural aquifer is needed.</li> </ul>
Margaret Allen	SW 7-2-12 Piney	July 5, 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is against the development due to the natural water springs in the area, and the potential for contamination.</li> </ul>
Mike Muskaluk	Box 96 Piney, MB R0A 1K0	July 19, 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not believe that the discharge should be into a creek.</li> </ul>
D. Davis	Box 37 Vassar, MB R0A 2J0	July 30, 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerned that the costs of local septic services will increase greatly and cause cottagers to dump waste illegally.</li> <li>• Odour concerns</li> <li>• Believes that public notification by R.M. of Piney was not adequate.</li> <li>• Concerned that the site is not located centrally, not consistent with the local development plan, and should be placed on municipal land available.</li> <li>• Concerned that creek runs into the U.S.</li> <li>• Concerned with water, aquifer and trout population effects due to development.</li> </ul>
Joyce Tachinski	Box 1056 Buffalo Pt., MB R0A 2W0	August 25, 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is concerned that the development will pollute the artesian wells and springs in the area.</li> </ul>

**Petition:**

<b>Petition Name:</b>	<b>Address:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Summarized Comments/Concerns:</b>
Barb Szalanski	Box 38 Piney, MB	July 19, 2004	Opposed to the proposed lagoon or any lagoon which drains into Pine Creek
Sara Szalanski	Box 38 Piney, MB		
Fay Walher			
Speed Walher			
Donna Hvanndal			
Lillian Anderson	Box 115 Piney, MB		
Ray Andrews			
May Grawberger	Box 104 Piney, MB		
Lawrence Szalanski	Box 38 Piney, MB		
Rose Goodman	Box 64 Piney, MB		
Laura Mattson			
Mike Muskaluk			
Maurice Muskaluk			
Ena Monteluk			
Carol Zarn			
Enid Swaine			
Roger Rearie			
Betty Thompson			
Betty Coates			
Alfred Coates			

**Note:** Some names on the petition were omitted because they were illegible.

**COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

**Agriculture and Food**

- *No concerns.*

**Conservation - Sustainable Resource Management**

- *Erosion and sediment control measures should be in place during the construction of the discharge ditch and the construction of the lagoon, until all sites are stabilized.*
- *While the cells have been sized to accommodate future increase in volume from population growth and variability in seasonal use, precipitation does not appear to be factored in.*
- *The proposal does not indicate how the cells will be operated and where the sludge will be disposed of.*

- *To ensure best lagoon performance, an annual measurement of sludge accumulation should be made in the lagoon cells.*
- *It is advisable that a monitoring program be established to determine the effects of possible leakage from the lagoon cells on the groundwater system.*
- *The proponent should have a plan in place to deal with possible odour problems, should there be a public complaint.*
- *Water quality monitoring should be considered for East Pine Creek in order to ascertain the impact of effluent discharged to this creek.*

Proponent Responses (August 31, 2004):

- The specifications will state that the sediment and erosion control measures are to be left in place until the site is re-vegetated.
- The lagoon would be operated as outlined in the Province of Manitoba "Recommended Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Treatment Lagoons" document.
- Should sludge removal be required, it would be removed using a process which would not disturb the liner or the sand cover i.e. a vacuuming process. The company that removed the sludge would be responsible to dispose of it in accordance with current guidelines and obtaining the required approvals.
- The Manitoba Conservation design guidelines do not recognize evaporation as a significant method for effluent disposal. Therefore, on all lagoon designs, it is considered that the evaporation from the cells and precipitation will be relatively balanced. A 1.0 m freeboard was utilized in the design to account for heavy precipitation.
- Any sludge measurement, odour control and ground/surface water monitoring programs required by Manitoba Conservation would be carried out by the R.M.

Disposition:

After receiving additional information from the proponent, these comments were satisfied and are no longer of concern.

**Culture, Heritage and Tourism - Historic Resources**

- *No concerns.*

**Health**

*No comments were received.*

**Transportation and Government Services**

- *Permits are required from the Department for the proposed Provincial Road 203 access, gate and sign.*
- *An underground agreement would be required for any sewer/water lines proposed within PR 203 right-of-way (R-O-W) or adjacent controlled area (38.1 m from the edge of R-O-W).*

Proponent Responses (August 31, 2004):

- Permits for the proposed P.R. 203 access, the proposed gate and sign will be solicited prior to construction of the lagoon.
- At the present time, no piping is proposed along the P.R. 203 right of way or the adjacent control area. Should piping be proposed in the future, an agreement would be solicited from Manitoba Transportation and Government Services.

Disposition:

- Additional permits required by the Licencee will not be addressed in the Licence.

**Intergovernmental Affairs**

- *No concerns.*

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency**

- *Following a review by all federal departments with a potential interest in the proposed development, the application of the CEAA will be required.*
- *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (AAFC-PFRA) will be conducting the EA review on behalf of the Western Economic Diversification (WD).*
- *Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Environment Canada and Health Canada would be able to offer specialist information with respect to the project review.*

**AAFC-PFRA:**

- *Existing groundwater use in the area should be identified. Have the installation of groundwater monitoring wells been considered to provide an early indication if the synthetic liner is leaking?*
- *When is construction of project components proposed (including clearing of land required for lagoon)? Timing should be so that the affect to wildlife and migratory birds is minimized.*

Proponent Response (August 31, 2004):

- Land owners in the R.M. obtain their drinking water from groundwater wells. Driller's Reports indicate that wells in the area of the lagoon and the proposed drainage route are drawing water from a depth of at least 16 m below the surface other than one shallow well in SE 21-2-11E, which draws water from a depth of 10 m. Each of the logs (for the deep and the shallow wells) shows a layer of clay type soils above the formation from which the wells are drawing water. Therefore, it appears that the aquifer has a degree of protection from potential surface contamination in this area.
- Monitoring wells would be installed at the lagoon site if required in the licence.
- Construction would likely be initiated in mid to late spring. The migration of wildlife and birds should not be affected by this schedule.

**AAFC-PFRA:**

- *There is concern that if the synthetic liner leaks, it may go undetected. Therefore, it is recommended that a groundwater monitoring plan is developed and implemented.*

- *Piney-Fine Natural Spring Water Inc. draws water from the corner of 31-1-12 EPM from a flowing well. This is approximately 5 miles south of the proposed lagoon site and 2 miles east of Pine Creek. The wastewater discharged to West Pine Creek will be treated to Provincial standards, therefore this effluent should not have an impact to groundwater along the discharge route.*
- *Migratory birds, their eggs, nests and young are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA) and the associated regulations. I will talk to Environment Canada to determine an appropriate clause to include in the EA and will pass it along to you for consideration as a licence requirement.*

Disposition:

- The attached draft Licence includes a clause requiring the submission of a groundwater monitoring plan for the site of the Development to monitor for liner integrity, to be carried out as approved by the Director.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

A public hearing is not recommended.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Proponent should be issued a Licence for the construction and operation of the wastewater treatment lagoon in accordance with the specifications, terms and conditions of the attached draft Licence. Enforcement of the Licence should be assigned to the Environmental Approvals Branch until the liner testing has been completed and the Development is commissioned.

PREPARED BY:

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February 25, 2005.

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