


Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Bic [bicnbev@gmail.com] 
Sent: October-17-11 3:38 PM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON)
Subject: Salt Lake Water Level Control Project #5538

Concerns about the drainage proposal as outlined in “Hydrological Assessment for Flood Control Planning & Environmental Impact Assessment”

Prepared by R.L. Biccum

I have been spending a lot of every summer at Salt Lake for 53 years. I would like to spend a lot more. My concerns over this proposal are simple. The water quality, and water levels.

I think there are a few of us that feel that no matter what we object to, the project will go ahead anyway. That is probably because of all the dealings with the RM of Strathclair and their lack of concern for Salt Lake. Their total concern is for landowners in the area of North and Center Salt Lake, which is somewhat synonymous with the RM of Strathclair. They may not have any influence over the proposal, but they seem to do what they want anyway.

The water analysis charts in the proposal would need some explanation for me to understand. I am supposed to take Bob Sheedy's word that it is all ok. Can't really see how that's possible. For the stuff I did understand, I liked the readings for Salt Lake better than the other 2. The north end of Salt Lake smelled like a lagoon by mid August 2011. That has never happened before. I have to think that the water we got from the north had a lot to do with it. The fact that North Salt lake has the effluent from Strathclair in it bothers me a lot. That fact alone should have this proposal in jeopardy right from the start. High water in the spring might have that lake in trouble, but there are unlicensed drainage issues from private land there that don't help that situation. The effluent was supposed to be contained. I don't think we are supposed to be swimming in it.

The proposal does not address the required water levels on Salt Lake, but really specific for the North and Center lakes. There is a need for specific water levels of Salt Lake to be addressed and maintained. That may require a better control structure than just a 36 inch culvert. I could see the RM letting the water in to Salt Lake at a rate that can't be released fast enough and more flooding would result. North and Center Salt lake would be their main concern. Water release guidelines might be stretched if they have to meet their goals. Always easier to ask forgiveness than permission. There is an obvious water level for Salt Lake that has worked for decades. There was little erosion and no flooding of cottage areas. There needs to be a control structure that can maintain that level.

I keep going back to the effluent in North Salt Lake that is supposed to be contained.

I am sure I am not the first to indicate mistrust and suspicion when there will be dealings with the RM of Strathclair. They appear to have no regard for Salt lake. Compared to their flooded farm land up north, a recreation lake might not mean much to them. It's just a means to an end. So any proposal that affects water quality and water level has to be spelled out very well to protect us around Salt Lake. I am not convinced that there isn't another route to drain what needs to be drained. Government spends a lot more money on a lot less

every day. Bob Sheedy made my mind up for me in the proposal, that Salt Lake is the most cost effective route. Maybe not. There is a lot to consider there. Not just the initial construction cost.

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Baker, Tracy [Tracy.Baker@investorsgroup.com]
Sent: October-17-11 5:16 PM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON) BW
Subject: Fw: North Salt Lake

Tracy C. Baker
Consultant
Investors Group Financial Services

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Baker, Tracy
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 02:33 PM
To: 'brucewebb@gov.mb.ca' <brucewebb@gov.mb.ca>
Subject: North Salt Lake

Dear Mr. Webb

I am writing to you in response to the letter issued in the matter of the construction of a gated culvert that would route the water in the RM of Strathclair to a different area than it is currently. This culvert would reduce the water level in North Salt Lake, apparently by as much as 2 meters. I am strongly in favor of this happening! The current set up not only causes issues with sitting water but it will cause a yearly flood on the land of a number of people that live in the area. This is simply not a suitable situation when there is an alternative option. Living on property that is sitting with at least 2 meters of excess water is not something that anyone should have to deal with (my parents are in this situation now and have been for a number of years) and the alternative to redirecting the water has very little impact on the community, despite the arguments.

Please accept this as a request to construct the new gated culvert.

Thank-you,

Tracy C. Baker

Division Director

Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

(204) 729-2000

Tracy.Baker@investorsgroup.com

Strathclair, Manitoba
October 16, 2011

Attention Mr. Bruce Webb: *BW*

In regard to the application by the Rural Municipality of Strathclair based on the Hydrological Assessment for Flood Control Planning and Environmental Assessment submitted by Bob Sneydy, please be advised that I wish to express my concern.

Background Information: My husband and I own property directly affected by the proposal. Since purchase of this property we have rotated cereal crops, oil seeds and have sowed alfalfa and grass mix on the land. Presently, we bale two cuts of hay, and fall graze 60-100 head of cattle on this half section of productive agricultural land. With retirement plans in the future we hope to explore the following options: returning the land to cereal crops and oil seeds, renting, selling the land which could claim organic status, or developing lake front property for recreational use. We enjoy our property-horseback riding, canoing, kayaking, bird watching, x-country skiing, snow shoeing and skidooing are some of the recreational pursuits we share with family and friends.

I feel that the proposal has had and will continue to have a negative impact on the value of the land downstream from Middle Salt Lake. To begin, does the document adequately address the concern about water quality? The preception by some in the community is that the water quality in South Salt Lake has been compromised. Pollutants from the lagoon, dump site and an old abbatoir have or will flow downstream into the lake. The original license issued to the R.M. Stated that lagoon water was to be released into North Salt Lake, and should not be released into South Salt Lake. In 2007, a basic water analysis showed that in 19 parameters tested six were similar but in thirteen there was a difference two to four times higher in concentration. In 2009 Water Stewardship reported, "more information of water quality in these three lakes is required to assess potential impacts of water diversion from North or Middle Salt Lakes to South Salt Lake(Salt Lake)...through implementation of a seasonal monitoring program including sampling for

general chemistry, metals, and nutrients in spring, summer, fall and winter.” The report concluded stating, “given the differences in water quality observed in April 2009 between the three lakes, potential affects of water diversion could include impacts on the aquatic community, recreation, and use of water from South Salt Lake (Salt Lake) for drinking, livestock watering or irrigation/garden watering.” Will the R.M. Follow up with water analysis as recommended by Water Stewardship?

Mr. Sneezy has included tables of data in his report and general comments--- he has not included a summary or conclusions based on his raw data. A comparison of the three samples would be interesting. Does an effort have to be made to restore and maintain public confidence in the water quality of Salt Lake?

.Most recently in the EMO Release in 2010 a ditch was dug across a neighboring quarter and water drained through our property to Salt Lake. After the two week period, Water Stewardship requested the ditch be closed. Unfortunately the drain was not adequately filled. The water continues to drain across our property. Access to sixty-five acres of land requires four wheel drive. Three newly constructed beaver dams have been removed to prevent flooding and pooling on our land. Water continues to flow eroding grass runways, carrying and depositing alkaline and silt. A healthy wetland of sedges has been destroyed. Has the value of the property been compromised?

Previously, the Council removed a berm diverting water from running into middle Salt Lake across E27-16-22 and E22-16-22 into South Salt Lake. In our particular situation, this large volume of water has increased overland flooding, ditches have been excavated, and culverts have been removed and replaced. Consequently, fences require constant care, pasture management is a headache, and erosion has become a problem.

Expropriation of land sets a precedent for future infrastructure projects. Access and maintenance issues need to be documented. Communication with the land owner is imperative to avoid future conflict.

The water control program suggested includes controlled releases in Spring and Fall. In my opinion, unless drainage into the reservoirs is reviewed, accessed and new drains curtailed the problem of excess water will continue. Who will monitor and be held accountable for drainage which will continue to cause erosion problems of shorelines and beaches? The plan while it mentions levels for North and Middle Salt Lake does not recommend a minimum or maximum level for Salt Lake. Culvert size and placement have been a cause for concern for cottage owners and landowners downstream. Is water being recklessly drained at the expense of those downstream?

In conclusion, it is my opinion that the R.M. Of Strathclair is determined to drain water from North and Middle Salt Lake into Salt Lake. I have advocated that this solution only creates problems downstream. To me the plan is incomplete. Would it be proactive to limit the landowner drainage into North and Middle Salt Lake, implement Phase 2 and Phase 3 of Hydrological Impact Study (page 38), and reevaluate the situation? Although this may be a short term solution, it enables the Council time to develop a long term vision concerning water management within the Municipality. If Council is committed to practising environmental stewardship, this will allow them the time to consult with water management specialists, brainstorm ideas with other municipalities/conservation districts, collaborate with Water Stewardship, liason with landowners and hire the personnel to maintain the infrastructure. Maybe then, the project could be completed to meet the needs of people upstream and those living downstream.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Moffatt

Strathclair, 011Manitoba
October 17, 2011Manitoba

Attention Mr. Bruce Webb,

Over the last number of years highways and roads have changed the flow of water. Farmers have cleared land and trees, ditched potholes and drained sloughs. Now when we get any amount of water in the form of rain or snow, water runoff quickly because there is no where for it to be stored and absorbed. This water instead ends up in large lakes/marshes or at the first farm that has no drainage in place. When these areas fill the answer always seems to be dig another ditch.

In the R.M. Of Strathclair the water east of the town has been rerouted to run along Highway 16, through the town, then west into Middle Salt Lake. As more land is drained the water volume is greater and faster. Since 1999 the water has filled Middle Salt Lake and continued to be a problem. The R.M. Of Strathclair decided in 2005 to reroute this water through my pasture(27-16-22), under the road and into my other pasture(22-16-22) to Salt Lake. Salt Lake is a popular recreation area providing a campground and beach. It is a summer home for many cottage owners. In my opinion, this water changed the quality and the depth of Salt Lake. The lake normally spring fed with some runoff was flooded. The volume was so large that culverts were replaced with new ones because they could not handle the volume of the flow.

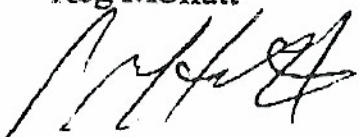
For the last six years this large volume has not flowed into Middle Salt Lake. This made no difference in the level of Middle Salt Lake. In fact the level has risen to unheard of levels. The Lake and marshes continue to grow in size feeding into Middle Salt Lake.

We need to find reservoirs on our own land to hold water, or the process will continue flooding our friends and neighbors downstream.

The R.M. Of Strathclair's proposed drain across my land will only be another ditch that causes trouble for the people and property downstream and it will not relieve the flooding in Middle Salt Lake. Please stop this proposal and guide the R.M. Of Strathclair find a solution to this water problem.

Thank you,

Reg Moffatt



October 17, 2011

FW

27.

MB Conservation

We are writing to express our concerns over the planned water project that would affect South Salt Lake (SSL). Our interest in the proposed project comes from owning a cabin on the south end of the lake.

We have concerns with regards to draining water from where town waste water has been discharged and the possibility of the effects of contaminants over a longer term from the area of the former dump. Does limited testing during high water levels reveal the true picture? Would contaminants appear more concentrated at lower water levels? Consistent testing and tracking of water quality by an independent company must be done at more regular intervals in all three lakes and over a longer period to ensure the water quality of SSL is not compromised. If fluctuations in any of the lakes' water samples appear, the reasons need to be investigated and reported upon.

Much is reported on the plans for lowering Center and North Salt Lakes if water levels are high; however, what plan is there for maintaining a sought-after level for South Salt Lake? If the Center and North lake levels are high, will there be a release regardless of SSL's level? If the Oak River system cannot handle any additional water, does SSL become the new reservoir?

Though we feel there must be further studies and more information before embarking on this project, any work must start with the culvert on the west side of SSL being properly installed and SSL being restored to its original or optimum level. As well, a gate on the South Salt Lake culvert should be installed to maintain an optimum level.

Our family, like many others, has enjoyed the numerous recreational benefits of SSL, including swimming lessons (a life skill!). It is hard to believe the RM does not take greater interest and pride in protecting this 'gem' of the municipality!

Jim Fortune

Carol Fortune

55 North Railway St.
Box 209
Oak River, MB
R0K 1T0



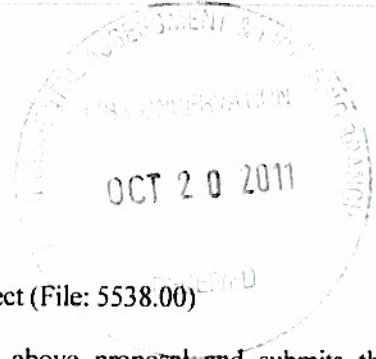
Little Saskatchewan River
Conservation District

Phone: 204-566-2270
Toll Free: 1-866-820-1512
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Email: ksrd@divots.net

October 17, 2011

BW

Environmental Assessment & Licensing Branch
Manitoba Conservation
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5



RE: Rural Municipality of Strathclair – Salt Lake Water Level Control Project (File: 5538.00)

The Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District has reviewed the above proposal and submits the following comments.

The Minister of Water Stewardship recently approved the Arrow-Oak River Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). Within the IWMP, stakeholders from within the watershed shared their concerns about surface water management in the watershed and one area noted in particular was North Salt Lake. This translated into the following goal and objective. Further information about this goal can be found in the enclosed IWMP.

Goal: To manage water from the top to the bottom of the watershed to minimize damage to natural ecosystems and human activities.

Objective: Prevent flood damage on North Salt Lake, Six Mile Slough, and Shoal Lake.

The unusually high water levels in the Salt Lakes region have been a concern of landowners and the Rural Municipality of Strathclair for several years. Both sides for and against the concern and the resolution of it have contacted the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District for assistance. It is, however, not within the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District mandate to conduct drainage. Drainage being one of several tools in surface water management. The Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District also has no regulatory authority and in fact, has to acquire the same licenses and approvals as any other organization or landowner.

The Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District supports the timely resolution of this problem acknowledging the efforts taken by the Rural Municipality of Strathclair. In the absence of any alternative solution, the Little Saskatchewan River Conservation District supports the application as a workable solution recognizing that it will take buy-in and commitment from all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Ken Cook
Chairman

KC/cc

Enclosure