

# **Manitoba Floodway Expansion Project – Round 3 Municipal Meetings - EIA**

## **Meeting Highlights**

### **Meeting With Town of Morris Council Office – Morris, Manitoba June 8, 2004**

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#### **In Attendance**

##### **For RM of Morris**

Mayor B. Stevenson  
I. Grossman  
D. Hoffman  
J. Bergstresser  
C. Peters  
B. Fulford  
R. Murray  
M. Anderson (CAO)

##### **For Environmental Assessment Team**

J. Osler – TetrES/InterGroup

##### **For Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority**

J. Thomson – Vice-President – Transportation

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#### **Purpose of Meeting**

The meeting was requested by the Environmental Assessment Team for the Floodway Expansion Project to:

- Review status of EIA
- Present key developments in project description since last meeting
- Present initial EIA findings
- Obtain input on additional mitigation measures
- Describe next steps in EIA findings

The meeting is one of a series of sessions being held with municipal Councils in the areas affected by the proposed Floodway Expansion Project as part of Round 3 of the EIA PIP.

## Meeting Process

John Osler of the Environmental Assessment Team made a brief summary presentation about:

- Status and scope of the Floodway Expansion EIA
- Important recent developments in the features of the Floodway Expansion project – channel, highway bridges, agricultural drainage drop structures, outlet, land acquisition for channel, construction sequence.
- Initial EIA findings for:
  - Groundwater levels and quality
  - Drainage and related effects
  - Construction access and disruption
  - Land requirements and related effects
  - Way of life / project benefits

Copies of the presentation as well as more detailed information about the Initial EIA Findings were provided to those in attendance. An electronic version of the presentation accompanies these notes.

Throughout and following the presentation, discussion took place in which:

- Council asked questions, offered perspectives, and identified issues related to what had been presented
- Where appropriate, representatives of the Environmental Assessment Team and Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority offered perspectives on items raised by Council.

The following are highlights of the meeting and are intended to capture the key points that were raised or presented. They are not presented in the sequence in which they were raised at the meeting, nor are they a detailed or verbatim transcription of what was said.

## Questions, Key Perspectives and Issues Identified by Council

The trucking industry is an important economic element of the community and with it PTH 75. Loss of the highway and the connection has substantial impacts not only in Morris but throughout the valley.

Are there any issues with dyking along the Red River?

*Response – Enhancements to the West Dyke are being made to increase the level of freeboard to protect against possible wind and wave action. Enhancements to the west dyke will increase the level of protection to residents north of the dyke, it will not result in increased water levels south of the dyke.*

Summer Operation – If this is pursued in the current project there are more issues to be considered than only the enhancement of recreational benefits in the City of Winnipeg. Obvious issues include the bank erosion that occurs all along the Red River from fluctuations in river levels.

*Response – No recreation activities in the floodway will be implemented that either impede the flow of water through the channel or potentially place demand on the supply of water. J. Thomson noted that most applicants propose trails and other static or passive uses for the floodway channel following construction.*

*No summer operation of the floodway will occur during construction. Concerns have been raised by the public and others regarding impediments to fish passage, riverbank stability, and potential impacts to property owners both upstream and downstream. Further study and analysis, including securing the appropriate environmental approvals, is required before future summer operations can take place.*

A Councillor described the relative importance of Morris to the surrounding region with the provision of potable water. The suggestion was made that the inclusion of a weir in the Red River immediately downstream of the Town might help ensure adequate water supply was present during low flow periods and help to reduce bank erosion.

Erosion – Another issue with potential summer water level operations is the impact it will have on riverbank erosion and is another reason this should be researched more before this is allowed to happen

If the floodway channel is not going to be deepened and just widened, will it accommodate the same water flow?

*Response - The expanded floodway will still be able to accommodate 140 000 cfs with little to no deepening and just widening.*