

LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

Newsletter - April 2021 Issue 5

Stakeholder Engagement

Manitoba Infrastructure and its engineering and environmental consultants met with the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale and their consultants on April 14 and 15, 2021 to present the draft Environmental Management Plans (EMP). These meetings provided an opportunity for the RM of Grahamdale to provide feedback and suggestions for measures that can be considered as part of the ongoing EMP development.

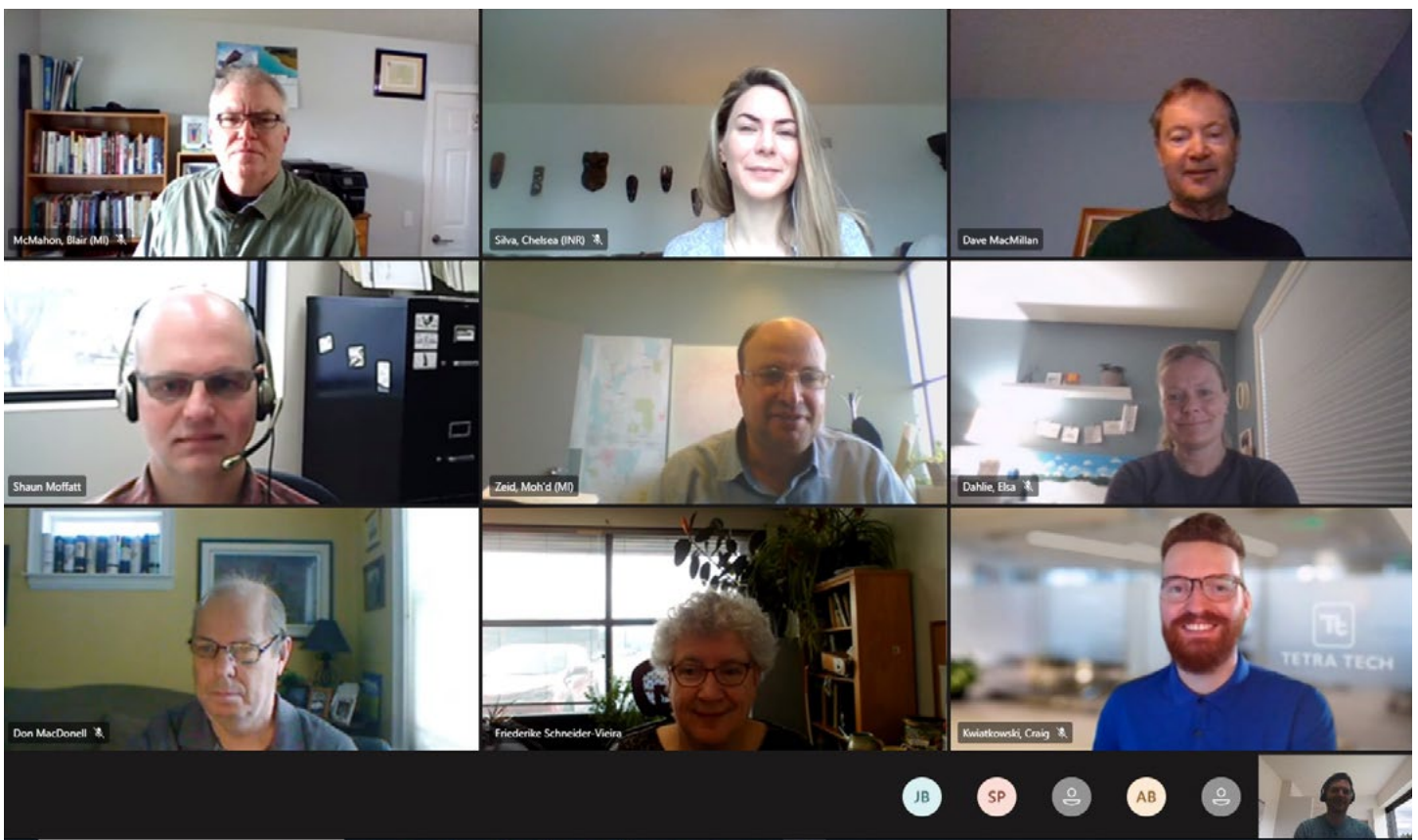
Indigenous Consultation

The Manitoba government is currently in Phase 2 of its consultation and engagement process. To date, highlights include:

- Secondary source information was shared with all Indigenous communities in March 2021 for verification and feedback.
- Community meetings to discuss the Environmental Management Plans are ongoing.

- Manitoba Infrastructure and its engineering and environmental consultants have recently met or are scheduled to meet with the following communities to discuss ongoing EMP development: Sandy Bay Ojibway Nation, Fisher River Cree Nation, Sagkeeng First Nation and Peguis First Nation.
- Manitoba Infrastructure is reviewing Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Studies that have been submitted.
- Feedback on the Environmental Management Plans and Questionnaires was requested by April 17, 2021. Feedback has been received and will be reviewed.
- Manitoba Infrastructure is engaging a Professional Facilitator to support the consultation and engagement process and positive dialogue on the Project.

As of April 19, 2021, the Manitoba government has communicated by letter (749), meetings (179), and emails/ phone (3048) with 39 Indigenous groups and communities about the Outlet Channels Project.



IN YOUR AREA

Upcoming Six Weeks:

Water Quality Data Collection – Field measurements and water samples will continue to be collected from Lake Manitoba, Fairford River, Lake St. Martin, Dauphin River, Sturgeon Bay, and in Watchorn Creek, Mercer Creek, Birch Creek and Buffalo Creek watershed. Water quality data from cattle runoff operations along the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel will also be collected.

Fisheries Investigations – Larval fish will be captured at the entrance to the Fairford and Dauphin Rivers and within Lake St. Martin to determine species composition and abundance.

Fisheries Investigations – Spring aquatic habitat conditions in Buffalo Creek and Birch Creek will be documented. Fish will be captured to document fish abundance and species occurrence in the creeks.

Road Investigations – Field survey work for Township Line Road bridge, Carne Ridge Road bridge, and PTH 6 bridge is required. Manitoba and its associates will require access to private land to complete this work. Consent of entry will be acquired before this work occurs.

Access Road – Manitoba has initiated further consultation on the Access Road with 9 Indigenous communities in the affected area. Remaining work is anticipated to begin in June. This work includes hauling and placing of borrow material; installation of culverts; hauling and placing of traffic gravel; seeding of disturbed areas; and rehabilitation of borrow areas.

Heritage Excavation – After an opening ceremony, field work is anticipated to begin in June and is expected to take two months to complete the excavation of the sites.

In the event that you have any concerns about upcoming field work, please respond to the contact details indicated in Manitoba Infrastructure's notification letters.



Environmental Assessment Process

Manitoba Infrastructure continues to move through the provincial and federal environmental assessment processes.

- Responses to the public information requests incorporating feedback from Indigenous communities, stakeholder and the public is expected to be submitted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada this summer.
- The Manitoba government has issued a Request for Proposal seeking to hire a Heritage Resource Consultant to undertake the excavation and associated works for two archaeological sites located within the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel right-of-way. Manitoba Infrastructure will coordinate with communities to ensure that Indigenous Environmental Monitors are present throughout the excavation work. Work is expected to begin May 2021.

We Want To Hear From You

Please share your comments on the potential effects of the project by participating in meetings, or by contacting your local project Community Coordinator, band office, government office, association or email outletchannels@gov.mb.ca. For updates on the Outlet Channels Project please visit [EngageMB.ca](https://www.gov.mb.ca/engage)

The environmental assessment is both a planning and decision-making tool. This process is iterative and evolves as additional project information and community and stakeholder feedback is received. Project design, proposed mitigations, and proposed monitoring activities can be adapted to ensure that feedback received through this process is addressed.