

Appendix B
Public Consultation

PVWC's Public Consultation

The Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Inc. (PVWC) began a public consultation process in early March of this year, contacting the seven municipal governments in the vicinity of its proposed project or who might feel themselves affected by this proposal. Over the course of March and April Sam Schellenberg, its CEO, met with six of them. The City of Steinbach's CAO was briefed but felt that there was no need for PVWC to meet with his council as their water supply would not be affected and he couldn't see any other concerns.

In each of the visits, councils were given a brief overview of the region, the PVWC and its 18 municipal owners, the existing sources of supply and the terms of its present environmental and water rights licensing. It was explained that the drought sensitivity of its existing supplies and PVWC's heavy dependence on the Red River which does not have a minimum flow agreement with the U.S., were the motivation for seeking a new source of supply.

Councils were advised that the PVWC needed to identify and develop a new source of supply and proposed to do so in the vicinity of the Bedford ridge in the Sandilands forest reserve with an initial well that would provide 50 litres per second and with a 12" line running to its regional water treatment plant in Morris. Given the high cost of this supplemental supply it was not anticipated that further supplies would be taken from the Sandilands source unless drought conditions prevailed. In the event of a prolonged drought up to 300 litres per second would be required to replace lost supplies.

Meetings were arranged with the following councils:

The R. M. of Franklin was visited on Tuesday, March 8th at 9:00 a.m. Although part of the PVWC, Franklin takes water for Dominion City only. Council was very positive about the proposal as they saw this as a way to get water to their eastern half where it appears to be needed.

The R. M. of De Salaberry meeting was held the same day at 8:30 p.m. Council was quite receptive and most interested in the route of the pipeline and what potential supplies might be available to them especially some of their rural residents. It was explained that the PVWC has a policy of sharing supplies where sources permit and that the water would be available at the same wholesale price paid by its other municipal members.

The R. M. of Hanover met with Mr. Schellenberg on Wednesday, March 9th at 10:00 a.m. They were quite receptive and involved him in a discussion about supply problems they were having in Grunthal and Kleefeld and how a much smaller regional system could be run. Given their access to supplies of ground water, purchasing water from the PVWC at its price was not attractive although it could provide a solution to their problem.

The R. M. of La Broquerie was visited the same day at 11:30 a.m. Of the councils visited, while not negative, this council was least receptive. They didn't need water and wanted to know what was in it for them in terms of taxation. They were looking for a benefit for their rate payers and didn't see one.

The R. M. of Stuartburn meeting in Vita was held Tuesday, March 15th at 8:00 p.m. The council had few concerns with the proposal but were curious whether in an extended drought which could see their shallower supplies dry up, would the PVWC permit them to tap in. They were advised yes at the Coop price.

The R. M. of Piney met with Mr. Schellenberg on April 12th at 7:00 p.m. Two of the councilors had questions regarding the sustainability of the supply and what environmental reviews would be undertaken. The meeting had a lot of guests, a number of which followed Mr. Schellenberg to the parking lot where a broad ranging discussion followed. The main concerns expressed here related to the use of farm chemicals which were poisoning everything and their strong opposition to hog barns/factories. They were however not opposed to sharing what they saw as their water.

Many of these meetings had the media in attendance. In all cases PVWC expressed its willingness to answer any further questions and/or attend at future meetings should there be concerns. To date none have been brought to PVWC's attention.