

Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Supplemental Groundwater Supply System File: 5156.00  
Public and Technical Advisory Committee Comments

Number	Name	Date of Letter	Date Received
<b>Public</b>			
1	JP and Agnes Gosselin	9-Jan	9-Jan
2	Seine-Rat River Conservation District	23-Jan	25-Jan
3	RM La Broquerie	23-Jan	25-Jan
4	RM Piney	25-Jan	25-Jan
	RM of Piney - additional comments	22-Feb	22-Feb
5	Buffalo Point First Nation	26-Jan	27-Jan
6	Roland Chaput	24-Jan	27-Jan
7	Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles	29-Jan	29-Jan
8	Phyllis Creedon	30-Jan	30-Jan
9	C. Hugh Arklie	26-Jan	31-Jan
10	Claude Dubois	2-Feb	2-Feb
11	George and Lydia Culleton	4-Feb	4-Feb
12	Rita and Donald Martel, Marion and Reynald Balcean and Marcel Gobeil	4-Feb	4-Feb
13	Joan and Edward Alexander Sr.	5-Feb	5-Feb
14	Philip Ould ("Concerned Citizens of the RM of Piney and Buffalo Point")	2-Feb	2-Feb
15	Petition - 321 signatures	6-Feb	6-Feb
16	Dennis and Lorelei Konchak	6-Feb	6-Feb
17	City of Steinbach	2-Feb	6-Feb
18	Rose-Marie Nakata	6-Feb	6-Feb
19	Lindy Clubb	2-Feb	6-Feb
20	John J. Kuryliw and M. T. Volohatuke	7-Feb	7-Feb
21	Manitoba Wildlands	6-Feb	7-Feb
22	RM Whitemouth	7-Feb	7-Feb
23	Glen Koroluk ("Friends of the Pocock Lake Ecological Reserve")	24-Jan	8-Feb
24	V. R. Myskiw	9-Feb	9-Feb
25	Save Our Seine	25-Jan	6-Feb
26	Ena Monteith	14-Feb	14-Feb
27	RM Reynolds	27-Jan	20-Feb
<b>TAC</b>			
	Manitoba Conservation - Sustainable Resource Management Branch	6-Feb	
	Manitoba Water Stewardship - Ecological Services Division	26-Jan	
	Manitoba Water Stewardship additional comments - Groundwater Mgmt	26-Jan	
	Historic Resources Branch	18-Jan	
	Mines Branch	22-Dec	
	Petroleum Branch	16-Jan	
	Highway Planning and Design Branch	24-Jan	
	Medical Officer of Health - Central Manitoba RHA	3-Jan	
	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency	31-Jan	
	Environment Canada - Environmental Protection Branch	9-Jan	

**Webb, Bruce (CON)**

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**From:** Debonair Campground [debonair@ratriverrivercomm.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 09, 2006 11:29 AM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CON)  
**Subject:** File #5156.00

**Attn.: Bruce Webb**



I was wondering how this pipeline running along Highway 403 near St. Malo will interfere with our campground business. Interference such as driveway closures and noise. Our campground is situated on both sides of this highway.

How deep is this pipe being buried?  
On which side of the 403 will it be?  
Will they be working on weekends?  
How long will this project take?  
Will our driveways be regravelled and back to it's original condition?

Whatever other information that would pertain to interruptions of our business would be appreciated.

Thanks,  
JP Gosselin



Click above mermaid to connect to website

**Agnes Gosselin**

**Debonair Campground**

*Treat yourself to a "Debonair" experience*

debonair@ratriverrivercomm.ca

Box 68

St. Malo, Manitoba

R0A 1T0

tel: (204) 347-5543

fax: (204) 347-5336

mobile: (204) 746-0401

*Add me to your address book... Want a signature like this?*

→ Bruce SW

January 23, 2006

Tracey Braun, Director  
Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch  
Manitoba Conservation  
123 Main Street, Suite 160  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5



Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation  
Legislative Building  
450 Broadway Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

**RE: REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE PEMBINA VALLEY WATER COOPERATIVE INC. - SUPPLEMENTAL GROUNDWATER SUPPLY SYSTEM (File: 5156.00) PROPOSAL**

Dear Ms. Braun and Mr. Struthers,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Seine-Rat River Conservation District, I would like to express a few concerns that we have with the above mentioned project. Our concerns include:

- 1) Where is the water use information study proving the needs and requirements for the water? If the same analysis was done for the Steinbach area would it show a similar requirement for water?
- 2) What is the sustainability of the aquifer? What is the recharge rate versus the extraction rate?
- 3) Why did the public involvement process not involve the Seine-Rat River Conservation District and local concerned residents?
- 4) Can the water be used for any purpose? (i.e. irrigation)
- 5) Will the initial pipe burial only include one pipe or will it include all future required pipelines?
- 6) What will the terms of the license, if issued, be? (Operations schedule, time-line for renewal of license, enforcement of license)
- 7) Will the license limit the use of the water allocation to times of drought only? What restrictions will be put in place now that will restrict year-round extraction once the pipeline is built?

The residents of the Steinbach region should be made aware of issues related to the use of our vital natural resources that we all depend on daily, and should have some level of comfort knowing that decisions regarding the use of these resources are based on solid scientific information and within the principles of sustainable development. In order that there is an opportunity to respond to the many questions that have arisen from the proposal, the SRRCD would like to suggest that a public meeting be set up to address all issues and concerns.

Sincerely,

*Cornie Goertzen*

Cornie Goertzen, Chairman  
Seine-Rat River Conservation District

cc:

Honourable Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship  
City of Steinbach  
RM of Hanover  
RM of Ste. Anne  
RM of La Broquerie

Ken Mantie  
Reeve/Préfet



*→ Bruce BW*

Laurent Tétrault  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Directeur Général

**Municipality of/Municipalité de La Broquerie**

January 23, 2006



Tracey Braun, Director  
Manitoba Conservation  
Environmental Stewardship Division  
Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch  
123 Main Street, Suite 160  
Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5

Dear Tracey:

**Re: Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Supplemental Groundwater Supply System**

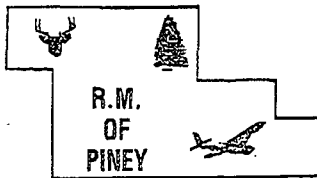
The R.M. of La Broquerie has been informed that a proposal has been filed by the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Inc. for the construction and operation of a supplemental groundwater supply system to augment its surface supplies on the Red and Boyne rivers. The system would obtain water from a well located in SE ¼ 22-5-9E which is approximately 6 miles east of the R.M. of La Broquerie's boundary. Council of the R.M. of La Broquerie is very concerned with the above described project for the following reasons:

- A) Depletion of the present groundwater resources in the R.M. of La Broquerie;
- B) Who will guarantee that the present groundwater resources in the R.M. of La Broquerie is not affected;
- C) Water supplies in southeast Manitoba are in greater demands due to increase population, increase in agricultural, commercial and industrial activities.

In closing, please be advised that this letter is the R.M. of La Broquerie's official notice that it will oppose the said project, I remain

Respectfully yours,

Laurent Tétrault  
Chief Administrative Officer  
R.M. of La Broquerie



P.O. BOX 48  
VASSAR,  
MANITOBA  
R0A 2J0

# THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF PINEY

R. Preteau  
Chief Administrative  
Officer  
PHONE NO. (204) 437-2284  
OR (204) 437-2060  
FAX NO. (204) 437-2556

January 25, 2006

Mr. Bruce Webb *BW*  
Director  
Environmental Assessment  
& Licencing Branch  
Department of Conservation  
123 Main Street, Suite 160  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3C 1A5

Faxed Only: 1-204-945-5229

Dear Mr. Webb:

RE: Pembina Valey Water Cooperative  
Supplemental Groundwater  
Supply System  
Client File No.: 5156.00  
Requesting Public Hearing

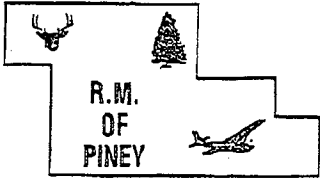
This is to advise you that the above mentioned was brought to the attention of the Council at their last Regular Meeting of January 24, 2006. The Council of The R.M. of Piney has great concerns of this proposal and is hereby requesting a public hearing so that presentation could be made regarding the application.

Please provide this office of the date, time and location of the public hearing.

Yours truly

R. Preteau  
Chief Administrative Officer

RP/bg



P.O. BOX 48  
VASSAR,  
MANITOBA  
R0A 2J0

# THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF PINEY

R. Preteau  
Chief Administrative  
Officer  
PHONE NO. (204) 437-2284  
OR (204) 437-2050  
FAX NO. (204) 437-2556

February 22, 2006

Mr. Bruce Webb  
Water Development Control  
Assessment Officer  
Environmental Assessment  
& Licencing Branch  
Department of Conservation  
123 Main Street, Suite 60  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

Faxed Only: 1-204-945-5229

Dear Mr. Webb:

RE: Pembina Valley Water Cooperative  
Supplemental Groundwater Supply System  
Your File No.: 5156.00

I wish to inform you that your letter dated February 16, 2006 in regards to the above mentioned was brought to the attention of the Council at their Special Meeting of February 21, 2006.

As per your letter of request following herewith are The R.M. of Piney concerns:

1. There is insufficient information in the submission provided by the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative.
2. Depletion of the water aquifer.
3. There is no mapping identifying the aquifer/water recharge in The R.M. of Piney. A Resolution was brought forward at the AMM November 2004 Convention regarding this issue and it was unanimously approved by the Delegates.
4. There is no appropriate Impact Assessment of the area. The Impact Assessment should be done prior to the extraction of water by pipeline(s).
5. Source Protection (Local Water Supply).

The R.M. of Piney as well as other numerous municipal corporations, groups and private individuals request the opportunity to make full presentations at the public hearing.

Further, since the subject matter is in The R.M. of Piney, the public hearing should be held within the Municipality at the Woodridge Community Hall, Woodridge, MB.

Please advise at your earliest convenience of the date of the public hearing.

Yours truly,

R. Preteau  
Chief Administrative Officer

RP/bg

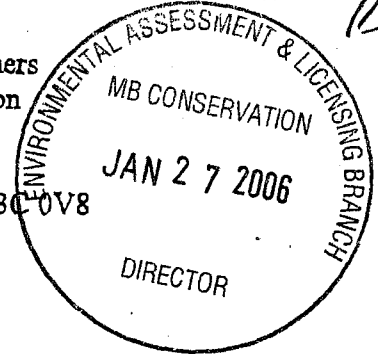


*Bruce BN  
Let's  
discuss  
B*

January 26, 2006

Tracey Braun, Director  
Environmental Assessment & Licensing  
Branch  
Manitoba Conservation  
Suite 160 - 123 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A5  
945 5229 (f)

Honourable Stan Struthers  
Minister of Conservation  
Legislative Building  
450 Broadway Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8  
945 3586 (f)



Dear Director Braun and Minister Struthers:

It has recently been brought to our attention that the Manitoba Government is intending to draw water from the aquifer basin in the Sandilands area for use in the Morris Manitoba area through a new pipeline system and eventually into the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (PVWC) water distribution network.

As this aquifer is determined to stretch east to the Lake of the Woods under the lands of Buffalo Point First Nation it is our intent to advise the Manitoba Government that we must be briefed on this proposed project in order to help determine the proposed outcomes. Buffalo Point as a First Nation has the final say in any use of these resources, as it presently has with Timber Rights and Allocations.

At this point in time it would be premature for us to make any decisions on the use of these reserves without further studying the implications. We therefore ask that the Manitoba Provincial Government through the Ministry of Conservation meet with us, and other concerned parties, to further study the proposal reflecting its social, environmental and economic implications.

Yours truly

John Thunder, Chief  
Buffalo Point First Nation

cc:

The Honourable Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship (948-2684 (f))  
Dan McNaughton, Director, Prairie Office - Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency 983 1878 (f)  
Glen Koroluk, Water Caucus Coordination Manitoba Eco Network 943 0318 (f)

BOX 1037  
BUFFALO POINT, MANITOBA  
R0A 2W0 CANADA  
TELEPHONE (204) 437-2133  
FAX (204) 437-2368





→ Bruce - Note request  
for open house. *SW*

January 24, 2006

Environmental Assessment and Licensing  
Manitoba Conservation  
Suite 160, 123 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 1A5



Attention: Tracey Brown

Dear Sir/Madam:

It has come to my attention that the "Pembina Valley Water Co-operative Inc." is proposing to withdraw water from an aquifer here in southeastern Manitoba and through the means of a pipeline pumping it to the western part of the province. I have concerns and questions regarding this project:

1. What is the size of the pipeline?
2. How much water will be withdrawn daily, monthly and yearly?
3. Would this water be used to supplement Pembina Valley's need or will this be their main source of water?
4. Is this water for domestic, commercial, industrial or agricultural use?
5. Will it be used for irrigation purposes?
6. Would there be a monitoring program to supervise the rate of water taken?
7. Would the level of the aquifer be monitored daily, weekly, monthly?
8. Would the rate of aquifer recharge be monitored?
9. How about monitoring the quality of water in the aquifer on a continuous basis?
10. Would the wells in the southeast area be monitored for level and quality?
11. Who will administer this monitoring program?
12. Will all the monitoring data be made public?
13. Will the co-operative be asked to post a security bond?

14. Who is responsible if wells in the area dry up due to this removal of water?
15. Will there be provisions written up to address the matter of drought years?
16. Will there be provisions to cut off the flow if the aquifer falls below a certain level?
17. How will this level be calculated and what kind of guarantee will the public have that this level will be the safe level before irreparable damage is done?
18. What type of enforcement will there be if regulations imposed by their licensing agreement are broken or not met?

**These are all concerns of the general public in this area. I would like to see an "open house" where the public can attend to ask questions and express their concerns.**

**This is a project that, if approved and becomes reality, is very hard to reverse. The southeastern residents of Manitoba deserve more information and a guarantee that their supply and quality of water will not diminish as a result of this endeavor.**

**Thank you for your time.**



**Roland Chaput  
Box 130, R.R.  
Steinbach, Manitoba  
R5G 1L9  
(422-6133)**

**Webb, Bruce (CON)**

**From:** Cheryl [cheryl-@mts.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2006 7:28 PM  
**To:** Vic Toews, MP; Premier (LEG); minwst@leg.gov.mb.ca; Water Stewardship, Minister (LEG); Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister (LEG); Conservation, Minister (LEG); Gerrard, Jon (Liberal Caucus) (LEG); Heidi Cook; gwhelan@web.ca; Glen Koroluk; Free Press; Gilroy, Ernie (CON); Epp, Linda (LEG); Williamson, Dwight (WSD); McNeil, Doug (CON); Webb, Bruce (CON) *BW*  
**Subject:** 5156.00 Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Supplemental Groundwater

**RE~ PEMBINA VALLEY WATER COOPERATIVE INC. - SUPPLEMENTAL  
GROUNDWATER SUPPLY SYSTEM  
(PUBLIC REGISTRY FILE 5156.00)**

**Dear Ms Tracey Braun and Honourable Stan Struthers, fellow Manitobans and Canadians,**

It is with great concern and anxiousness that I am writing to you our provincial and federal departments and fellow Manitobans and Canadians regarding the request for tapping into our nations virgin water aquifer at Sandilands, Manitoba.

**Once again, we the Manitoban people and governments are being provided the opportunity to set the standards for global, national and regional water sustainability and best global management practices and intentions.**

We have a provincial, federal and global responsibility to be and do our very best! Our collective best intentions and practices have to be utilized in order to secure our future for generations to come.

Our Canadian ancestors either came to a land or were here already when the water, land and air was crystal clear, pure and in harmonial abundance. We as a diverse modern day society have to take responsibility for our economic and cultural actions. We as citizens of Manitoba know in our hearts that we can not continue to use and destroy our water, trees and eco-systems at this current pace.

Our communities are asking for water practices that are directly assaulting virgin territory!

**We must draw strength and wisdom from our heritage and our future in determining our current actions and intentions in setting precedence for this province and our great nation!**

We, all Manitobans and Canadians, living in the Heart of the Continent have been awarded this vital responsibility, accountability and vision for a reason. We, in Manitoba honour, respect and value our heritage and shall do everything in our collective powers and mandates to ensure that we never sacrifice our rivers, lakes and water consumption for short term (50 yrs.) usage or profit.

**Our Grandparents handed us a gem. The gem was called Canada! It is the intention and visions of the Canadian people to leave the few last gems like the Agissiz Sandilands Uplands Headwater Aquifer alone and protected!!!**

This Sandiland Upland virgin aquifer filters, blesses and provides most of southern Manitobas into Saskatchewan and the United States drinking water and recharge capacities.

The **Manitoba Water Protection Act** has been put into place for this very honourable and respectful reason to ensure our future water sustainability. We are **very proud of our Manitoba government and people who like our Knights of our past** have the very very tough job of protecting and regulating all of our Manitoba water energies which are currently in a crisis state of affairs.

**On behalf of our great great great great great great grandchildren, the wildlife, eco-systems and global citizens, we have to say, `NO` to the Pembina Valley Water Coop Inc.. request!**

**No, not now and perhaps never.**

**The people** of Manitoba and Canada **do not even know** that the PVWC is looking at tapping into the main source of our precious headwater aquifer.

We, the people of the Heart of the Continent owe it to ourselves and to this nation to bring in the **Water Experts** from all over Canada to accurately and currently study this precious Canadian water gem, Manitoba`s, very own acres of Diamonds! **We need to not let fear push us into bankrupting ones of Canada`s last aquifer banks.**

**Stand Up, Be Proud and Choose the Alternatives----- Protect and Educate! ----- Teach others to do the Same! We can do it!**

This water truth has come to us Manitobans for a reason - to uphold the highest standards and intentions and to honour our past. We are the Heart and without a Heart nothing would survive.

Our communités need to know that the water is there underneath us. **Abundance flows freely** and clearly to those that are in harmony and gratitude with their actions and intentions with Mother Nature.

### **Food for Thought:**

- 1). Say **`NO`** to Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Supplemental Groundwater Supply System 5156.00 request.
- 2). Manitobans need a thorough Enviromental Impact Statement (**EIS**) from PVWC Inc..
- 3). At the very least a **federally and provicially** held and participated **Clean Enviroment Commission** informing our fellow Manitobans and Canadians of this critical water request.
- 4). That all stakeholders be notified and involved.

- 5). **Out of province** Commissioners, Panelists and Experts make up this hearing! Too much at stake here.
- 6). That the **International Joint Commission** be involved due to the fact that this affects the American waters too!
- 7). That **all provincial and federal departments** having jurisdiction over this water issue be actively involved.  
Dep't Conservation, Water Stewardship, Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, Transportation, Health, Culture and Heritage, most importantly First Nations, Metis and Aboriginal rights and departments.
- 8). I personally believe that at a bare minimum or until otherwise nationally settled that **51%** of ownership of the water rights and any economic gain be awarded to our **First Nations People** and Heritage.
- 9). We need to continue to protect the **Pocock Lake Ecological Reserve** which is about 1.5 klms north of the well site.
- 10). We need a **drought analysis**.
- 11). The **Rural Municipality of Ritchot** which is one of the neighbours to the R.M. of MacDonald (town of Morris - where the PVWC water treatment plant is) also set up an alternative system to aid their groundwater supply situation. They dug down (close to the CPR tracks) 150 feet and had water all the way. They continued testing it working backwards up and the best water supply came out a 12 foot sand layer at around **70 - 78 feet**. This water they state is **even more pure** than the artisan well water supply that the RM of Ritchot currently uses. **The Rm of Hanover would not let the RM of Ritchot put pumps on that artisan well**. The water supply comes from Mother Nature and gravity.
- 12). We as a province and nation are **mandated to clean up our groundwater supplies** to ensure our future. And to not dip into our National water bank on a first come first serve basis.
- 13). If we speed up the **financial and educational initiatives** programs in **restoring wetlands and soft water paths**, we as a society would not have this water scarcity mentality and realities, not to mention these programs would help to restore harmony to the whole eco-systems a lot faster than any other method. We the people know this to be true, so let us do it!
- 14). Come up with other **water storing alternatives** such as the proposed **water retention ponds** set up on the south side of Ste. Agathe, Mb..  
**This would then be an added measure for Winnipeg's flood protection! And could be used for PVWC's 50% agriculture use.**

**This alternative would provide some moral, ethical and financial assistance to those families, wildlife and eco-systems who are currently being ARTIFICIALLY FLOODED by our Provincial and Federal Governments.**

15). **Devil`s Lake and the Garrison project** - North Dakota Water Supply Project - where as a province and nation do we stand on these critical issues and how does it interact with the PVWC request????

16). We need help!

On behalf of our Canadian Heritage and Spirit, our unborn children, the wildlife and eco-systems, we send you our strength and dignity, wisdom, truth and knowledge, courage and vision to do what is in your hearts and vision. PROTECT and BE PROUD!

Yours truthfully,

Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles  
Box 480  
St. Adolphe, Manitoba  
R5A 1A2  
204 883-2269  
[Cheryl-@mts.net](mailto:Cheryl-@mts.net)  
January 29, 2006

c.c. Chief Tina Leveque, Brokenhead First Nation  
Chief John Thunder, Buffalo Point First Nation

Group 11, Box 9  
Buckley, Mass, 025150  
January 30, 2006

Honorable Dan Struthers  
Minister of Conservation  
Regulatory Building  
Wormley, Newton, R3C 0V8

Dear Mr. Struthers:

The Southern Valley Water Corporation is planning on taking water from the Amherst front area. There are many reasons this should not happen, and many reasons it does not have to happen. Please indicate a public hearing so that these concerns can be discussed.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,  
Daphne Becken  
R.M. of Exquisite

cc.  
Honorable Amy Orr, Premier of Manitoba  
Honorable Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship  
Shary Brown  
Dan McHugh  
Bruce Webb

→ Bruce BW

Box 126, R.R. #2  
Dugald, MB R0E 0K0

January 26, 2006



Tracey Braun, Director  
Environmental Assessment & Licensing Branch  
Manitoba Conservation  
160 – 123 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

Dear Ms. Braun:

I have reviewed the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative's plan to transfer water from the Sandilands area to its membership (File 5156.00) and make the following comments:

General

1. According to the paperwork in the file the proposal was filed on December 12, 2005. It was advertised on January 3, 2006. A reply from the public is required by February 6, 2006.

Why the unseemly haste? Do you want public input or not? Why did the PVWC submit the proposal for public review over Christmas and New Year's? Do they want to discourage public comment?

2. According to the paperwork filed at the Manitoba Eco-Network the advertisement for this project was only published in the Steinbach Carillon and the Emerson Southeast Journal. Is this true? Why are such proposals not more widely publicized? Is this another example of reluctance to inform the public?
3. Why are these proposals not on the Internet? Why must I travel to downtown Winnipeg and take hours off work to be part of the process? It is time for Manitoba Conservation to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
4. The documents that I read are poorly referenced and are redundant. The average person will not wade through such verbiage. This is yet another impediment to public input.

Environment Act Proposal (December, 2005)

1. Page 4 of this document ostensibly declares the Sandilands area as "not susceptible to drought". This is a ludicrous statement. The Sandilands is just as susceptible to drought as anywhere else in Manitoba.
2. Nowhere in any document does the PVWC define "drought". This is the primary justification for the proposal yet it is not given a description. It is left to the subjective determinations of people with vested interests. Not good enough.



2.

3. Page 4 goes on to state that, "Depending on future needs, approvals to expand the system would be applied for if and when they are needed." Clearly, the current project is a foot in the door such that the excuse of an unforeseen drought is used to justify the present proposal. The real goal is obviously a supply of water to be used at the convenience of the PVWC.
4. Page 6 declares that "the new ROW [north of the Sandilands] will be maintained free of trees. Will this include chemical poisoning?"
5. According to page 14 the proposal will be "privately funded". It is hard to accept this assertion because I could not find either an audited financial statement for the PVWC or a detailed project budget in the file.
6. Appendix "C" to the Environment Act Proposal offers a map of the pipeline. Will factory hog barns be allowed to tap into the system? Will this, therefore, encourage even more filth on our landscape?

#### UMA Report #1

1. Page 2 of this report slips a second "reason" for the PVWC project into the mix when it states "the do nothing option was not considered as this would not address the concerns associated with water shortages during periods of drought or contamination due to accidental spills". Accidental spills? Of what? By this standard every single hamlet and village, town and city in Manitoba should have a back-up source of clean water. This is illogical and demonstrates how simplistic and flawed the PVWC proposal really is.
2. Throughout the documents hard, reliable data on aquifer recharge is conspicuous by its absence. Page 5 of the UMA report states: "Recharge of the aquifer is likely the result of the cumulative effects of small amounts of infiltration through the Upper Silt Unit over a very large area, and potentially the infiltration of water from the surface to the east in the St. Labre Bog Area". (Emphasis added.) How much more equivocal can a statement be? Does anybody know anything about the recharge of this aquifer in the context of the PVWC proposal?
3. Page 7 declares "the proposed groundwater rate is sustainable and will not result in the depletion of the groundwater resource, nor changes to the water quality." How will this claim be monitored, by whom and for how much?
4. According to page 9 "The potential impacts associated with this project have been minimized by selecting a groundwater source that has a very limited interaction with the environment." What does this say about recharge rates? Is that limited too?
5. Page 11 contains a major contradiction. It states "Operation of the system will begin immediately following construction and will continue indefinitely." (Emphasis added.) I thought that the system would only be used during drought. So which is it? Immediate or intermittent use?
6. Appendix "B" describes the possible use of the system by the Rural Municipalities of De Salaberry, Hanover and Stuartburn. How is this possible? They are not PVWC members.

#### UMA Report #2 and North South Consultants Report

1. These reports contain many maps. Nowhere could I find a map that depicted the aquifer recharge zones for the aquifer being coveted by the PVWC. Why not?

3.

2. *Interestingly, on page 5 of the North/South Consultants Report a vague reference to "a potential groundwater recharge area for the pumping well" is made. (Emphasis added.)*
3. *I must conclude that neither the proponents, nor their paid consultant know how or where the aquifer is recharged. This is shameful.*

Conclusion

*This proposal is weak and in no way justifies the project. The PVWC has submitted virtually no information about itself. There is no financial statement, no project capital budget and no project operating budget. There is no simple membership list describing the 18 towns, villages and municipalities who are part of the PVWC.*

*Most damningly the PVWC has not adequately described its current status and its needs for future water (except in the vague terms of drought and contamination). It has not described how it proposes to practice conservation to prevent shortfalls (other than submitting a photocopied publicity brochure). It has not predicted growth patterns and expectations. There is no description of the extent to which the members have drawn down, or polluted, current sources. Protection of current sources has not been described.*

*The PVWC's proposal is simply a pre-emptive strike by supply-side management. Such strategies have long since been discredited.*

*Conservation Manitoba should never have allowed this proposal to see the light of day. It must now move to nip it in the bud. Not to do so will be unconscionable.*

Yours truly,



C. Hugh Arklie

Cc: Steve Ashton  
Minister of Water Stewardship  
Room 314  
Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Glen Koroluk  
Water Caucus  
3 – 303 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B4


**Webb, Bruce (CON)**

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**From:** claudé [cgdubois@mts.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2006 11:21 AM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CON) *BW*  
**Subject:** draw of water from Sandiland aquifer

I am a resident of Woodridge, Manitoba and I would like to add my voice to those calling for a Clean Environment Commission Hearing to address the matter of a pipeline to Morris. I, for one, do not know the impact of such a pipeline and - as a resident whose local water may be affected - I would like to have an open hearing into this matter.

Claude Dubois  
429-2065

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**Webb, Bruce (CON)**

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**From:** claudé [cgdubois@mts.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 05, 2006 11:12 PM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CON) BW  
**Subject:** Re: draw of water from Sandiland aquifer

Bruce

Far be it for me to speak for the community... However, the rural municipality of Piney does not assist us with our water. It sells the lots, and we have to dig our own wells. And so, each of us have an investment in 'waterworks' that includes its ongoing maintenance. Then, along comes an article in the Free Press (no one had the decency to tell the community this was happening) that advises that a pipeline was being built to take the water AND this same article makes it quite clear that there has been no environmental assessment and no assessment as to how much water there really is in this aquifer. In the interests of transparency and good community communications, one would have thought that this matter would have been dealt with very differently.

Claude Dubois

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Webb, Bruce (CON)  
**To:** claudé  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2006 04:11 PM  
**Subject:** RE: draw of water from Sandiland aquifer

Thanks for the comments! Could you provide some detail on what your concerns are and what you would like considered at a hearing? Impacts of the project are discussed in the proposal, so it would be helpful for us to know if you disagree with the proponent's conclusions or if you think more investigations are needed.


Bruce.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** claudé [mailto:cgdubois@mts.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2006 11:21 AM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CON)  
**Subject:** draw of water from Sandiland aquifer

I am a resident of Woodridge, Manitoba and I would like to add my voice to those calling for a Clean Environment Commission Hearing to address the matter of a pipeline to Morris. I, for one, do not know the impact of such a pipeline and - as a resident whose local water may be affected - I would like to have an open hearing into this matter.

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429-2065

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**Webb, Bruce (CON)**

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**From:** claude [cgdubois@mts.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2006 9:50 AM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CON) *BW*  
**Cc:** aldo.santin@freepress.mb.ca  
**Subject:** Re: draw of water from Sandiland aquifer

Bruce

Now I'm getting upset...

I work in the same building as the RM of La Broquerie office... and so I went there today to ask to see this proposal as you suggested (see below). They knew nothing NOTHING of it! In fact, they referred me to the conservation office, which is also in the same building. This office did have a copy of the report, but have filed their own complaint stating that they were not involved whatsoever in the process notwithstanding their role in the community.

Although they could not give me a copy of the proposal (they only had an office copy), the conservation office did allow me to glance at it. Clearly, this proposal addressed only the superficial... it did not address the sustainability of the aquifer, nor does it address the quantity of water or how the water will be used.

To say that such a pipeline will have nil effect on our community is absurd. The community is already keenly aware of past experiments with large commercial wells and how that has impacted on the neighborhood, which suggests a certain fragility to the water supply. Needless to say, a pipeline promises a much more severe impact than a single commercial well. I repeat - the municipality does not provide its residents with water - residents dig and maintain their own wells. That makes us, individually, stakeholders in this project and we have not been consulted.

At a minimum, a public hearing in the affected community and an Impact Assessment are required.

Claude Dubois

P.S. I'm still looking for a copy of the proposal. Please forward to:  
Claude Dubois  
Box 28  
Woodridge Manitoba  
R0A 2N0

1-204-429-2065

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Webb, Bruce (CON)  
**To:** claude  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2006 04:36 PM  
**Subject:** RE: draw of water from Sandiland aquifer

In addition to the advertised public registry locations (including Jake Epp Public Library in Steinbach), there is also a copy at the RM of Piney office and the RM of La Broquerie office.

Bruce.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** claude [mailto:cgdubois@mts.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2006 12:40 PM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CON)  
**Subject:** Re: draw of water from Sandiland aquifer

What proposal????? Was it distributed?

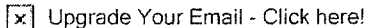
----- Original Message -----

**From:** Webb, Bruce (CON)  
**To:** claude  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2006 05:32 PM  
**Subject:** RE: draw of water from Sandiland aquifer

Thanks for the additional information. I've had telephone conversations with several area residents in the past few days, and it appears most people with concerns have not reviewed the proposal. The proponent has done quite a bit of work to find an area where impacts would be minimized, and has reported results in the proposal in some detail.

Once we have received and reviewed all comments, we'll decide on the next step in the assessment process.

Bruce.

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**Webb, Bruce (CON)**

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**From:** George & Lydia [4boys@hotpop.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2006 4:12 PM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CON) BW  
**Subject:** commission hearing

i george and lydia culleton from the rm of piney disagree with taking water from sandilands . without further research , will this affect our wells ?? we have livestock now what happens if we run out of water?? thanks george culleton

**Webb, Bruce (CON)**

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**From:** Rita Martel [donrita@mts.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2006 8:30 PM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CON). SW  
**Cc:** Webb, Bruce (CON)  
**Subject:** pvwc water removal from the piney municipality

Mr. Bob Webb ; in regards to the proposal from pvwc wanting to remove 2.5 billion gallons of water per year from our piney municipality to sell to their customers, does not seem to be a reasonable request at all. These people are going to deplete our natural water resources in south eastern corner of manitoba, to line their pockets is not acceptable at all to ourselves or my neighbors. When the amount of water they are wanting to take from our water table, we cannot see that it will not affect our wells in times of drought or just on the everyday normal water consumption in our area. What happens when our wells have to be drilled deeper? Who is going to be responsible for these costs to us, I am sure that our municipality will not cover it nor the pvwc. We are not talking about 1 million gallons per year but 2.5 billion gallons per year. What will this amount of water being removed do to our water table this is 300 litres per second, what will happen to our forests our farmers our wildlife and our towns here, when the wells run dry in a drought year? We believe we must object very strongly to this proposal from pvwc  
rita martel  
donald martel  
marion balcean  
reynald balcean  
marcel gobeil thank you



**Webb, Bruce (CON)**

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**From:** Ed Alexander Sr. [edwalex@mts.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 05, 2006 4:00 PM  
**To:** Webb, Bruce (CON) *BW*  
**Cc:** Barb Zailo  
**Subject:** Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Application

PO Box 1085 Buffalo Point, MB R0A 2W0 [edwalex@mts.net](mailto:edwalex@mts.net)

Bruce Webb  
Manitoba Conservation

Sir,

Application by PVWC to remove water from Sandilands Aquifer in RM of Piney

I appreciate the fact that Manitoba Conservation is consulting with the public on the above noted application. Water is a precious community resource and should not be used for the benefit of a few people. This application should be examined with a view to the long term use and supply of this resource for the current and future generations.

There are a number of questions that come to mind that we believe must be answered and presented to the public before the application is approved or denied.

First, the Sandilands aquifers must be mapped and an estimate made of the volume of water available for use in the various communities. Also, a determination must be made of the rate at which the aquifers are replenished.

Second, there are already a number of commercial users that are tapping the aquifers, such as water bottling plants in Marchand, Piney and Middlebro. How much water are they drawing now and do they have plans for expansion, if so, by how much? Are there other commercial operations planning to ask for the use of water in the next five years? If so, what are their potential requirements?

Why does the PVWC require so much water if the goal is to "alleviate water shortages during periods of drought or water contamination? What plans are being made by the PVWC to store rain, snow runoff and river water to provide water for irrigation during drought periods?

Are there any plans to ship this water out of the province? Export should be tightly controlled and bulk shipments prohibited.

How much will the PVWC pay for the water and to whom? Will it be sufficiently high to encourage conservation of this valuable resource? What compensation will be paid to the municipalities that are the natural users of the Sandilands aquifers?

The foregoing are questions that we believe should be answered and discussed publicly before any action is taken on the PVWC application.

Yours truly,

2/6/2006

Joan and Edward Alexander, Sr

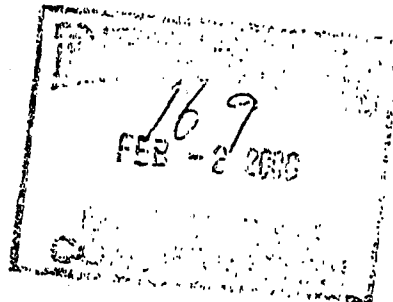
Cc Barb Zailo, Councillor, RM of Piney

1500.27

41 Hastings Blvd.,  
Winnipeg, MB.,  
R2M 2E2

February 2, 2006

Honourable Stan Struthers,  
Minister of Conservation,  
Legislative Building,  
450 Broadway Avenue,  
Winnipeg, MB.  
R3C 0V8



Re: Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Inc. *BW*  
Supplemental Groundwater Supply System  
(Public Registry File 5156.00)

Dear Mr. Struthers::

As you are aware, the first phase of a water pipeline proposal has been submitted by Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Inc. to move groundwater via a 12 inch pipe from the Sandilands Provincial Forest (proposed pumpsite SE ¼ 22-5-9E) to their water distribution network in Morris, MB.

I have been in contact with G.R. Koroluk, "Friends of the Pocock Lake Ecological Reserve" and am aware of concerns he has conveyed to you by letter.

In addition to the concerns expressed by G.R. Koroluk, I would like to add those of the "Concerned Citizens of the R.M. of Piney and Buffalo Point". They are as follows:

The first phase of the proposal requests 50 liters/ second. However, their "ultimate annual water requirement" is 300 liters/second.

What will be the impact on groundwater levels and private wells of removing large volumes of water from aquifers in the R.M. of Piney and Buffalo Point?

Does the P.V.W.C. plan to pump intermittently as water is required or on a permanent full-time basis?

How far from the pumping location will groundwater levels and water wells be affected?

We are currently in a wet phase of the hydrological cycle. If the P.V.W.C. plans to pump water during a dry phase it would compound stresses on groundwater levels.

Pumping water from the R.M. of Piney to Morris MB. would set a precedent which could have serious consequences for residents relying on groundwater, if other distant users also wish to tap into the water supply.

Does a private coop. have the authority to transport public water resources and offer it for sale to its subscribers?

There are 2 water bottling plants in the R.M. of Piney . Reduction of groundwater levels could affect local employment and economics of the region.

Who will have the responsibility to compensate residents in the event they must deepen their wells due to a lowered water table ?

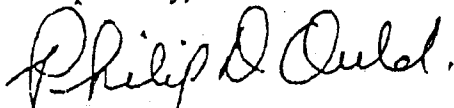
What legal rights does the R.M. of Piney and Buffalo Point and their residents have to collect for any damages as a consequence of this proposal?

The water will be sold by a private coop. to its subscribers. Could this create future consequences for water resources across Canada if water is considered a commercial commodity (i.e. NAFTA)?

This proposal has potentially severe ecological, economic, legal and political consequences which must be assessed.

I believe this proposal must not be allowed to proceed .

Respectfully,



Philip D. Ould M. Sc.

c.c. Honourable Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship  
Dan McNaughton, Director Prairie Office-Canadian Environmental  
Assessment Agency  
Chief John Thunder, Buffalo Point First Nation