


Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Minnedosa EMS [minnedosaems@arha.ca]
Sent: October-17-11 10:53 AM 
To: Webb, Bruce (CON)
Subject: Purposal for flooding in the RM of Strathclair re: Salt Lake File: 5538.00

Hi Bruce

Wayne, Kathy Baker and family would like to extend our support for this project **File: 5538.00**. We have been without our land for more than 7 years now and would really like to see something done about this crisis. We have very little land left as we are at the lowest point of what has now become North Salt Lake and could really use a solution.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Wayne and Kathy Baker

Minnedosa EMS
867-8720

October 2011

BW
Mr. Bruce Webber.

I am writing concerning Strathclair proposal on Salt Lake drainage file 5538.00.

I am a landowner in the affected area in both Strathclair and Blanshard municipalities.

Affected Strathclair land - SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 4-16-22

Blanshard land - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 33-15-22

N $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW 33-15-22

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 32-15-22.

This land has been in our family since 1888 and I have farmed it for 30 years. For this year it is rented to Mathew Ramsey.

I have concerns about the report done by Bob Sheedy for Strathclair municipality.

- What qualifications does he have to do this report?
 - environmental background?
 - engineering background?

pg 8.

- the premise that "modern" farming practices should supersede environmental concerns is in my opinion wrong. We are in pothole country and draining all these sloughs and potholes directly affect wildlife habitat and contribute to a lowering of the water table. In addition the effects downstream both financially and environmentally are bound to be devastating. The process of licensing draining off farmland in this area has been ignored, neglected, not enforced for many years both by the municipalities and water stewardship.

Please see enclosed W.P.F. editorial how political this is becoming.

pg 11

- the statement that climactic changes are a large part of this water buildup is in my opinion wrong. In the 50's, 60's, 70's we had more snow overwinters most years and the water buildup was not as severe. It is drainage off large farms that is the problem.

pg 14 Reference to the area south of S. Salt Lake as being prone to flooding. Partly true. We have a long Hx on this land of spring flooding that drains down so that we could hay and pasture most if not all this land. This has not happened since EHO release started.

- 37 - states "no alternative" - incorrect
 - "proven in 2011 - no overland flooding in Oak River system" wrong - substantial flooding on my Strathclair and Blanshard property that is still there, especially Blanshard.
 - "polluting of south S. lake unfounded" - questionable
 - question methodology of samples taken - "who took them?"
 There is a past, long term dump right on C salt lake that must be leaching into the water shed.
 There is a license allowing Strathclair municipality to drain excess effluent from their lagoon into C. Salt lake but not S. Salt lake. How will this be resolved.

In conclusion I question the water sample taking procedure.

- "railways and highway depts are concerned about water levels" If so, where are their reports?

In economic and environmental terms the proposal would change the agricultural use and have an environmental impact on my land.

- There would be no or very limited haying/pasturing of the land
- More importantly the marsh lands that usually drain down every summer, would be changed to a deeper "lake type scenario". This will increase the large dead zones of deep water with marginal wildlife around the perimeter.
- On SE 1/4 32-15-22 water cannot get away in any volume and backflows across the south side of the 1/4. - more dead zones. In the past all productive hay sloughs = not any more.

- There is no natural drainage between centre and south salt lake. How will the increased volume of water affect us downstream?

By my calculations N+C Salt lakes make up about 1000 acres. South salt lake is about 500 acres.

Proposal is to lower N+C 3 metres or 6 1/2 feet.

This would put 6000+ acre feet into S salt lake and the Oak River, Assiniboine system.

In my opinion the system couldn't handle it without devastating environmental and economic effects.

- Who would regulate these levels? - municipalities? - water stew?

- Past Hx:

3 years ago Strathclair councillors Earl and Woody came to our house to tell us of their intentions and get our concerns.

We detailed our concerns and they never got back to us in any fashion.

At this meeting councillor Earl conceded that if they got the project through drainage in the N+C Salt Lake system would increase.

At this meeting councillor Earl also said the highway (16) and C.P.R. had no concerns with water levels.

Would we be better as a province and municipalities leaving the water at its source in potholes and sloughs? Why should rural and urban people downstream have to pay for "big farmers convenience"?

Allan Filer.

Oct 7/11 WFP.
The new agenda

PREMIER Greg Selinger has decided the issue of flooding is his re-elected government's primary concern, top of the to-do list and so it should be. The people of Lake St. Martin need to know their future and Manitoba is wise to press the federal government on the justified claim for flood-cost compensation.

Beyond repairing and resettling, Manitoba needs to confront the fact that too much water streams off agricultural land into creeks, streams and rivers. Government incentives for preserving or restoring potholes have not reversed a noticeable net loss of wetlands annually. Pilot projects show that strategic water retention works, but agricultural land carries a high price, favouring harvestable land. It is complicated, but the devastation to Lake Manitoba, shoreline properties and small communities in western Manitoba should place the issue of water retention on the priority list, too.

Much of the promises on offer in the election campaign amounted to micro-spending, but some ideas merit the government's attention. The NDP should change its mind on routing Bipole III down the west side of the province.

Further, Mr. Selinger ought to bring Manitoba into the New West Partnership. Provinces on either side of our borders have teamed up to assert a stronger international trade pitch; Manitoba belongs with its western counterparts in tearing down interprovincial barriers and to be with them when delegations head overseas to build new markets.

There ought to be a greater presence of police in downtown Winnipeg; hospitals should be funded based on services provided; the "vote tax" that pays parties a set amount per vote should be eliminated, along with the business payroll tax. Liberal Leader Jon Gerard's thoughtful policies for screening kids early for FASD and learning disabilities and introducing care standards in nursing homes should be adopted.

12

3W

October 16, 2011

Environmental Assessment and Licensing Board, Manitoba Conservation
Regarding the Rural Municipality of Strathclair – Salt Lake water level control project (file 5538.00).

I am generally opposed to this project in many ways.

First off there are many flooding situations on farmland due to excess moisture the last few years. On our farm we have several quarters that have lost ten to twenty acres on each, in the last decade. I really do not foresee municipal council time and tax payer dollars being spent on my behalf. The Salt Lake project seems to have consumed a lot of time and dollars to the benefit of just a small handful of people.

Also, the money already spent and the future costs this will incur will be shared by all tax payers, including me. Ironically, I will share in the cost of something that will impact our land south of the South Salt Lake in a very negative way.

There is already too much water in the drainage system into the Oak River and if the proposed drain is to run after spring run-off it will make some land inaccessible all summer and flood pastures. In my case I have pasture that I lease out that has been unusable for two years now because of an "emergency cut" done that was never closed up. This pasture rent was used in the past to pay the taxes on that quarter.

If this continues I wonder how compensation will be paid in the future, as nothing has been paid in the past. I feel that compensation should be paid fairly and without delay on damages done to downstream land owners. If land is devalued by this project there needs to be more than fair compensation paid long term and these costs should be paid by the ones benefiting from the drainage, not the general ratepayers.

The cost of lowering the north lake is going to be quite expensive, so why not maintain at a decent level not at historic low levels? This water body obviously has no natural outlet so why does it need to be lowered to such an extreme?

Finally, I am opposed to this project because of the obvious damage to the South Salt Lake Recreation area. This is a place many look back fondly to time spent with family and friends. It may not be much to many people, but to those of us who have taken our kids there through the years and seen improvements to the campground and cabins it's all we have got. Unfortunately this flooding has damaged and will continue to damage a local recreation area if things are not stopped.

I genuinely hope that you will take into consideration the thoughts and rights of everyone involved not just a select few.

Sincerely,



Irwin Lennox
204.365.5219

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Roxanne Marks [Tyler9@mts.net] BW
Sent: October-17-11 11:08 AM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON)
Subject: north salt lake

In reply to the statement made in the local Strathclair paper, I would like to respond and say that I would agree to the proposal to go ahead with the drainage of north Salt Lake. I think this is a necessity and needs to be done. My parents who actually live right on north Salt Lake and are being flooded by the high water levels. They are seniors and it is difficult for them to deal with all this water and the stress and discouragement they have been receiving both from the municipality and the government. Again, I reiterate that this needs to be done and sooner than later, it is destroying the surrounding land and also highway 16 and the CN railway. Winter is upon us again, and if we have a large snowfall winter it will be detrimental to the lake and surrounding area. Thank you.


Roxanne Marks
831 Oakdale Drive
Winnipeg, Mb. R3R 1A2

Webb, Bruce (CON)

From: Stan and Ann Marks [smaamarks@shaw.ca]
Sent: October-17-11 11:05 AM
To: Webb, Bruce (CON) *BW*
Subject: North Salt Lake

I am in favor of the drainage of North Salt Lake

October 16, 2011

Attention: 
Mr Bruce Webb
Environmental Engineer
bruce.webb@gov.mb.ca

Re: RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STRATHCLAIR - SALT LAKE WATER LEVEL CONTROL PROJECT (FILE: 5538.00)

It was positive and encouraging to read this report which brings factual information and common sense solutions to what has become an emotionally driven discussion. It is most unfortunate that a few individuals in a community can misinform others and cause fear and concern when studies and testing have shown clearly that there is a safe and workable solution to the Salt Lake Water Basin issue. Many people are affected and cooperation among all of us is the only way to solve the problem. Unfortunately we have suffered the impacts of this situation far longer than necessary because of misinformation and a lack of cooperation. This has prevented our local municipal government from dealing with the issue-despite what appeared to be their very diligent efforts.

We are lifelong residents and landowners around North Salt Lake, Jarema's Marsh and Nip Creek. Our residence and primary farm operation is located on the east side of North Salt Lake. As with many of our neighbors we have been affected by the flooding of farmland and roadways along these bodies of water. We have also been impacted by the high water levels killing the trees, degrading the riparian areas and negatively affecting the aesthetics of the area.

In our opinion, the ideal solution would not only manage the excess waters during times of heavy precipitation, but would also contribute to more desirable water quality and facilitate responsible modern farming practices. To this end we support the implementation of the Control Project to reduce the high water levels as proposed. With proper management this solution should eliminate the current problem of excessively high water without creating any undue hardship on those downstream. It would also seem to be a very logical way of preventing such a problem in the future should excessively high precipitation trends continue.

The proposal does address the issue of excessive water in the Salt Lake System which is the immediate problem and we are definitely supportive of this. We respectfully ask that future consideration also be given to maintaining minimum water levels during drier periods. This would help to maintain stable, desirable shorelines and riparian areas (vs. large dried out areas) and acceptable water quality during extended dry periods. Consider that:

- Historically we have experienced more years of scarce moisture than years with excess moisture, one would wonder if the past five years might be a once in a lifetime weather anomaly.
- Most farmland in the area is managed under a zero or minimal tillage program. This is significant because it greatly reduces the total amount of run-off in springtime. During years of low snowfall the snow melt yields virtually no run-off to replenish the watercourses.
- Once the current high water levels are removed the water holding capacity of the Salt Lake System is more than adequate to handle excess water that might be generated from extreme rain or snowfall.

With this in mind we suggest that the diversion of Nip Creek into the Little Saskatchewan River may in the end prove unnecessary. If it is judged that the Salt Lake System may not handle potential inflows then, if anything, the water flow from Highway 16 and CPR should be redirected to their natural watercourses East and South of Strathclair.

We also suggest that the inflow and outflow of North Salt Lake be regulated to maintain optimal water levels and quality. Management of the upper portion of this system could have further benefits which may include enhanced recreational use of these waters and better ecological health of the system.

We are most supportive of the initiatives taken by our local Rural Municipality to resolve this issue. They have contributed time and have incurred significant costs to have water quality testing done and studies completed in an effort to find a solution that is reasonable for all. We sincerely hope that the proposal now being recommended will be implemented.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ian and Cathy Gerrard
Strathclair Manitoba