

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPONENT: Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation
PROPOSAL NAME: St. Adolphe Ring Dike Expansion
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Water Development and Control
CLIENT FILE NO.: 5742.00

OVERVIEW

The Proposal was received on September 29, 2014. It was dated September 25, 2014. The advertisement of the Proposal was as follows:

“A proposal has been received from Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation for the expansion of the existing ring dike around the community of St. Adolphe. The area enclosed by the dike would be expanded by an area of 1.6 km² to the east of the community to allow for future community growth. The project includes the removal of the community’s existing east dike, and the construction of internal drainage and flood pumping facilities. Construction of the project is proposed for the period May 2015 – October 2016.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, November 1, 2014 and in the Altona Red River Valley Echo on Thursday, October 30, 2014. It was placed in the online, Legislative Library and Millennium Public Library (Winnipeg) public registries. It was distributed to TAC members on October 30, 2014. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was December 2, 2014.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

James Maskiw

This is a letter against the expansion of the St. Adolphe ring dike.

I see absolutely no reason for our tax money to be spent on this dike expansion just to benefit some private developers at great cost to the taxpayers

As a property owner and ex resident just outside this proposed expansion since 1968 I am knowledgeable of water flows during floods like 1979, 2009 and especially 1997 when the village was evacuated at great cost to the governments. There is no way out during floods like 1997 so if this expansion happens there will be an extra 1000 homes to evacuate at an even higher cost to the taxpayers.

I can't believe how fast water resources and the governments have forgotten about the problems that were experienced by the R. M. of Ritchot that year.

My main reasons against this expansion are as follows:

1. This is a low area and has very high water backup when the floodway gates are raised. A larger dike means more chance of a breach.
2. The river tends to take a shortcut overland during flood years right where this dike will be built. As a result of this obstruction the current will be restricted causing the water to back up south of it and a faster and higher flow to the east and west also.
3. There is an oil pipeline going right through a residential area. If there will be a leak who will be responsible for the cleanup. Because of roads and pipes going over and under this pipeline there will be more chance of this.
4. The sewage lagoon will probably have to be expanded to handle 1000 more homes at an additional cost to taxpayers.
5. The school will have to be expanded.
6. Much more traffic on an already busy St. Mary's Road
7. More taxes to pay for maintaining this large dike.
8. What if the oil company wants to expand their pipeline?
9. More homes available for sale means existing homes will be harder to sell.
10. There is already a proven dike in place that has proven itself in 1997 to be sufficient. It is scheduled to be removed on the east side.
11. Loss of 350 acres of prime farmland forever.

These are some of my reasons for opposing this dike expansion.

The R. M. has lots of areas already protected where they can expand in the future such as Ste. Agathe, Grand Pointe, Niverville West and Ile Des Chenes. To me this expansion is a complete waste of tax payers money and should not go forward.

Disposition:

Most of these comments address planning issues rather than environmental matters. The effect of the dike expansion on flow patterns and water depths was assessed though hydraulic modelling and reported in the Proposal. Any existing underground infrastructure including oil pipelines must be accommodated in the design of new infrastructure when the protected area is eventually developed.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch

No comments.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Lands Branch

No comments, as no Crown lands are impacted by this proposal.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Lands Branch, Land Management and Planning Section

No comment as no Crown lands are impacted by the proposal.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Parks and Protected Spaces Branch

No comments or concerns to offer as it does not affect any provincial parks, park reserves, ecological reserves, areas of special interest, or proposed protected areas.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Wildlife Branch

Wildlife has the following comments:

1. Maintain the Option 3 minimum of 150 m setback from St. Adolphe Coulee as per their Environmental Policy Area. This will help maintain the coulee as an important wildlife riparian and movement corridor.
2. Construction activities should be undertaken during the winter to the greatest extent possible to minimize conflict with migrating/nesting birds, and to minimize impact on riparian areas.
3. Borrow pits and storm water retention basins be bioengineered (i.e. edges re-vegetated to and maintained as native grasses) so as to offset any disruption or loss of habitat within or near the St. Adolph coulee.
4. A pre-construction survey to determine presence/absence of endangered species (with appropriate mitigation if present) within the construction footprint should be undertaken. This is especially important if they pursue Option 4 and its immediate proximity to the St. Adolphe Coulee. But I defer to Chris on whether this is needed.

Post-construction monitoring for and control of invasive species (i.e. purple loosestrife) is required.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed through licence conditions.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Science and Management Branch, Water Quality Management Section

On behalf of the Water Quality Management Section of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship I reviewed the proposal for the St. Adolphe dike expansion. Based on review of the proposal I do not have any outstanding concerns that could not be addressed by license conditions and the use of best practices.

Of principle concern would be possible impacts to the St. Adolphe Coulee immediately east of the Project area through erosion and sediment transport from the nearby construction area.

- The proponent is advised to implement effective sediment and erosion control practices
- Minimize the amount of vegetated area adjacent to the Coulee that is cleared
- Stabilize and re-vegetate exposed areas
- Avoid working in sensitive areas with heavy equipment during wet conditions.
- The proponent should also ensure that all equipment is kept free of leaks of fuel and other petroleum products, and maintain a supply of absorbent materials on site at all times.

Disposition:

These comments can be addressed through licence conditions.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Science and Management Branch, Groundwater Management Section

If the expanded ring dyke is to be located on developed property, the property should be inventoried for water wells. Any wells located within the footprint of the dike or in areas of future development to be serviced by municipal water should be properly sealed to prevent contamination of the local aquifer.

Disposition:

This comment can be addressed through a licence condition.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship – Water Use Licensing Section

No concerns.

Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation – Highway Planning and Design Branch, Environmental Services Section

No concern.

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development – Crops Branch

The spread of pathogens is becoming an increasing concern to the farming community and to MAFRD. Biosecurity measures should be included in the construction plan to prevent the spread of soil-borne pests (disease, weeds, nematodes) in agricultural soils by minimizing soil movement between fields and across Right of Ways (ROW). Implementation strategies during construction should include cleaning/washing equipment before coming on site and between land owner fields and avoiding activities that would transfer soil to different fields (i.e. reducing traffic between separate fields in wet weather).

Disposition:

This comment can be addressed as a licence condition.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

No additional information was required to address public and Technical Advisory Committee comments on the Proposal.

PUBLIC HEARING

No requests were received for a public hearing. Accordingly, a public hearing is not recommended.

CROWN-ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

The Government of Manitoba recognizes it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with First Nations, Métis communities and other Aboriginal communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a treaty or Aboriginal right of that First Nation, Métis community or other Aboriginal community.

The proposal involves the expansion of a community dike on agricultural land adjace to the community of St. Adolphe. Adverse effects on surface water or habitat for wildlife or fisheries are not anticipated.

Since resource use is not affected by the project, it is concluded that Crown-Aboriginal consultation is not required for the project.

RECOMMENDATION

All comments received that require follow-up can be addressed through licence conditions. It is recommended that the Development be licensed under *The Environment*

Act subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described on the attached Draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Central Region of the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

PREPARED BY:

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