

**R.M. of Grey Presentation
To
Manitoba Clean Environment Commission
Re: Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Inc.
Supplemental Groundwater Supply Project**

This presentation is being made on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Grey, Village of St. Claude and Town of Carman in support of Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Inc. Supplemental Groundwater Supply Project.

The Rural Municipality of Grey has a population of 2,147 which includes the Local Urban Districts of Elm Creek, Haywood and Hamlet of Fannystelle. We have no potable water supplies such as lakes, rivers or high yielding wells within the boundary of our municipality capable of supplying a safe and reliable supply to our residents. Residents of the eastern portion of our municipality relied on surface run-off water into dugouts or trucked water into cisterns, while residents of the western portion relied on low yielding shallow sand wells. These sources were not reliable, especially during drought years and produced water of extremely poor quality.

It's hard to believe but a basic necessity of life such as a clean safe potable water supply was not available to residents of our municipality until 1980 when we installed a water treatment plant in Elm Creek. The water supply for this plant is a deep well yielding water of poor quality requiring reverse osmosis treatment which is a very expensive process. It has a limited capacity and only capable of supplying 161 customers in Elm Creek and 28 customers in the surrounding rural area with potable water .

In an attempt to find another water supply source capable of meeting the needs for the residents of the municipality, Manitoba Water Stewardship carried out extensive test drilling for ground water sources but were unsuccessful. A local group known as "The R.M. of Grey Water Development Committee" sampled private wells in the St. Claude/Haywood area during the period of November 1998 and March 1999.

In response to their report, a memo dated April 19, 1999 was sent from Dr. Shelley Buchan, Medical Officer of Health to Walter Keryluk, Public Health Inspector (Appendix 1 attached) in which she stated; “In summary, I have concerns on the vulnerability of the water sources for St. Claude and Haywood. These appear to be long standing and the repeated presence of coliform and nitrates pose a health issue. I recommend that another water source and delivery system be explored with Water Services Board so that a consistent source of reliable water can be made available for these communities. Good drinking water is essential for health and we need to support communities that recognize the value in this basic service.” On September 20, 2000 Dr. Buchan issued a boil water advisory for the Village of Haywood (Appendix 2 attached) stating; “The results indicate that of the 55 wells sampled, 90% contain evidence of bacterial contamination (12% are further contaminated with fecal coliforms).

Council met on December 14, 2000 with the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative, Manitoba Water Services Board and PFRA to discuss a regional water system that not only would address the serious potable water situation in Haywood but also throughout the municipality. We subsequently joined the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative with a water supply line from the Stephenfield Water Plant to Haywood being installed. This was the beginning of the Grey Regional Water Utility. Since 2001 we have installed a second supply line from Stephenfield to the Village of St. Claude and approximately 67 miles of water pipelines into the rural areas around Haywood and St. Claude and currently are serving 215 customers from the Stephenfield Water Plant. We have also installed 2 water supply main lines from the Cartier Regional Water Coop with approximately 91 miles of water pipelines into the rural areas around Fannystelle and Elm Creek serving 146 customers including the Hamlet of Fannystelle. There is approximately 65 miles of water pipelines and 100 customers left to be serviced with potable water in our municipality.

The Grey Regional Water Utility total combined water sales from all 3 sources (PVWC, Cartier & Elm Creek) was 31.7 million gallons in 2005 of which 16.2 million or 51% was supplied by the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative. Out of the 215 customers being supplied potable water from Stephenfield, 205 or 95% use this water mainly for domestic purposes. The remaining 10 customers used their water supply for both domestic and livestock (dairy/poultry) with annual consumptions ranging from 380,000 to 1,618,000 gallons for a combined consumption of 9 million gallons in 2005. Dairy operators have found that the potable water supply improved the quality and quantity produced by their cows. I must stress that livestock operations is just as valuable industry to a rural municipality as an industrial business is to an urban centre.

All water used by customers is metered and charged at a water rate of \$8.40/1,000 gallons with no discount allowance for larger volume users. Water flow restrictors of 4 US GPM have been installed on all 32mm service connections and 10 US GPM on all 50mm service connections thereby limiting the volume of water that a customer can draw from the system. The municipality does comparisons between water purchases and sales in order to minimize the volume of unaccounted for water to less than 5%. Customers are also encouraged to monitor their meter readings and provided with tips on how to detect water loss due to leaks.

The Village of St. Claude with a population of 558 joined the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative in 2002 to address 2 concerns with their existing water supply. First, water being piped in from a well in the Rathwell area was poor in quality due to high levels of hardness and turbidity. This resulted in residents having to use softeners in their homes which in turn was causing environmental problems for their lagoon operation due to high levels of salt in the discharge. Secondly, the water supply pipeline was barely meeting current water needs with no room for the Village to expand or grow. Parmalat, a major employer for the Village, uses approximately 7.5 million gallons a year and were looking at expansion which the existing water system could not handle.

The Rural Municipality of Grey and Village of St. Claude must rely on potable water being piped in from outside sources. Pembina Valley Water Cooperative proposal for a Supplemental Groundwater Supply Project is vital to ensure that they can continue to meet not only the current but future water needs for our residents especially during drought conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Council of the R.M. of Grey and Village of St. Claude