

**Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Supplemental Groundwater Supply
Proposal CEC Hearing**

November 7 & 9, 2006

Dear Commissioners and fellow Manitobans and Canadians,

It is with great sadness that, I, Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles, of St. Adolphe, Manitoba am here today on behalf of those that do not have a voice but have to bear the weight of our societal choices and decisions. I am here on behalf of our future generations, our wildlife, natural resources and Spirit energy.

The intentions behind our actions are being closely felt by Mother Earth, the Animal Kingdom and Spirit energy.

Society's continual misuse and lack of respect given to our Natural Resources specifically Water and Wood energies have left certain sections of Manitoba and Canada facing obvious negative repercussions reflecting our societal choices in the first place. We would like to blame things on Mother Nature but it is not so.....it is good old accumulative adverse effects that time has run out on and it is now upon us.

Drought, flooding, soil erosion, severe storms, water quality safety, disease control, emergency measures and endangered species are the Global, Canadian and Manitoban manifestations of our Human actions in unbalancing our Natural Resources.

This is exactly what we are experiencing in southern Manitoba and we need to have a good honest look at why we are experiencing these droughts, floods, soil and water quality issues in the first place.

To set up systems and pipelines etc to tap into one of Canada's most precious pristine aquifer is like having the cart before the horse or like asking permission to rob the candy store.

Questions Unanswered and Some Food for Thought:

1). We really do not know what we are sitting on top of with this and other aquifers. The past studies that have been done were vague and not specific to this case or for the future urban, industrial and agriculture uses and intentions of the area.

Scientific and traditional research and knowledge is incomplete and understudied for such a precedent proposal and its possible negative repercussions.

2). Lester R. Brown in his book, *Rescuing a Planet under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble* states, that in other countries like China and India who have decided to draw upon their aquifers to attempt to meet the demands of their growing populations, food capacity and increased standard of living after a short 50 years have hit the ultimate brick wall. Their aquifers have and are running dry with no hope of recharging. No one thought of this, they had no sustainable vision, we ask and learn today in hindsight.

3). The countries Mr. Brown states like South Korea that have recognized and implemented programs that have put back the grasslands and forests which has helped aid in the ending of drought, floods, soil erosion and some air pollution are the countries to notice the positive changes to their natural resources and to learn from.

How much worse does it have to get here in southern Manitoba with floods, soil erosion and decreased water tables and water quality (Lake Winnipeg) before we start implementing similar restoration programs, to aid in restoring the balance to our environment?

4). Develop and implement systems like Dr. David Brooks, the Soft Path for Water. These Canadian leaders have taken the time and resources to help develop systems for us citizens get our water resources back into a healthy sustainable state. We, the people, Mother Nature, the eco-systems, spirit energy and the wildlife proudly endorse ideas from the Soft Path for Water and alike programs of providing alternative methods of restoring, providing and protecting our Natural Resources, specifically for Water.

We do not need to re-write the book. The knowledge is here in Canada and in this province, around the Globe. You know it, already, it is inside you. Water is sacred!

Reduce, Re-use, And Re-cycle! We can do this better this time.....

5). If Water and Wood Energy was given a fair cost base analysis, this hearing would not even be taking place.

6). If we tap into this virgin aquifer and it starts draining rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, wells and other aquifers and recharge areas, what is our backup plan?

How do we put this water back? How long would it take to refill 5 rivers? Who pays for this? And at what cost to all life forms?

What about the new wells that provides homes their geo-thermal heating systems that have suddenly gone dry? Who pays for this?

What about all the water needed to feed and sustain all existing and future water rights of those that this Sandiland aquifer directly affects? Who and how would they pay for this loss of water tables and water sources?

Who would pay for the drinking water losses or testing required?

What about all the existing Intensified Livestock Operations in Southern Manitoba and potential 2.5 million Hogs more to come. Has a safe and steady water supply been factored into the final dollars and sense for these mega projects, as well as, Manitoba Hydro's future commitments. It is based on water volumes too. Water energy and its ripple effects is not new science but we as a society are learning a new respect for its power over our well-being.

What would this proposals affects be on the wildlife if the water tables drop and rivers and streams dry up? What is our backup plan for them? What is our emergency plan for our fish and other endangered species?

7). Who would be financially responsible for any such event or combination of events would happen? Will the PVW Co-op pay for all and or any adverse effects that could stem in water quality and quantity all over this province extending into the States and Saskatchewan?

8). If Winnipeg and surrounding areas added up to 800,000 people and the proposed Hog Processing Plant is planning to set up shop on top of the City of Winnipeg main water supply from Shoal Lake and something happens and there is adverse effects now to the main line of water, what would the city of Winnipeg do for its water supply? And can the city afford a decline or changes in the water tables? What about the Manitoba Floodway Authority and all of its operations, how will it be affected and who is responsible?

9). How much water is needed by the co-op for human consumption, waste management, agriculture and industrial usage?

10). Should industry be set up or funded in areas of the province that can not locally furnish its natural resource needs?

11). What does the International Joint Commission have to state regarding the PVW co-op proposal and the possibility of reductions in water tables, water quality and sustainability across the border?

12). Have the First Nations and Aboriginal People and all their Treaties been settled of which this aquifer and its ripple effects apply to? If there is any money to be made from this proposal, is the First Nations part of this economic gain or natural resource burden?

13). Does the switch get turned off when the water levels, erosion, flooding, drought occurs in the affected areas? Who is responsible for the health and well-being of the Seine, Rat, Brokenhead, Cook's Creek and Whitemouth River?

14). What could happen to the International Red River, and its tributaries and recharge areas that run into the Red River? Who will pay for the effects to the Red River, the co-op, our taxes for emergency measures or disaster financial assistance or?

15). Who will pay for the stress related conditions in the human bodies and infrastructure that shall immediately follow after any big changes to the rural and urban water supply?

16). The R.M. of Ritchot drilled about 130 feet deep at the CPR track by Ste. Agathe and hit water that is cleaner at 78 feet than the artesian water from New Bothwell.. Has the PVW co-op drilled along this same vein?

17). We strongly support the Water Caucus and Manitoba Eco-Network's positions and submissions on this proposal. Is any part of the proposal based on fossil aquifers as we are told once depleted that is it forever?

18). What percentage of the co-op area has been or is designated as having water storage capabilities, such as wild lands, wetlands, grasslands etc.?

19). What has the PVW co-op done to minimize water and waste management and supply needs and usages?

20). Are composting toilets and recycling grey water part of the co-ops action plan or current efforts to reduce consumption? What has industry done to reduce their needs?

21). What percentage of water usage goes to Intensified Livestock Operations in the co-op area for feed and waste management? Who pays?

Has drip irrigation been looked into for this area or other forms of natural irrigation? Who pays for this irrigation water?

22). Is the PVW co-op currently collecting rain water or snow? Are cisterns being utilized by anyone?

23). Is watering grass banned in the co-op area? Is the area using the local, provincial-federal incentive programs, education and marketing programs to reduce, re-use and re-cycle water?

24). Are the people of Manitoba and Canada aware that the mining of groundwater via aquifers has and is undermining the future of many countries around the world. Can we learn from other countries actions?

25). If we base high grain productivity or high intensified livestock productivity on removing the groundwater to fulfill these needs, when the groundwater dries up which seems to be by world standards in about 50 years, what shall we do then and how shall we feed ourselves? What is the back up plan for then?

26). What about our provincial Water Protection Act?

27). Is urban water recycling cheaper than new infrastructures?

28). The days of using water to dispose of our waste is coming to an end all over the world as disease and water contamination go hand in hand and we are finally realizing the adverse effects it is having on our overall health and sustainability. Our own toxic blue-green Lake Winnipeg is a perfect example of our poor modern day practices. What plans does the area have to keep up with the times?

29). How many trees has the PVW co-op planted to help restore balance to their area?

30). What are the other Federal and Provincial Departments stating about this proposal? Such as; Ducks Unlimited, First Nations, Aboriginal, Fisheries and Oceans, Culture, Manitoba Hydro and so on

The days of Drop Decisions are over when it concerns Natural Resources and sustainability. Our collective actions have led us to a whole new awareness and respect for water and waste management systems. We will witness more changes in the next 10 to 20 years than we have for centuries before.

This is the new growth industry and Canadians shall discover the solutions and answers to our water crisis problems. We have no choice but to move forward in a more green harmonious action plan for our Natural Resources.

It is our responsibility to get our eco-systems back into Harmony as our forefathers had passed onto us. When we restore this balance, no living being shall ever have a water shortage as was originally intended and designed by Mother Earth.

We, the people of the Heart of the Continent owe it to ourselves and to this nation to bring in water experts from all over Canada to accurately and currently study this precious Canadian water gem, Manitoba's very own Acres of Diamonds. Our communities and eco-systems need to know that water is underneath them. Abundance flows freely and clearly to those that are in harmony and gratitude with their actions and intentions with Mother Nature's. But if our actions remain out of balance than abundance shall be taken away from society as we are experiencing in Manitoba and all of our Water emergencies in this province in this last decade including this year of 2006.

The Pembina Valley Water co-op hearing is only the tip of the iceberg of all the exciting but challenging Water Protection measures, rights, education, industries and departments to follow. Once again Manitoba shall be the lead in its intentions and expectations of our provincial, national and global responsibilities on water sustainability, education and leadership.

Everything is for a higher reason! Manitoba is up for this challenge, we can do this! Harmony and Abundance is our Canadian Heritage and Responsibility. Let us protect and restore. All for one and one for all!

Thank you for your time and attention to raise some questions, expectations and intentions on behalf of the people, water and wood energy, animal kingdom, eco-systems, First Nations and Treaty rights and most importantly our future generations sustainability.

Yours truly,

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