


PVWC

ENVIRONMENT H ~~ARRIVED~~ By:  Secretary  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Commission

GOOD MR CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS' OF THE CEC COMMISSION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO GIVE A PRESENTATION IN SUPPORT OF THE PEMBINA VALLEY WATER COOPERA TIVE SUPPLEMENTAL GROUNDWATER SUPPLY.

I'M HERM MARTENS, REEVE OF THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS AND I WILL BE REPRESENTING BOTH THE TOWN AND RM. OF MORRIS, AS WELL AS THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MONTCALM. TOGETHER WE REPRESENT AN AREA COVERING THE SOUTHERN MOST 50 MILES OF THE CANADIAN SIDE OF THE RED RIVER V ALLEY. PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE DALE HOFFMAN, THE MAYOR OF MORRIS, AND FLO BEAUDETTE OF MONTCALM. (if they are present)

AS LEADERS IN OUR RESPECTIVE MUNICIPALITIES, WE HA VE A RESPONSIBILITY AND AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR AREA. ONE VERY IMPORTANT WAY TO DO THIS IS BY PROVIDING GOOD QUALITY WATER BOTH DURING A FLOOD STAGE AS WELL AS DURING A DROUGHT. THIS IS WHY WE WANT TO SEE THIS PROJECT CARRIED OUT; TO PROVIDE FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPLY SUPPORTING OUR WITHDRAWALS FROM THE RED RIVER

AFTER THE 1997 FLOOD, THE PROVINCE DID A LOT OF WATER QUALITY TESTING OF WELLS AND FOUND THAT MANY DID NOT MEET THE HEALTH STANDARD REQUIRED. UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE NO WELLS IN OUR MUNICIPALITIES. THIS IS NOT FOR THE LACK OF TRYING, BUT. THE GOUND WATER IN OUR AREA IS EXTREMELY SALINE, NOT FIT FOR HUMAN AND/OR LIVESTOCK CONSUMPTION. WE'VE HAD TO DEPEND ON SURF ACE WATER THA T WAS STORED IN PONDS AND CISTERNS OR TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE RIVERS. THIS WATER THEN NEEDS TO BE CLEANED AND FILTERED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, A DETAILED PROCESS THAT REQUIRES A LOT OF EXPERTISE. EACH INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNER DOES NOT HAVE THE EXPERTISE OR THE TIME TO CARRY OUT THIS DETAILED PROCESS. THIS IS WHY, ALONG WITH OUR NEIGHBOURING MUNICIPALITIES, WE ESTABLISHED THE PVWC TO PROVIDE TOP QUALITY WATER. BECAUSE THE PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN 1997 ONLY TESTED WELLS. WE, AS MUNICIPALITIES, WERE LEFT TO DO OUR OWN WATER TESTING. WE TESTED MANY PONDS AND MANY CISTERNS. THE RESULTS WERE VERY ALARMING. ONLY ONE OF THE TESTS CAME BACK FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. THE REST ALL CALLED FOR A 'BOIL WATER ORDER OR DO NOT USE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.' THIS AGAIN

ILLUSTRATED THE NEED FOR A PROPER WATER TREATMENT FACILITY AND A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM THAT WOULD DELIVER WATER MEETING ALL OF THE CANADIAN DRINKING WATER STANDARDS.

ANOTHER FLOOD RELATED CONCERN CAME OUT OF THE 1997 FLOOD AND THAT WAS THE NEED TO PRODUCE AND DELIVER CLEAN POTABLE WATER TO THE AREA RECOVERING FROM THE FLOOD. THE RESIDENTS OF GRAND FORKS WERE FORCED TO STAY IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR AN EXTRA 3 WEEKS SO THAT THEIR CONTAMINATED WATER SYSTEM COULD BE CLEANED OUT AND RESTARTED TO PRODUCE CLEAN POTABLE WATER THIS WAS VERY DISRUPTIVE TO FAMILIES, VERY EXPENSIVE AND ADDED TO THE HUGE FLOOD MITIGATION COSTS. THE PEOPLE HOOKED UP WITH PEMBINA VALLEY WATER COULD MOVE BACK AS SOON AS THEIR HOMES WERE ACCESSIBLE. THIS AGAIN DEMONSTRATES THE VALUE OF LEADERSHIP IN PROVIDING CLEAN WATER, AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY IN FLOOD RECOVERY.

NOW, THIS BRINGS ME TO THE FACT THAT PVWC REQUIRES THIS TYPE OF CAPABILITY NOT ONLY DURING PERIODS OF HIGH WATER ON THE RED RIVER BUT ALSO DURING DROUGHT SITUATIONS. FOR ALL THE SAME REASONS THAT THIS TREATED WATER SERVICE IS CRITICAL DURING EXCESS WATER, WE HAVE TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE THIS WATER IN CASE OF A DROUGHT. THAT IS WHY WE ARE SEEKING THIS SUPPLEMENTAL GROUND WATER SUPPLY.

THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN REGARDS TO AVERAGE DAILY USE OF WATER I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT SOME COMPARISONS: WHAT YOU HAVE TO APPRECIATE IS THAT MOST OF THE AREA WE REPRESENT HAS HAD A HISTORY OF CHRONIC WATER SHORTAGES. WE HAVE MELTED ICE, USED SNOW, AND LEARNED TO VALUE WATER AND WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THIS GENERATION INCLUDING MY CHILDREN.

THIS MEANS THAT THE AVERAGE PERSON IN THE RM. OF MORRIS USES JUST OVER HALF AS MUCH WATER AS THE AVERAGE PERSON IN PORTAGE OR WINNIPEG AND THE SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR THE RM. OF MONTCALM. TO SAY THIS IN ANOTHER WAY, FOR EVERY 2 LITRES OF WATER/PERSON/DAY IN THE RM. OF MONTCALM, IT WOULD TAKE ALMOST 4 LITRES/PERSON/DAY IN WINNIPEG AND THAT IS A HUGE DIFFERENCE! WE PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON WATER AND WHILE WE MAY USE HALF AS MUCH WE CHARGE TWICE AS MUCH - FULL COST RECOVERY.

BOTH THE R.M.S OF MONTCALM AND MORRIS PROVIDE WATER FOR RESIDENTIAL AND FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

WATER CONNECTIONS ARE MADE TO THE HOUSE IN OUR MUNICIPALITIES AND THAT IS WHERE THE METER IS LOCATED. MOST LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS HAVE PIPED WATER TO THE BARNs BUT MANY ARE ONLY USING THE WATER FOR THEIR HOMES AND HUMAN USE IN THE BARNs. THE LIVESTOCK WATER IS PRODUCED ON SITE FROM HOLDING PONDS. THIS IS THE CASE ON MY OWN FARM.

THERE IS NO IRRIGATION OFF THE PVWC PIPELINES.

THE BIG QUESTION IS IN THE CASE OF DROUGHT WHERE WILL WE GET WATER.

WE ARE GUARANTEED NOTHING AT THE US/CAN BORDER. THERE ARE NO MINIMUM FLOWS ESTABLISHED. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE AMERICANS CANNOT OR WILL NOT ALLOW ANY WATER TO FLOW NORTH? WE WOULD BE WITHOUT WATER. AND IF THEY GAVE US A TRICKLE AT THE BORDER DURING THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS, EVAPORATION WILL TAKE ALMOST ALL OF THE WATER BEFORE IT REACHES THE LETELLIER PLANT!

THE DROUGHT OF 1988 DID CAUSE A LOT OF CONCERN. THE MAYOR OF MORRIS, MR. DALE HOFFMAN, WALKED ACROSS THE RED RIVER AT 5 DIFFERENT PLACES. THIS WAS DANGEROUSLY LOW. THE U.S. RELEASED SOME WATER TO HELP US OUT BUT THIS STILL RESULTED IN FLOWS OF ONLY 32 CFS, NOT NEARLY ENOUGH TO MEET OUR PRESENT NEEDS. WILL THE U.S. BE WILLING TO DO THIS AGAIN? WILL THEY KEEP THE WATER IF THEY NEED IT FOR THEIR OWN USE? THERE ARE TOO MANY UNCERTAINTIES. GIVEN OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS WE MUST HAVE SOME SECURITY OF SUPPLY - WE HAVE TO SUPPLEMENT THE RED RIVER SUPPLY. IT IS NOT PRUDENT OR WISE TO HAVE TO RELY ON A NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY TO ASSURE OUR WATER SUPPLY WHEN WE HAVE THAT CAPABILITY AT HOME OURSELVES. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS PROJECT PROCEED.

THANK YOU