



Rural Municipality of Roland

PO Box 119, Roland, Manitoba, R0G 1T0

Ph: (204) 343-2061 Fax: (204)-343-2001

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Mr. Chairman, C.E.C. Panel, Ladies & Gentlemen

I am Bill Whitehead, Reeve of the R.M. of Roland. As Council's representative, I wish to go on record in support of the PWWC's Sandilands Project which will provide a supplementary source of water for the Pembina Valley Region.

The R.M. of Roland is a long-term member of the Pembina Valley Water Co-op. I have represented the Municipality as a Co-op Board member since 1995, including the past 6 years as an Executive Board member. I have seen the Co-op grow from studying the feasibility of a treated water pipeline to being the main supplier of treated water to a growing region. I feel the Co-op has maintained an open policy, welcoming new members and striving to accommodate their needs for water supply.

The R.M. of Roland is 15 miles by 12 miles, which equals 5 Townships. We service approximately 1000 people. There are a few farm yards in the South West corner of our Municipality that have good water wells, as they are located over the Winkler Aquifer. At present the Winkler Aquifer is at it's highest level of the past 20 years. All other areas of the Municipality either do not even support the installation of wells, or the wells are very mineralized and not suitable for drinking water. Residents required cisterns and had to haul water, or have it hauled, from outside the Municipality.



In 1979, the R.M. of Roland obtained a Water Right's Licence on the Winkler Aquifer. This allowed the Municipality to install a water distribution system in the Village of Roland, and several small rural distribution systems. In 2003, the Manitoba Government terminated that licence, forcing the Municipality to obtain an alternate water source. Given the Municipality's location at the center of the Co-op's area, water supply from the PVWC was obviously the best fit for us. The networking of PVWC lines through the Municipality has allowed us to service all rural ratepayers as well. We have approximately 100 miles of water distribution pipeline throughout the Municipality. All water consumption is metered, at a charge of \$7.50 per 1000 gallons. Our water is supplied by the Morris Water Treatment Plant, which is a state-of-the-art facility, producing the best water quality technology allows. Residents are happy with water supply and quality. The majority of our water usage is household. There is no wet industry in the Municipality. We have a few livestock farms; some of which have alternate water ponds. We have very little waste land in the Municipality; the majority of the arable land is in grain crop production.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Commission.

Bill Whitehead, Reeve
Rural Municipality of Roland

November 8, 2006