

Shellmouth Dam Environmental Scoping Meetings

Métis Final Report



Prepared For:
TetrES Consultants Inc.

Privileged and Confidential

Prepared By:



CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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CIER, the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, is a national Aboriginal-directed environmental non-profit organization. We offer research & consulting and education & training services to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, governments and private companies in four interrelated topic areas: forestry, climate change, water, and sustainability.

Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources
3rd Floor – 245 McDermot Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0S6

Tel: (204) 956-0660
Fax: (204) 956-1895
E-mail: earth@cier.ca
Web: www.cier.ca

Please direct any comments or questions about this report to Michael K. Pierre

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 History of Project

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Manitoba Water Stewardship plan to address future water demands on the Assiniboine River by increasing the storage capacity of the Shellmouth dam reservoir. Modifications to the current structure or operations of the Shellmouth dam would improve flood control and increase water supply. The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) was sub-contracted by TetrES Consultants to facilitate environmental scoping meetings between the Federal and Provincial Government Steering Committee and Aboriginal participants of the Métis Nation to ascertain environmental issues and their concerns before an environmental assessment is conducted or final project decisions are made. Earlier environmental scoping meetings were conducted with interested First Nations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan along the Assiniboine River and Lake of the Prairies Reservoir.

1.2 Purpose of Meetings

The purposes of the meetings were to discuss the proposed changes to the works and operations of Shellmouth Dam and to elicit and record concerns, questions and comments made by participants.

It was CIER's goal to ensure that the appropriate Métis people were contacted, i.e. those that would be affected by any modifications to the Shellmouth Dam. Tony Kettler, Project Manager, PFRA and CIER met with Dan Benoit, Jeff Betker and Donna Ranville of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) on April 19, 2004 to discuss the project and get feedback on how best to engage individuals along the Assiniboine River and Shellmouth Dam Reservoir.

The participants were invited to provide their input in designing a comprehensive environmental assessment.

1.3 Objectives of Meetings

The objectives for the meetings were as follows:

1. To present the proposed project to the Métis Nation residents adjacent to; and those that utilize the Assiniboine River and Lake of the Prairies Reservoir.
2. To gather all comments and concerns voiced by those present at the meetings.
3. To compile the gathered information in a clear, concise manner that will assist the Steering Committee in providing recommendations on the final project design.

1.4 Scope of Work

The scope of work consisted of the following:

1. To identify and contact Métis Nation individuals that may have an interest in the Shellmouth Dam, Assiniboine River and the proposed modifications to the dam.
2. To invite the identified Métis Nation individuals to one of eight Métis Environmental Scoping Meetings.
3. To draft and distribute a Steering Committee approved information page to interested Métis Nation individuals.
4. To draft and mail a Steering Committee approved letter of invitation to interested Métis Nation individuals.
5. To facilitate the Métis Environmental Scoping Meetings between the invited Métis Nation individuals and the PFRA/Water Stewardship Steering Committee.
6. To record all issues/comments/questions and concerns brought up by participants at the Métis Environmental Scoping Meetings.
7. To advise the Steering Committee and others on appropriate protocols necessary when working with Métis Nation Individuals.
8. To provide the Steering Committee a written report that outlines the results of the Métis Environmental Scoping Meetings.

2.0 Methods

2.1 MMF Local Chapters Identified and Notification Process – Manitoba

Based on internet research and informal interviews with people of Métis heritage familiar with the area, CIER drafted a travel itinerary to include town visits along the Assiniboine River. CIER reviewed the Statistics Canada website to identify communities with high populations of Métis people. It was suggested that the MMF would contact its Manitoba Métis Local Chapters (Locals) along the Assiniboine River and Lake of the Prairies. Members of Local Chapters or Locals have their political, economic and social issues promoted by the MMF. CIER provided an initial list of possible meeting locations: Kamsack, Saskatchewan; Roblin, Russell, St. Lazare, Virden, Brandon, Portage La Prairie and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Donna Ranville of the MMF contacted a total of 31 MMF Local Chapters. In the Winnipeg Region - 11 Local Chapters were contacted with 7 Local Chapters indicating they would try to get members to attend. In the Southwest Region - 15 Local Chapters were contacted with 9 indicating they would try to get members to attend. In the Northwest Region - 5 Local Chapters were contacted with 3 Chapters indicating they would try to get members to attend. The MMF contacted all MMF Local Chapters by telephone and followed up with a letter inviting them to attend one of the eight meetings. The MMF explained the project and asked the contact if they needed more information or confirmed their participation in one of the eight scheduled meetings that were to occur along the Assiniboine River.

2.2 MNS Local Chapters Identified and Notification Process – Saskatchewan

Based on internet research, CIER contacted Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MNS) and requested a contact list for Métis Local Chapters in Eastern Regions II, IIA and III of Saskatchewan. These regions were closest to the Assiniboine River in Saskatchewan. There are 37 locals within these three regions.

CIER made repeated telephone calls and faxed the proposed environmental scoping meeting information to MNS staff as identified by the MNS. CIER received no response from phone messages, emails or faxes sent to the MNS. CIER then requested a list of MNS locals as mentioned above. CIER then commenced making direct phone calls to Regional Directors of Eastern Regions II, IIA and III. CIER also made phone calls to 3 Local presidents. The turn-around time taken to finally speak with one Regional Director and one Local president forced the project team to make a late trip in July to Yorkton, Saskatchewan. CIER was informed that the entire MNS organization was going through a prolonged election/appeals process and that the entire staff and elected official roster were going through major changes. The July 9th meeting had confirmed the Regional Director of Region II would attend as well as the Sturgis Local President Viola Bell would attend. Both confirmed attendees committed to finding other interested parties to attend the meeting.

2.3 Information Packages and Invitation letters

Prior to distribution by CIER, the Métis Nation information page and invitation letter were approved by the Steering Committee. Dan Benoit then reviewed the information page and provided comments. Mr. Benoit suggested the MMF would best know how to engage the Métis participants in the environmental scoping study and took responsibility for engaging the MMF locals in the Assiniboine River Region. The MMF sent out letters to Local MMF presidents. Donna Ranville followed up by making numerous telephone calls as follow-up to the letters. Copies of the information page and invitation letter are attached to the end of this report in Appendices D and E respectively. All Locals received telephone calls, emails and faxed copies of the one-page information sheet and written letters of invitation to one or all Métis Nation meetings.

2.4 Métis Nation meetings

It was decided to host 8 meetings in eight communities that were geographically central to interested MMF Locals. An additional meeting was conducted in Roblin for a second group that attended the first meeting late. Each Local decided whom they would send and was responsible for their own transportation. The eight communities, venues and dates for the Métis Nation meetings were as follows:

Community	Venue	Date
Brandon, MB	Victoria Inn, 3550 Victoria Ave. W	Tuesday, June 8, 2004
Portage la Prairie, MB	CanadInn 2401 Saskatchewan Ave. W	Thursday, June 10, 2004
Winnipeg, MB	MMF Winnipeg Office, 150 Henry Ave.	Friday, June 11, 2004
Roblin, MB	Harvest Moon Inn Highway #5 East	Wednesday, June 23, 2004
Russell, MB	Russell Inn Highway #16	Thursday, June 24, 2004
St. Lazare, MB	Club Fort Ellice Leisure Centre, 319 Main St.	Friday, June 25, 2004
Yorkton, SK	Melrose Place Family Restaurant, 516 Broadway W	Friday, July 9, 2004

3.0 Results

3.1 Métis Locals Involved

Manitoba

Of the 19 Locals that confirmed attendance, twelve locals were present throughout the nine meetings with a total of 45 people in attendance. Men, women, Elders and youth were present at some or all of the meetings.

On June 13, 2004, Dan Benoit and Donna Ranville of the MMF attended a Pembina River Local meeting at which 25 members were present. In addition to the regular business meeting, Mr. Benoit spoke on other MMF business then presented the Shellmouth Dam information to the group. Comments and questions were recorded and returned to CIER for inclusion in the final report.

Saskatchewan

The two confirmed attendees attended the Yorkton meeting. Although every attempt was made to bring others to the meeting, no one else was able to attend on July 9. Many people were on holidays, camping or otherwise occupied.

3.1 Meetings

The meeting schedule had to be adjusted at times to accommodate participants' schedules. The first meeting scheduled was to occur in Virden, MB on June 7, 2004. CIER was informed on June 4, 2004 that the Virden meeting would have no participants attending although the MMF received earlier confirmation of participation by at least 3 locals. It was decided to cancel the Virden meeting. The team was assured the participants that were to attend the Virden meeting would then attend the Brandon meeting on June 8. The project steering committee, Dan Benoit of the MMF and CIER were present at the Brandon meeting on June 9. However, there were no attendees at this meeting i.e. none of the locals that committed to the Brandon or Virden meetings were present.

3.3. Issues Raised

Summary of Issues Raised

CIER recorded all questions, comments and concerns and assigned them an "issue name" It is important to note that it was not always possible to name a comment or concern to one heading as many of the issues are connected. The issues identified by CIER were related to: Aboriginal rights, agriculture, alternatives, climate change, communication, cultural, dam safety, economic, environmental, fishing, flooding, general, operations, safety, vegetation, water quality, water quantity and wildlife. Following are synopses of comments as they related to the above categories.

Aboriginal Rights

The Métis Nation is still fighting for the right to hunt and fish for subsistence as well as commercial ventures. A participant brought up compensation for loss of these harvesting rights. Land that may be affected by any modifications to the Shellmouth dam will be acquired by PFRA; this land was identified as a potential new hunting location.

Section 35(1) of the Canadian Constitution states that “The existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.” Section 35 consultations will have to be conducted if it has been determined that any Aboriginal/treaty rights are infringed upon by the actions of others. Based on these preliminary environmental scoping meetings and the comments gathered to date, it is very likely that Section 35 consultations will need to be conducted.

Agricultural/Economic

Questions arose regarding the types of farming down in the flood zones as well as concerns about potential negative impacts to haying operations along the Assiniboine River.

Alternatives

Questions were raised about the safety of raising the dam 1.83 metres and suggested that this may not be the correct approach. Concerns were raised about making the dam into a hydro-electric project because of the destruction observed in the north by such operations. It was suggested that if there was no urgency to completing any modifications to the dam that it be important to look for as many benefits for those along the Assiniboine. Other comments included:

- That it is very important to consider all stakeholders along the river so that damage is minimal and benefits are maximized.
- That an economic benefit study should be a large part of the environmental assessment. Concerns were raised about who will be conducting the environmental assessment (EA) because of poor working relationships in the past between the Métis Nation and consultants.
- That trust be a very important element of any EA process and that it could only be achieved by working with the appropriate consultants.
- Concerns were raised about bank stability.
- The Steering Committee were asked if alternatives to the modification of the Shellmouth dam are being considered such as on the Shell River or other tributaries.

Climate Change

Concerns about climate change were brought up for the first time during the Métis environmental scoping process. It was stated that it made sense to improve water storage now to address potential water shortages in the future. The weather that is associated with climate change, such as unpredictability of weather events and changes in quantity of snowfall, led to questions regarding modifying dam operations to accommodate these changes.

Communication

Communication was an issue that came up frequently during the meetings. In order to get more people to the meetings and therefore increase communication it was suggested to alter the times of the meetings to accommodate participants' schedules. This recommendation came early in the meeting process and was implemented for the remainder of the meetings. Participants asked if any environmental organizations were protesting the project, presumably to get a clearer idea of what other stakeholders are concerned about.

There were concerns about the Steering Committee not following through with the next round of meetings to keep the people informed. This was a point that was brought up by more than one participant. It was suggested that for fishers the best time to engage them was between March and April. Other comments include the following:

- There is more value for the project team to go to the people **directly impacted** by any modifications to the dam or its operations to gather information.
- For greater understanding and increased participation, it was stated to use simple, easy to understand language for most people.

It was stated during one meeting that it is crucial to consider the damage to human beings as well as to the environment. The committee was told to ask the participants to not only raise concerns regarding the project but also identify any possible benefits to the Métis Nation people.

Also, because of past government actions it is now difficult to trust the government and that it is important to speak with the Métis Elders to gain their insight to past wrongs to the environment. Protocols and needs for engaging the Métis Elders were provided to the Steering Committee.

Participants recommended a number of methods of continued communication to keep the Métis Nation informed of the project. Suggested modes of disseminating information included a website, MMF publications and the Grassroots Newspaper. Newsletters that are sent directly to Locals will be more effective than going through the MMF head office. To better explain the project it was also suggested to create brochures and diagrams that explain how much land would be affected by changes to the dam and its operations. These approaches also can be better at explaining complicated concepts such as damming levels.

At every meeting it was stated that the participants appreciated the opportunity to express the Métis Nation perspective prior to commencement of any modifications to the dam. They felt it was good to be included now in projects rather than continuing to be considered a collectively forgotten people. They also voiced concerns that perhaps many of the appropriate people, i.e. those most affected by the river, were not present at the meetings to add their insight.

Cultural/ Vegetation

It was noted that some animals, plants and medicines that were traditionally harvested along the river were still being harvested. It was also stated that was going to be difficult to accurately ascertain the true amount of harvesting that occurs by Aboriginal peoples along the Assiniboine River. One participant stated that “When you say Métis, you’re saying hunter and gatherer”. Concerns were expressed about the continued availability of plants and animals for future generations. Participants expressed concern over a loss of habitat for medicines that could be used for personal use as well as profit. Mushrooms are harvested around the rivers and well as traditional medicines. Economic, cultural and social benefits to the Métis Nation children were paramount to many participants.

Dam Safety

A frequent concern of participants was dam safety. Some were concerned that the structural integrity of the dam would be compromised if the reservoir water levels were

increased by a level of 1.83 metres. Participants were reassured when the committee stated that safety is the first priority and that if the engineering studies prove any increase in reservoir levels would not be safe, that the project would not proceed as planned. All participants expressed appreciation for the upcoming dam safety analysis and development of an emergency preparedness plan for downstream residents along the Assiniboine River. Participants downstream of the dam were happy to hear that an emergency plan is being developed and expressed the importance of giving the people enough warning in case of an emergency.

Economics

A point of study for the EA process included the need to understanding the species Aboriginal people harvest from the river, in what quantity and the revenue generated, in order to better understand the full impact of possible negative effects of the dam modification. Other comments were:

- It is hoped that Métis Nation people will benefit in terms of employment in the modification and maintenance of the dam.
- There were concerns regarding the continued ability of the farmers, who may lose land due to increased reservoir levels, to continue to earn a living at farming.
- Concern was expressed for cottagers who have invested large amounts of money in the properties along the reservoir.
- If there are any damages to the Métis people they should be compensated.
- Land that becomes Crown land also becomes available hunting grounds for the Métis and that this may also provide hunting opportunities at both the commercial and personal scale.
- For those that live close to the reservoir, tourism is vitally important to the local economy and it would be very difficult for everyone if the tourism industry was damaged by dam modifications.

Environmental/Fishing

In general, there were concerns over the possibility of increases or decreases in fish populations due to new reservoir levels. The sport fishing industry is important to many people including the Métis Nation. Although participants fish the reservoir and river, not many consume the fish due to the perception or knowledge that the fish is contaminated by industrial pollutants. There are concerns over potential increases in mercury in the fish the Métis Nation consumes from the reservoir and river due to new flooding by the proposed project. Participants want to ensure fish populations are going to be available for future generations of the Métis Nation. The Steering Committee was asked if fish ladders were being considered to help the mobility of fish populations downstream. The Steering Committee was told that at least one Métis person had a commercial minnow harvesting operation in the Lake of the Prairies reservoir.

Flooding

As noted above, flood control is very important for the safety and economic well-being of the Métis Nations along the Assiniboine River. Questions arose regarding the operation of the dam and whether or not the flood of 1995 along the Assiniboine River could have been avoided. It was made clear by the Steering Committee that the flood could not have been avoided as it was the flood of the century for the Assiniboine River. There were concerns from St. Lazare about adequacy of warning times regarding when a flood would reach their community.

General

An observation made by a participant was that wants and needs both upstream and downstream are very different and the Steering Committee would have a serious challenge to satisfy everyone all the time. The comments in this section are quite variable and can be found in detail in Appendix A under the issue heading – General.

Operations

There were concerns related to the Province's ability to accurately predict precipitation amounts, time of thaw and other events that may affect how the dam is operated. Operation of the dam affects everyone, both upstream and downstream, and it is important to consider all parties in the operation of the dam.

Safety

Peoples' safety is put at risk when flooding causes bank erosion and therefore increased debris in the waterway. It was asked whether or not trees along the shoreline would have to be removed prior to flooding to decrease this hazard.

Water Quality

Participants had many concerns about the quality of water in the reservoir and Assiniboine River. These concerns include increased mercury in fish, manure in the water, flooded septic fields and algal blooms that are blamed on nutrient loading of the river and reservoir. The algal blooms decrease oxygen levels for fish and the fish die. The blooms also have a negative impact on fishing nets, rods and reels and boat motors. In addition to cattle waste entering the water system, there is also concern of hog farming operations and the lack of appropriate treatment of waste before its release into the environment.

Water Quantity

Many saw the benefit of improved water supply and flood control and were aware of competing demands for water. One participant suggested reservoir water be pumped back to Kamsack, Saskatchewan to help that community meet its water needs. Some participants had concerns related to unregulated consumption of water by irrigators. Participants along the Shell River felt that logging operations in the Duck Mountains were increasing flooding along the Shell River, which could be compounded by higher water levels in the reservoir.

Wildlife

Some members of the Métis Nation still hunt beaver along the Shell River and are concerned about a loss in habitat for their game. Other game harvested along the waterways includes rabbits, geese and ducks. There are concerns about a loss of habitat for animals and birds caused by rising water levels due to the dam.

A complete list of all issues, comments and concerns is provided at the end of this report in Appendix A.

3.4 Responses to Issues

The Steering Committee stated to all participants that only issues that fall within the scope of the project would be investigated during an environmental assessment process but all issues would be recorded.

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 Meetings

All participants present at each of the meetings expressed their satisfaction with the steps taken up to that point in the project. Specifically, the Métis Nation was pleased to be involved in the project at a early enough stage that their potential involvement could have some influence on the future environmental assessment process.

As with the First Nation meetings that occurred in January 2004, a light meal was provided for all participants. At each of the meetings an Elder was asked to say a blessing for the food and meeting process. On the rare occasion that an Elder didn't say a prayer, the facilitator said the prayer with the group's permission. Out of respect for the participants, guests always ate first to ensure that all participants were fed.

Overall, the Métis Nation environmental scoping meetings were successful. The Métis Nation identified many of the issues also identified in the First Nations' environmental scoping study. It is likely more issues or concerns would have been collected if the meetings were better attended. Providing information such as this report and other information related to the project and the potentially impacted Métis Nation individuals will continue to foster the positive work done to date, building upon the positive relationships built by the Steering committee during this process, which will carry through the environmental assessment stage of the project.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Engagement Process

To best engage the Métis people along the Assiniboine River and Lake of the Prairies Reservoir, CIER recommends the consultant responsible for engaging Aboriginal people during the environmental assessment process retain responsibility for initiating and maintaining contact with the Aboriginal people along the Assiniboine River and Lake of the Prairies Reservoir. It is important that the same level of engagement and thoroughness be present throughout this vitally important process step.

Political entities such as the Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO) and the Manitoba Métis Federation should be informed of the next steps and be provided with the First Nations and Métis Nation reports created during the environmental scoping process. Input and support provided by SCO and MMF during the environmental scoping process was useful and appreciated and the positive working relationships developed during this process should be maintained throughout the next phases of the project.

Many Métis participants of the Environmental Scoping Study have a long-standing connection to the Assiniboine River and any changes to the river will affect them in some way. Many of the concerns and issues raised to date by the Métis Nation relate to impacts and/or potential impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights as well as economic opportunities. Any changes to the current environmental/economic/social well-being must be addressed, avoided, mitigated or remediated.

Participants identified communication as a very important element to any future work related to the Assiniboine River and Shellmouth Dam. Communication strategies outlined by the Steering Committee will need to be implemented in order to maintain and develop the level of trust and respect it has attained in the preliminary meetings.

APPENDIX A – Summary list of comments/questions/concerns

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Aboriginal Rights	<p>Is there a provision in the agreement that could see Aboriginal people have harvesting rights, because it's crown land? Aboriginal people would like to see the lawyers look at a provision for this.</p> <p>Response: A provision of that sort will be looked at, the agreements have not yet been drawn up.</p>	Portage la Prairie
	<p>Will harvesters' rights be changed?</p> <p>Response: Provincial licensers should have an idea of that.</p>	Portage la Prairie
	<p>Métis people should get compensation when our fishing and hunting rights are taken away.</p>	Winnipeg
	<p>Aboriginal rights have to be considered, respected and compensated. Why have they not been compensated before and how will you prevent this from happening? Whose standards will be used when considering damage?</p>	Winnipeg
	<p>This scoping study is especially important to Métis people right now because we're still fighting for our hunting and fishing rights.</p>	Russell
	<p>There was a group that tried to get commercial fishing rights on the reservoir but lost due to the sport fishing that was established there. They could not prove their traditional harvesting and it would have impacted the sport fishing.</p>	Yorkton
	<p>We would rather get your report right at the local level rather as well as provincially.</p>	Yorkton
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Agriculture	<p>Do those farmers plant water-hardy crops or do they still plant grain?</p> <p>Response: Historically they planted grain; some would like to continue.</p>	Portage la Prairie
	<p>The project needs to consider if haying done along the river will be affected.</p>	Portage la Prairie

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Alternatives	<p>Will putting in a hydro dam change this project at all? Response: No it would be incidental, put onto an existing part of the dam.</p> <p>Would there be other plants or smelters built on top of it if a hydro dam is built in? That has happened before. Response: No, there are no plans to build any plants or smelters on top of the dam. A small hydro turbine is being considered for the low level conduit but has not been finalized.</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p>
	<p>Could the study look at the Portage Diversion as a possible link? Response: Fishermen have suggested this in the past.</p> <p>How will the scoping study effect the project schedule? When will you be looking at socio-economic benefits if there are any? Response: An economic benefit study will be as important as an environmental assessment.</p> <p>Is there a possibility to have input into who you're hiring for environmental assessment? We've had some issues with the environmental assessments many consultants have done in the past. Using them will impact the trust you're trying to foster. They may not properly consider social impacts, because they haven't in the past. 30 years of consultants' studies have ignored Aboriginal concerns. We have good reason to be concerned that this will continue. People won't trust you, and word will get around among our people.</p> <p>How do the proposed gates compare to drop-leaf gates? Response: <i>Demonstrated</i></p> <p>In the past, the Métis have benefited from European technology as well as Aboriginal respect for the land. We know nature does damage too and we need to look for balance. We can't control everything but we can influence things. We need to present all the options. Maybe a 6 foot elevation is not the answer.</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p>

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Alternatives	<p>In the process of change we need to consider everyone who uses the river and who may use the river and add other things to the project that help the affected people increase their capacity to do other activities. That is the time for the people to negotiate with government, when government wants something. Think proactive. We need to think on how can we build in benefits for this project.</p>	Winnipeg
	<p>What is the urgency of this project? If there is no crisis and just good planning then it's a perfect opportunity to build in benefits.</p>	Winnipeg
	<p>Might you add another dam somewhere else to alleviate the pressure on this one? Response: That is a possibility to consider.</p>	Winnipeg
	<p>Consider operating the dam at different times of the year as well.</p>	Winnipeg
	<p>Consider a pipeline bringing water back upstream of the dam to Saskatchewan. Response: That has been considered before.</p>	Winnipeg
	<p>Are they putting any dams on the Shell River?</p>	Roblin
	<p>Are there any plans to dam the tributaries? Response: We're considering it.</p>	Roblin
	<p>There may be positive impacts too. We need to find a compromise.</p>	Roblin
	<p>If you put the gates on, is that all or will you work on the banks too? Response: There might be some clearing. Would 3 feet cause damage? Response: We'll look at that, and perhaps the target level will change.</p>	Roblin St. Lazare
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Climate Change	<p>With the weather changing, it makes sense to change the dam.</p>	Winnipeg
	<p>With the weather changing for example earlier snowfalls, predictions will need to allow for adjustment of the operation.</p>	Winnipeg

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Communication	<p>Are there any environmental organizations protesting or objecting to this project? What are their concerns? Response: We have met with the Boreal Forest Network and the Nature Conservancy so far. They haven't provided any concerns yet.</p> <p>This meeting was a good learning experience.</p> <p>Perhaps these meetings can start later in the evening, around 7:00 p.m. to allow people time to get here.</p> <p>Can this information be presented at our Pembina River Local meeting? Response: MMF representative would be willing to present it.</p> <p>If the project moved ahead and the environmental assessment came out in 2005, would you be approaching the Métis Nation again at that time? Response: Regardless of what decisions are made, we would be coming out to share the results.</p> <p>October to February is busy with fishing and hunting. March or April would be a good time to meet.</p> <p>You are always going to the politicians, not the people out on the land. Response: We are also meeting with other communities nearer the river.</p> <p>I prefer to be heard, to talk in a round table. Response: We'll let everyone have a say before the meeting is done.</p> <p>Should you use the word 'damage' at all?</p> <p>Isn't 'minimal damage' an oxy-moron?</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p>
	<p>Politicians tell us we do things wrong, they use fancy words. When we come to hear you, you need to speak in terms we understand. Response: We recognize language is important to our audience.</p>	Winnipeg
	<p>Your opening statement shows us you haven't considered human destruction. When you destroy something you should build in a matching benefit. Don't just ask people for their issues or concerns; ask people what benefits they think they can see. This is proactive. Don't just talk to leaders.</p>	Winnipeg

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Communication	<p>I will share this information with our local members.</p> <p>Couldn't we build a hydro dam on this project in place of the Wuskwatim project? Response: We're not looking at generating power at that scale. It's not the same kind of flow as the Wuskwatim project.</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to say my piece. This has not happened to the Métis people before. I appreciate being able to tell you what my position is and share my responsibility as an Elder. I don't want you to hurt my land or my people. We've suffered over 100 years.</p> <p>Letting people know about the dam's operation should be included in your communications. Response: We have a committee in place to let people know.</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p>
	<p>After all the meetings, will you come back to us and report on them? Response: Our report will be submitted to this committee by mid-July. What do you suggest is an appropriate communication method, besides on the website?</p> <p>We don't want it to seem that our members aren't interested in participating. The information did not reach enough people.</p> <p>Newsletters, media are very good ideas.</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Roblin</p>
	<p>There should be more literature to explain complicated things like damming levels; needing more explanation. Brochures, diagrams, big picture diagrams showing how much land may be affected.</p>	<p>Roblin</p>
	<p>We are glad you are committed to follow up. We would like copies of the report for discussion at local meetings.</p>	<p>Russell</p>
	<p>Knowing that makes us feel much better.</p>	<p>St. Lazare</p>
	<p>Would you warn us if there were a big flood? Response: Yes, that's part of the emergency plan.</p>	<p>St. Lazare</p>
	<p>You need the support of the community for a project like this to go ahead. Response: Yes.</p>	<p>St. Lazare</p>
	<p>What percentage of public support do you need? Response: <i>Outlines public consultation process.</i></p>	<p>St. Lazare</p>

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Communication	<p>It's how you present yourself that gets people to the meetings.</p> <p>We'd like CIER to be a part of the next meetings.</p>	<p>St. Lazare</p> <p>St. Lazare</p>
	<p>We've been involved in other studies originating in Manitoba. Nature knows no boundaries.</p> <p>We don't hold our local meetings in the summer because of people's schedules.</p> <p>Whose responsibility would it be to implement the emergency plans, the province or the federal government?</p> <p>We like the direction this project is taking.</p> <p>We commend you on this approach.</p> <p>We are producing a website for our local, may we link to your information website? Response: Yes.</p> <p>Are some First Nations receptive to your suggestions? Response: Some are as long as water quality is assured.</p>	<p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p>
Communication , Cultural	<p>I will share this information and get some feedback.</p> <p>The language you used in the presentation includes the word "minimum", that means something different to us that it does to you. Manitoba Hydro has used this word but it meant total destruction to us.</p> <p>The Great Spirit gave this land to us Aboriginal people to be custodians. You can't predict the maximum destruction. Manitoba Hydro told us they would flood no more than 10 feet but it still devastated us (In South Indian Lake). So we are doing the same thing as Hydro in 1974, we're just doing it in smaller doses. I'm concerned as a custodian of this earth. Response: Engineering language is sometimes necessary, we are addressing how words like 'significant' can be interpreted differently.</p>	<p>Yorkton</p> <p>Winnipeg</p>
Communication , Economic	<p>Other people to ask to these meetings is recreational fishers who use the lake for fishing derbies, or people who will bring Americans in to fish around the river. They use it even more than we do. Response: Yes they are some target groups we have been talking to.</p>	<p>St. Lazare</p>

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Dam Safety	<p>The gates would be built inside the existing gates? Do the engineers think the structure is strong enough to withstand the water pressure? Response: The gates are proposed only; they are not there now. That engineering study is yet to be done.</p> <p>Will you look at worst-case scenarios of both or all options (i.e. gated or non-gated) and will you model all these scenarios? Response: Models will be looked at including the emergency preparedness required.</p> <p>If you're adding gates rather than raising the embankment, will it be a strong enough structure? What will the gates be made out of? Response: That hasn't been determined yet.</p> <p>Might the dam start to sink in the middle if there is increased pressure? Response: All earth dams leak, they have controlled drains and other flow controls.</p> <p>People are concerned about safety when the ice shelf is high. You have to make sure the dam upgrade can even hold the water. It will increase the water pressure and put pressure on the middle of the dam. Response: Yes, the engineering study will look at that.</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Roblin</p> <p>Russell</p>
	<p>You have to consider how much pressure will be put on the Dam. The water could break through and wash everything away. Safety of the people downstream is a concern. The people downstream are more in danger than the people upstream.</p> <p>We are concerned about the safety of the dam. We don't want it to burst. Response: That is being looked at in the engineering study.</p>	<p>Russell</p> <p>St. Lazare</p>
	<p>I am concerned if the dam burst. But a safety plan is very good.</p> <p>That is the first we have ever heard of a safety plan.</p> <p>So the dam structure will be looked at first, before looking at gates and holding back water? Response: Yes, safety is the first concern.</p> <p>Dam safety is going to be very important to people.</p>	<p>St. Lazare</p> <p>St. Lazare</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p>

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Dam Safety, Water Quantity	<p>Will you look at the possibility of a major breach of the increased supply?</p> <p>Response: A breach would be much the same amount of water</p>	Portage la Prairie
Dam Safety, Economic	<p>When studying gate options, are you looking for a balance between safety and economics?</p> <p>Response: No, safety is the first priority.</p>	Portage la Prairie
Dam Safety, Communication	<p>In 1995 the doors on the north end of the dam were shaking from the pressure.</p> <p>Response: The dam was designed for a one in 1,000 year flood.</p>	St. Lazare
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Economic	<p>Do the people who farmed the land get first choice at buying the land? How much will they pay?</p> <p>Response: They will be paying less due to decreased usage.</p> <p>Do you know how much money Métis and other Aboriginal people make from fishing, commercial and sport fishing alike? If you don't know this, how can you know what the losses will be?</p> <p>Response: We'll look at this in the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Is that extra flood land to be added to the agreement?</p> <p>Response: It's already included in the take-land.</p> <p>The cottages are provincially leased. Are there buyer beware clauses in the leases?</p> <p>Response: Yes there are clauses but we still have to look at the effects of a significant change.</p> <p>They are considering an ethanol plant near Killarney. That will take a lot of water too.</p> <p>If there are any damages, we want to see compensation for it.</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Winnipeg</p>
	<p>You bought the land in this agreement? Did the landowners agree to this?</p> <p>Response: Yes, the landowners near the reservoir and upstream at the Kamsack flats agreed, no one was displaced.</p> <p>The people around Russell are very interested in community and building up businesses.</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p> <p>St. Lazare</p>

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Economic	<p>There is a lot of tourism around the dam. We depend on a lot of that tourism.</p> <p>A lot of those cottages at the dam were just built in the last 10 years; those are some pretty expensive cottages.</p> <p>It is very hard to live on commercial fishing or trapping this far south.</p> <p>So Saskatchewan hasn't put in any money into this agreement? Response: Saskatchewan derives no benefit, as water is used downstream.</p> <p>Prices for fur is fairly low and the fur quality is low in our area. That's why people need to supplement their trapping and fishing in the south.</p>	<p>St. Lazare</p> <p>St. Lazare</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p>
Economic, Alternatives	They're creating federal land up there with this agreement let's use it for hunting. That's one benefit we could see.	Winnipeg
	<p>Point to consider: Will there be any job creation out of this project? If you were to build another dam, would there be employment opportunities.</p> <p>Where is the money going to come from for this project?</p> <p>Dam maintenance is another possibility for employment opportunities.</p> <p>Maybe the industry and other large irrigators should pay for the water they use. Even a small fee. Response: There is a nominal fee for those who draw water directly from the river.</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>St. Lazare</p>
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Environmental	<p>Have you had any questions from Ducks Unlimited? Response: Not sure if they were invited to meetings with NGOs.</p> <p>How will this project affect our fishing? The content of mercury in fish could get people sick.</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Russell</p>

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Fishing	<p>If you're looking 20 to 50 years into the future we need to look out for our children. We're concerned about the fishing industry, for people's livelihood.</p> <p>There is a small commercial fishery downstream.</p> <p>I've fished at the dam once or twice.</p> <p>There are some trappers along the river. I've done some trapping. There's a lot of fishing at the Qu'Appelle River.</p> <p>Not many people hunt and fish around here nowadays.</p> <p>Point to consider: Would that improve fishing upstream?</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Russell</p> <p>Russell</p> <p>St. Lazare</p> <p>St. Lazare</p>
	<p>Fishery is a big consideration.</p> <p>When you draw down, how much water is left for the fish? Response: 20 feet.</p> <p>The fish population has changed downstream.</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p>
Fishing, Alternatives	<p>Could this project kill fish? Response: It depends on the species and time frame. It could alter populations.</p> <p>Have you considered allowing for fish passage through the dam, something like fish ladders? Response: There is currently no passage. That decision would be based on fishery interests.</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p>
Fishing, Water Quality	<p>We fish with rod and reel in the Assiniboine River but we wouldn't eat the fish. An increased flow would make this worse because of the industry on the river.</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p>
Fishing, Cultural	<p>Point to consider: Why weren't the fish allowed through? That's our livelihood. What would you say if I drowned a farmer's cows?</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p>
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Flooding	<p>Will the municipality be involved? I'm from Roseau River and flooding has affected us for the first time because of drainage ditches. Response: Yes, we've met with other groups.</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p>

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Flooding	<p>What would the 1995 flood have been like without the dam? Response: Flooding would have been approximately 25,000 cubic feet per second, or twice as high.</p> <p>If you hold back the water in the reservoir, will it affect us this far back? Response: Not likely, because impacts of the reservoir being operated at a higher level would occur at Lake of the Prairies near normal operating levels. During a flood we'd release as much as we do now.</p>	Winnipeg Yorkton
Flooding, Climate Change	<p>Sometimes the beaver dams break in the mountains and there's flooding. When there's flooding there is no haying. Are there dams broken by people? Response: Sometimes Natural Resources break the dams.</p> <p>We saw the 1995 flood. Water was over the road, St. Lazare was flooded. Dead fish were even in the streets and they had to dyke St. Lazare.</p> <p>If the dam burst, how long would it take to get to St. Lazare? Response: That would be determined. Dam Safety will be looked at no matter what happens.</p> <p>How often has the dam been flooded over and could this become more frequent due to weather change? Wouldn't this damage the embankment? Response: Water has gone over the spillway about 7 times since operation.</p>	Roblin Russell St. Lazare Winnipeg
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
General	<p>I harvest and live at the Portage Community pasture.</p> <p>Who owns that land? Response: It depends where, it is mostly provincially owned.</p> <p>So this project is all for 15% extra water storage? Response: The project is not just for increased amounts, but for usage. The capacity is actually 30% more.</p> <p>You'll never please everyone because everyone wants something different, upstream versus downstream. Response: We recognize that.</p> <p>Where is the inflow water coming from? Response: From the Assiniboine River and its tributaries.</p>	Portage la Prairie Portage la Prairie Portage la Prairie Portage la Prairie Portage la Prairie

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
General	<p>Who came up with the apportionment agreements? Response: There are accumulations allowed in each province. The Assiniboine River originates in Saskatchewan, for example.</p> <p>Is this project going to have any affect on the Portage Diversion? Response: That diversion is more affected by the Red River.</p> <p>I enjoyed this process.</p> <p>The proposed gates make sense.</p> <p>If this dam were built today, would you build it in the same place? Response: We'd probably build it closer to Russell because the rail line there is gone.</p> <p>Even with your satellite photo, mistakes can happen. Mother Nature decides.</p> <p>There are lots of creeks and smaller rivers that come into the dam. Do you have maps of those as well to see how they'll be affected? Do you have documentation of all the tributaries that flow in?</p> <p>I'd like to know how far back this clearing would be. We want to know how far back would be affected.</p> <p>My local used to go to the dam for picnics at least once or twice a month. They'd spend the whole day there, some people fish.</p> <p>Consider the cottages on the river.</p> <p>There has been a lot of development along the Assiniboine in the last 20 – 25 years.</p> <p>Is the Shellmouth dam designed the same as the Portage dam? I buy mushrooms there. Response: The Portage diversion isn't a dam, it's an in-stream diversion.</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Portage la Prairie</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Roblin</p> <p>Roblin</p> <p>Roblin</p> <p>Russell</p> <p>St. Lazare</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p>
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Operation	<p>So you predict the levels ahead of time? Can they make a mistake in those predictions?</p>	Roblin

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Operation	<p>Could they drop levels earlier in the year to keep the ice shelf down? Response: It depends on the snowfall</p> <p>Would you use the gates every year? Response: It depends on the precipitation. The gates give us more control.</p> <p>Would you use the gate only for a big flood? Response: In a big flood the gates wouldn't stop the flow.</p> <p>Always consider both upstream and downstream people when you are operating a dam. Operation controls are important.</p>	<p>Roblin</p> <p>St. Lazare</p> <p>St. Lazare</p> <p>Yorkton</p>
Operation, Wildlife	<p>What time of year to determine when you are going to raise the water? Some years you see a lot of ice very high upstream, a high ice shelf. The ice shelf makes it harder for beaver to get their food.</p>	Roblin
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Safety, Vegetation	<p>Flooding creates debris in the water through erosion and the debris causes people to drown. Are there trees on the shoreline that have to be cleared? Response: Yes.</p>	Winnipeg
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Vegetation	<p>Mushrooms can be harvested here. We still use traditional medicines, sometimes from the south but mostly from the north.</p>	Yorkton
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Water Quality	<p>What is the normal elevation of the river now, and what will it be with the gates? Response: The reservoir level would increase by up to 6 feet with the gates. Winnipeg</p> <p>How would the 6 feet elevation affect the local cottages? Response: We haven't taken a survey of the elevations yet so we don't know the impacts yet.</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p>
	<p>You should determine the avoided damages like the 1995 flood to help show the benefits of the project as well. Response: We're not intending to change the flood controls, we're looking at water supply, but we'll consider that.</p>	Winnipeg

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Water Quality	<p>We have hog barns in our area. Currently, their waste treatment is not good enough. We are concerned about water quality.</p> <p>Some people from our area are concerned about the water quality downstream of the Shellmouth Dam.</p> <p>Are Oceans & Fisheries involved? Water quality would be important to them.</p> <p>Water quality is important no matter what the quantity of it is. We have to know what will happen to the water quality.</p> <p>This water runs right through St. Lazare so it would affect them a lot. When I was young the west end of town was a slough, now there are homes there.</p> <p>You get more erosion when you have fast moving water.</p> <p>Wouldn't the hold back just affect the immediate area of the dam? Response: It will depend on the operating rules.</p> <p>If they put in these gates, will it affect the weir in Kamsack? Response: No.</p>	<p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p> <p>Yorkton</p>
	<p>In my view, as long as the quality of water is maintained, I'm okay with a project like this. Always maintain the quality of the water.</p>	<p>Yorkton</p>
	<p>The Elder told me the algae got worse after the dam, the water started to smell. Response: Farm runoff could have affected this too.</p> <p>I'm 50 feet from the Shell River so I'd need to know how high it will be.</p> <p>You would have to build a plant to clean the water.</p> <p>That's my biggest concern, the mercury. Point to consider: How soon will you know about the mercury levels?</p>	<p>Roblin</p> <p>Roblin</p> <p>Russell</p> <p>Russell</p>
Water Quality, Fishing	<p>Have there been problems due to suspended mercury in the shoreline? Response: That has been considered. Fisheries have not been shut down, but there have been consumption guidelines put in place.</p>	<p>Portage la Prairie</p>
Water Quality, Communication	<p>The land has been polluted by the manure. The people on the land should be talking to you.</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p>

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Water Quality, Communication	The fish are dying there because they have no oxygen. The government said it was an act of God, but it was the dam. We're treated like children, told 'this is how it is going to be.'	Winnipeg
Water Quantity & Quality	It would be a good thing to save more water. It's bad for people right on the reservoir. The mercury would be bad. Some of the people living on the Shell River have a septic field and that will be affected. This water is to be consumed.	Russell Roblin
Water Quality, Economic	There is a high cost to fish in all that algae. It gets caught in the motor of your boat and the motor heats up. It ruins rod and reel, too. Response: Algae growth is a function of water depth and temperature. A higher water level could potentially reduce the growth. The sewers and wells along the river have to be considered. It will be a costly project.	Roblin Russell
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Water Quantity	What risks are there for the possibility of decreased water usage? Response: There are apportionment agreements in place and we consider those. Métis cottage owners on Lake of the Prairies want higher water, so it's closer to them and more like a lake. So why the 6-foot option if you could raise it even more? Response: That is the suggested range thought to be the safest upper range, but it has not been decided. Will there be more water on the Assiniboine River on average? Response: We feel there will be more and there will also be more control over it.	Portage La Prairie Portage La Prairie Portage La Prairie Portage La Prairie
	If the reservoir were raised 6 feet, how much would that increase the flood plain? Response: Approximately 3,400 acres. You've flooded the valley that was there prior to the dam, an existing flood plain. Might the 1995 flood have naturally occurred anyway? Response: Yes, flooding would have occurred both upstream and downstream.	Portage La Prairie Portage La Prairie

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Water Quantity	<p>What is the current reservoir capacity and what will the capacity be if the level is raised 6 feet? Response: The current capacity is 14,000 acres; it would have a capacity of 15,500 acres.</p>	Portage La Prairie
	<p>Is irrigation monitored right now? Say if I had a wheat field and I wanted to increase my usage, how would I do that? Response: Use is licensed and consumption data is now required.</p> <p>They used to have hoses running straight to the field from the river.</p> <p>What would the normal flow of the Assiniboine River be, naturally? Response: 1000-1500 cubic feet per second.</p> <p>Will the road get higher up if they build up the dam? Response: No, we will adjust the works.</p> <p>Is it possible that downstream activity is changing the water flow? Response: It's the timing that is affecting things.</p> <p>It is important to seriously consider future demand.</p> <p>How often is the water level measured? Response: We have automatic gauges remotely operated.</p> <p>The Assiniboine River is very low. I feel it should be higher.</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Winnipeg</p>
	<p>Use a pipeline for the water, pump it back into Saskatchewan.</p> <p>How would this affect the Shell River, how much higher would the water be downstream? Response: The water would be 6 feet higher at the reservoir.</p> <p>Point to consider: Would the raise go as far as the Seven Foot Falls?</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p> <p>Roblin</p> <p>Roblin</p>
Water Quantity	<p>My neighbour's field flooded this spring after he seeded. Even a foot higher is scary.</p> <p>Aren't we getting more runoff since Louisiana Pacific is logging Duck Mountain? Swan River, Red River valley is getting more runoff. That goes into the Shell River. Response: That will be considered in the study.</p> <p>The Shell River was higher this year, we thought that could partly be runoff.</p>	<p>Roblin</p> <p>Roblin</p> <p>Roblin</p>

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Water Quantity	<p>Point to consider: If you raise everything 6 feet, how much farther back is going to see that raised level?</p> <p>It will affect bridges like PTH5, the “Old 83” bridge.</p> <p>The algae levels are bad in the summer already. I was told by an Elder that this was not expected. We can't even fish after June because of the algae. The algae is thick and the water is green all the way back to Kamsack.</p> <p>The spillway gates are a big issue for the people farther back from the dam.</p> <p>Before the dam, when I was young I went down to the river and it was just a creek in some places.</p> <p>A lot of cottages will be under water if you raise the level.</p> <p>I heard there is a lot of mercury in the fish at the dam. If the mercury is high in the fish the people will get sick.</p> <p>It's like pig barns. They were in the States and they ruined the land and now they're moving to Canada. This is the kind of thing you have to consider ahead of time.</p> <p>How far back does the reservoir go from the Shellmouth Dam? Response: Back to Kamsack.</p> <p>Two years ago the water level was drawn down too low and it affected everything.</p> <p>If they raise the level 6 feet, what would be damaged? Response: We'll be studying that using satellite mapping and surveys.</p> <p>Does the flow take away the reservoir shoreline? Response: That's from wave action, not the flow.</p>	<p>Roblin</p> <p>Roblin</p> <p>Roblin</p> <p>Russell</p> <p>Russell</p> <p>Russell</p> <p>Russell</p> <p>Russell</p> <p>St. Lazare</p> <p>St. Lazare</p> <p>St. Lazare</p> <p>St. Lazare</p>
Water Quantity, Alternatives	<p>Will you study how much the population can actually use the extra capacity in the future? Response: Yes, we'll study long-range use.</p>	<p>Portage La Prairie</p>
Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Wildlife	<p>Points to consider: Would the elevation have any effect on wildlife? If it floods a marshland it will destroy a duck's habitat. Do you know where the marshes are?</p>	<p>Winnipeg</p>

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Wildlife	We catch rabbits in the willows around the river. Ducks live there too. The water went up a bit this spring but it went down right away. The water levels affect us even when the water rises a foot.	Roblin
	A lot of Métis hunt beavers in the spring. Response: We are studying the levels the water will rise.	Roblin
	I'm concerned about the wildlife. The Métis hunt beaver and if they're flooded they have to go somewhere.	Roblin
	We hunt ducks and geese in the spring.	Roblin
	Geese have been coming to the river a lot the past few years; they rest on the Shell River. Water levels would affect them; we do hunt geese a bit for food.	Roblin
	We hunt the ducks until they nest, too. Greenheads only, not females.	Roblin
	Wildlife presence is cyclical.	Yorkton
	You don't get as much trapping on such a big river. I think that's why there isn't much happening.	Yorkton

APPENDIX B – Participant List

June 10, 2004 5:00 pm Portage la Prairie, MB Meeting

Dan Benoit, MMF	Doug Peterson
Louis Lavallee, St. Marks Local	Jim Smithson
Rhonda Lavallee, St. Marks Local	Pat McGarry
Bertha Boute, Pembina River Local	
	Michael Pierre
Tony Kettler	Trina Flett

June 11, 2004 12:00 pm Winnipeg, MB Meeting

Dan Benoit, MMF	Senator Head, (Elder)
Donna Ranville, Winnipeg North Local	
Cecil Spence (Elder), Keenleyside Local	Tony Kettler
Jason Edgerton, Winnipeg	Doug Peterson
Sasha Marshal, Winnipeg	Jim Smithson
Grant Anderson, Beaverbrook Local	
David Dandeneau, Elzear-Goulet Local	
Paul Desrosiers, Winnipeg	Michael Pierre
Brian Cyr, Winnipeg	Trina Flett
Amanda Rozyk, Winnipeg	

June 11, 2004 5:00 pm Winnipeg, MB Meeting

Dan Benoit, MMF
Brenda Chartrand, Dumont Local
Kathy Frisk, Dumont Local

Tony Kettler
Doug Peterson
Jim Smithson
Pat McGarrity

Michael Pierre
Trina Flett

June 23, 2004 5:00 pm Roblin, MB meeting

Dan Benoit, MMF	Lenese Paul, Roblin Local
Harold Dixon, San Clara/Boggy Creek Local	Rene Martin, Roblin Local
Terri Henry, San Clara/Boggy Creek Local	Louie Branconnier, San Clara/Boggy Creek
Trevor Martin, San Clara/Boggy Local	Alice Branconnier, San Clara/Boggy Creek
Dawn Martin, San Clara/Boggy Creek Local	Tony Kettler
Lionel Bouvier , San Clara/Boggy Creek Local	Doug Peterson
Fred Paul, San Clara/Boggy Creek Local	Jim Smithson
Mabel Vermeylen, Roblin Local	Pat McGarry
Charles Vermeylen, Roblin Local	Michael Pierre
	Trina Flett

June 24, 2004 5:00 pm Russell, MB meeting

Dan Benoit, MMF	Tony Kettler
Marie Bauers, Snake Creek Local	Doug Peterson
Georgina Belhumeur, Snake Creek Local	Jim Smithson
Laurence Belhumeur, Snake Creek Local	Michael Pierre
	Trina Flett

June 25, 2004 5:00 pm St. Lazare, MB meeting

Dan Benoit, MMF	Tony Kettler
Richard Leclair, St. Lazare Local	Doug Peterson
Dina Haney, St. Lazare Local	Jim Smithson
Yvonne Leclair, St. Lazare Local	Michael Pierre
Therese Leclair, St. Lazare Local	Trina Flett
Bev Belhumeur, St. Lazare Local	
Arthur Belhumeur, St. Lazare Local	
Alma Belhumeur, St. Lazare Local	

July, 9 2004 4:00 pm Yorkton, SK meeting

Helen Johnson, Archerwill Local	
Viola Bell, Sturgis Local	
Michael Pierre	Tony Kettler
Trina Flett	

APPENDIX C - June 8, 2004 5:00 pm Brandon, MB. Meeting Summary Notes

PFRA Participants:

Tony Kettler
Doug Peterson
Jim Smithson
Pat McGarry

Métis Participant:

Dan Benoit, MMF
CIER Participants:
Michael Pierre
Trina Flett

None of the anticipated local participants attended. Dan Benoit outlined MMF's process of engagement thus far. In all correspondence, MMF has highlighted their appreciation of the Métis Nation being included this early in the project. This correspondence has included letters and phone calls to locals, as well as an article in last week's Grassroots News.

A concern was raised that providing mileage compensation would be helpful for participants, and that this should be considered for the formal environmental assessment process.

A discussion ensued regarding section 35 issues as they relate to Métis. Examples referred to included Wuskwatim, Taku River & Haida Nation Supreme Court case, and Powley decision. The Steering Committee found the discussion very informative. Dan helped clarify how Métis status is determined as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

CIER asked Dan if he felt participants did not attend out of protest regarding the mileage. Dan did not feel this was the case and assured the committee that all measures were taken to ensure participation. He agreed that it was in the Métis' best interest to participate and he would seek the MMF leadership's assistance in making sure this happens in future meetings.

APPENDIX D- One-paged Métis Nation-Shellmouth Dam Information Sheet**Canada - Manitoba Shellmouth Dam Consolidation Agreement
Entente de consolidation Canada - Manitoba sur le barrage Shellmouth****What is the Canada - Manitoba Shellmouth Dam Consolidation Agreement?**

The Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba plan to address anticipated future water supply concerns along the Assiniboine River by upgrading the Shellmouth Dam to allow for retention of larger volumes of water in Lake of the Prairies.

The proposed Shellmouth Dam upgrading is one of four initiatives under the Canada - Manitoba Shellmouth Dam Consolidation Agreement. The other three initiatives are compensation for past damages to upstream farmers, additional upstream land control, and study of downstream impacts due to reservoir operations.

Why are we Contacting the Métis Nation?

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Manitoba Water Stewardship want input from Métis Nation, First Nations and the public before the project is defined. The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) has been hired to facilitate meetings with Métis individuals who believe they may be affected by proposed upgrades to Shellmouth Dam. These meetings are not formal consultations but a chance for interested Métis communities to share potential issues and concerns about this new project.

How Will the Information Discussed in the Meeting be Used?

The issues and concerns that are raised during the meetings will be used by PFRA and Manitoba Water Stewardship to guide the engineering and environmental assessment (EA) processes. When the project is defined and the EA begins, there will be further discussions with Métis Nation, First Nations and the public to discuss potential impacts.

Who Can Tell Me More About the Proposed Upgrades to Shellmouth Dam?

Tony Kettler of PFRA Manitoba Region is the Project Manager. Tony can be reached at (204) 983-3627. Mike Pierre of CIER is facilitating the Metis meetings. Mike can be reached at (204) 956-0660 ext. 226.

APPENDIX E – Copy of Métis Nation-Shellmouth Dam Invitation Letter

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION INC.



300 – 150 Henry Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 0J7

Phone: (204) 586-8474
Fax: (204) 947-1816
Website: www.mmf.mb.ca

Natural Resources

May 11, 2004

Vice President Leah La Plante
MMF Southwest Regional Office
656-6th Street
Brandon, Manitoba
R7A 3P1

Re: MMF Participation in the Shellmouth Dam Environmental Assessment Process

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration of Agriculture Canada (PFRA) is proposing to upgrade the Shellmouth Dam at Lake of the Prairies on the Assiniboine River. The upgrade would potentially raise the lake level by approximately six feet. This upgrade and increased water storage would allow better flood control and more consistent water availability for downstream municipal, agricultural and industrial usages. The proposed project would require an environmental assessment in order to get federal and provincial licensing approvals.

It is because of this environmental assessment process that the MMF has been approached by PFRA to hear the Metis Nation's concerns and views on the proposed project. In a letter dated April 23, 2004 to the PFRA, VP Bill Flett, Environment Chair stated:

I am pleased to hear that the Shellmouth Dam Project Steering Committee has recognized the representative role of the MMF and its desire to utilize the Metis self-governance structure of MMF Regions and Locals to engage and consult the Metis Nation in Manitoba about this proposed project.

In light of this recognition, the MMF and PFRA propose a series of one-day Guidelines Scoping Workshops to be held the week of June 7-11 and June 21-25 in eight communities along the Assiniboine River Valley. The purpose of these workshops is to

help the Project Steering Committee draft project guidelines to ensure the environmental impact assessment studies the concerns of the Metis Nation.

This letter is intended to illicit the help of the MMF Regional executive in contacting those Locals along the Assiniboine River Project area, and encouraging the Locals to identify one Local executive and one Elder to attend the closest Guidelines Scoping Workshop outlined below. It is hoped that regional executive and others they appoint, will attend the workshops planned for their region. These workshops will be held in the following locations:

Monday June 7, 2004 Virden

Tuesday June 8, 2004 Brandon

Thursday June 10, 2004 Portage

Friday June 11, 2004 Winnipeg

Tuesday June 22, 2004 Kamsack

Wednesday June 23, 2004 Roblin

Thursday June 24, 2004 Russell

Friday June 25, 2004 St. Lazare

If you have any questions please contact either myself or Dan Benoit at the MMF at 586-8474 ext. 213. Mr. Benoit or myself will be in contact with you shortly to offer help in identifying Local representatives and Elders in the project region, and assisting in their attendance at one of these eight workshops.

Thank you,

Bill Flett
MMF VP Interlake Region
MMF Environment Chair

CC: President David Chartrand
Darryl Deslauriers, Natural Resources Chair
John Fleury, Southwest Executive
Rita Cullen, Southwest Executive