

SUMMARY REPORT

MINNEDOSA FISH ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE - LITTLE SASKATCHEWAN RIVER RIFFLE CONSTRUCTION (CLIENT FILE: 4101.00)

Overview:

A Proposal has been filed by the Minnedosa Fish Enhancement Committee for the construction of four fieldstone riffle structures in the Little Saskatchewan River in N 3-15-18W. This location is immediately west of PTH 10 and is approximately 1 km west of Minnedosa. The structures would each be 0.5 m in height and are intended to stabilize the riverbank and improve fish spawning and nursery habitat in the affected reach of the river. Construction is planned in the late summer or fall of 1996.

Comments and concerns were requested by January 31, 1996.

The proposal was advertised in the Minnedosa Tribune on Tuesday, January 2, 1996. As a result of the public notice and the information circulation to TAC, several responses were received from government departments. There was one response from a member of the public.

Public Objections:

Wes Burton - (Owner of adjacent property since September, 1995) The description and information in the proposal is vague. How much downstream sediment would be created by disturbing the riverbed? There are no exact design details provided. If previous designs are OK then what studies if any show how they have performed? Before public monies are spent or approvals are rubber stamped, the worth of this type of project should be assessed.

Comments From TAC:

Manitoba Environment (Park-West Region) - Same conditions as in Licence No. 2031 (File: 3984.00): used oil products and other regulated hazardous wastes should be collected and disposed of in accordance with the Department's recommendations and legislation requirements. Fuel storage areas should be located a minimum distance of 100 m from any waterbody and comply with MR 97/88R.

Manitoba Environment (Water Quality Management) - No long term detrimental impacts on water quality. Some suspension of fine stream bed materials will probably occur during construction, but this will only be temporary. The riffles are considered to be beneficial in helping to reduce flow velocities and future erosion, as well as providing habitat for fish and aquatic life. Provisions should be made for the operator to report and clean up any fuel spills during construction.

Historic Resources - No concerns.

Mines Branch - No concerns.

Highway Planning and Design - The riffles pond water upstream and during large runoff events sheets of ice from these pools are swept downstream by the current. These ice pans are capable of exerting enough force to seriously damage downstream structures. The Department's bridge on PTH 10 has concrete piers and may not be seriously affected, but it may be worthwhile to inform the proponents of possible damages to downstream structures resulting from this type of project.

Community Economic Development - No concerns.

Medical Officer of Health (Westman) - As the river may be a potential source of water for domestic use

through dugout filling or well recharge adjacent to the river, please minimize the risk of contamination by fuel or chemical spills during construction. Please ensure appropriate waste disposal as per existing regulations. Dust, noise, gaseous and particulate emissions may be a concern.

Natural Resources - No concerns which would limit approval.

Fisheries and Oceans - The project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat. The works will have a number of positive impacts including improved riparian habitat, stabilized stream bed and banks, enhanced or restored spawning habitat and improved water quality. The following mitigation measures are recommended to control erosion and sediment runoff from the construction sites:

- i. No instream construction between April 1 and June 15. Minimize the duration of instream works during construction, and halt construction during heavy precipitation events.
- ii. Where clearing of streambank vegetation is necessary for construction access, the location and width of access lanes should be designated in advance by the project manager. The extent of clearing should be minimized and erosion control measures should be implemented as soon as possible.
- iii. Streamside watering sites for cattle should be constructed with a minimum slope of 6:1 and the access area should be stabilized with filter cloth or other suitable material covered with clean pit-run gravel to a depth sufficient to resist erosion.
- iv. Refuelling and servicing of construction equipment should be conducted at least 100 m away from water courses and appropriate precautions should be taken to ensure that deleterious substances do not enter water courses.

Canadian Coast Guard - The Little Saskatchewan River at this location is navigable by canoe and small row boat. Construction of the riffles will enhance the waterway for local boaters. Some method must be provided in the structure to allow the small boat traffic to free transit in this portion of the river.

Discussion:

There are no concerns over this proposal which would require a public hearing. The suggestions of the Park-West Region, Water Quality Management, Health and Fisheries and Oceans can be incorporated as Licence conditions. The comments of Highway Planning and Design will be brought to the attention of the Applicant, along with the public comments. The request of the Canadian Coast Guard that provision be made for navigation in the design of the riffles has already be accommodated by providing for a shallow V crest. This design concentrates flows and extends the navigable period on the river. This crest configuration also readily accommodates the portaging of small boats under a variety of flow conditions.

With respect to the public concerns, the member of the public who commented on the Proposal was contacted and his concerns were discussed. He is satisfied with the proposed construction techniques and with the amount of experience acquired with these structures elsewhere.

Recommendation:

As all comments and concerns regarding the Proposal have been addressed or can be addressed through Licence conditions, it is recommended that the Development be Licenced under The Environment Act subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described on the attached Draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Park-West Region.

Prepared by:

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February 5, 1996