


Webb, Bruce (CWS)

From: Mark Seftor
Sent: January-13-16 8:30 PM
To: Webb, Bruce (CWS) 
Subject: Sandy Lake Water Level Control Project - File: 5804.00

Hello Bruce

I am a cottage owner at Sandy Lake, at

I am writing today to express my enthusiastic support for the water level control project.

We built our cottage in 1993. Since then we have seen some major fluctuations in water level. While it was disappointing to see the water level decline for a number of years in the 1990's, it is the high water events this decade that are more concerning. There were times when the water was within 10 metres of our cottage.

During the high water events, we lost over two dozen trees, a blend of spruce, birch and poplar. Having to fell these trees after they died was very disappointing. Of greater concern, was that so much lawn, and a wild flower garden were also destroyed by the high water. The decay of this material, I believe, also added to the nutrient load in the lake. We have had algae blooms in the past several years that we had not seen previously. I do not think this is simple coincidence.

My family first started going to Sandy Lake in 1976 when my parents build a cabin there. At that time, the lake level seemed to be controlled, from a high-water perspective, by the natural outlet on the Misanchuk property. Once that natural outlet was allowed to be filled in, it was only a matter of time before we would experience problems.

The fact that the long-established main dock was submerged for long periods of time should confirm that the high-water events were not common.

~~I realize that there are some who are opposed to this project. I believe it is safe to say~~ that few, if any, of those opposed have experienced problems on their property because of the high water. In past years there were members of the community who claimed that they saw water levels in the lake decline overnight because of the irrigation on the golf course. As a water resources person, you know that this is an impossibility. It is illustrative, however, of the lack of understanding that can exist. I have heard concerns raised that this water control project will drain the lake. Many do not understand the principle of the gated outlet.

I am very relieved that this project is in the final approval stages. I am disappointed, however, that it has taken this long to get to this stage. If this project had progressed more expeditiously, at least one high water event could have been averted.

In conclusion, I am in full support of this project and would like it to proceed as soon as possible. If you have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to contact me at the numbers shown below.

Thank you.

Mark Sefton

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Mark Sefton

Brandon, MB
Canada

Webb, Bruce (CWS)

From:
Sent: January-13-16 10:26 PM
To: Webb, Bruce (CWS) BW
Subject: Sandy Lake Drainage

I am responding to your Notice of Environment Proposal re Sandy Lake. I own my cottage at [redacted]. I have definitely been affected by the high waters over the past 7 years with absolutely no help by anyone. The water was past my front deck, all insulation under cabin in 8 year old crawl space had to be replaced after 2 years. I have been coming to this cabin as my grandparents use to own the property for over 50 years. I've never witnessed such a " [redacted] " as this high water trouble. No one spoke with us, contacted us, gave us any information. In fact I got only ignorance by Mr Davies as he told me " It's just a cabin". How dare him!!! I'm totally FOR this system being done. I'm also saddened at the way this is being handled...I guess if you don't get the Mountain Press than no other forms of contacting those who were at risk most would have known. Thank god for good neighbors who told me. Shame on whomever for this callous action for such an important issue! I hope you hear those affected & let everyone who lives on the lake in summer which is about 90% & extend this knowledge to them properly.

Sincerely,
Ricki Marie Woods

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

January 07,2016

Conservation and Water Stewardship

Attention: Bruce Webb *BW*

I am writing this letter to voice my concerns regarding The Notice of Environment Act Proposal notification posted in the Brandon Sun on Saturday December 12/2015 put forth by G.D. Newton on behalf of the Municipality of Harrison Park.

Municipality of Harrison Park - Sandy Lake Water Level Control Project - File 5804-00

Mr Webb,

I have had the pleasure of being a seasonal resident at Sandy lake all of my life and have seen the various cycles of both the lake and the community over the past four decades.

I have seen the above mentioned proposal and to be honest I do not have the knowledge or background to determine if it is a good or bad proposal. What I do know is that the lake has many cycles. These cycles include water level, algae bloom, vegetation blooms, fish population, fish species, and also usage cycles.

Currently many of the cycles appear to be at their high points. As a recreational user there is some good and some bad that comes as a result.

Positives of high cycles include great fishing. Currently the fishing for Walleye and Northern pike is great however the yellow perch population has gone from extreme abundance in the 70's an 80's to virtually non-existent now. The higher water levels have made for a safer boating environment. Underwater obstructions from rocks and sandbars that impeded boating in certain areas are no longer a concern as water levels give a safe freeboard to operate anywhere on the lake. The higher water levels have flooded the channel from Sandy to Little Sandy and made passage between the two bodies of water safe and easy so in essence the area of usable lake has increased.

The down side of some of the high cycles is activity on the lake is by far the highest it has ever been. The addition of new campgrounds and camping capacity coupled with a high occupancy rate at cottages on the lake has seen a huge upswing in boating and fishing activity.

Sandy Lake has also experienced a steep increase in algae bloom and concentration over the last ten years. The water quality on a whole has been on a rapid decline.

In the low water cycle years such as the ones we had in the 90's the pros and cons flip flop but the concerns about water level don't go away. In fact the low water of the 90's meant a significant drop in usage and Sandy Lake economy suffered as a result. The same RM asking to drain lake now was pushing to have the golf course fined for drawing water from the lake.

So what I wish to demonstrate in this letter is that water cycles appear to be a natural part of Sandy Lake.

As a laker I wish nothing but the best for Sandy Lake so before the digging starts please be sure that the needs of the lake are being best met and that this is not a knee jerk reaction by the RM to satisfy a few cottage owners that didn't do their diligence before building. A quick observation of the land where the flooded cabins are located would tell most that they should elevate there buildings to reduce risk of flooding.

I would suggest that if this project is in the best interest of the lake then an environmental study of the lake be initiated and proper data be the motivator for change if required.

Quality not quantity of water should be the focus of the study and spin off projects that improve water quality should be the result.

Some easy first steps and targets should be the elimination of outhouses within the lakes natural drainage basin. I would also like to see restrictions on the proximity of cattle to the lake and a ban on the application of fertilizers within the natural drainage basin of the lake.

I am not sure if the damage to water quality is reversible but should be the focus of any activity or project work performed on Sandy Lake.

Thank you for allowing the communication of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Chris Miller

(Sandy Lake Manitoba)

Esterhazy Sk :



Keeseekoowenin Ojibway Nation

Treaty No. 2 - The Riding Mountain Band

P.O. Box 100, Elphinstone, Manitoba R0J 0N0 Phone: (204) 625-2004 Fax: (204) 625-5317

CHIEF: Norman Bone COUNCIL: Barry Bone - Barb Anchtuk - Don Shorting - Marj Blackbird

Bruce Webb *BLW*
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Environmental Stewardship Division
Environmental Approvals Branch
123 Main Street, Suite 160
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A5

March 7, 2016

Re: Municipality of Harrison Park – Sandy Lake Water Level Control Project
Client File No. 5804.00

Attention Mr. Webb:

In reference to the proposed Municipality of Harrison Park – Sandy Lake Water Level Control Project, which would allow water drainage from Sandy Lake, Beaufort Lake and Thomas Lake into the Little Saskatchewan River which flows through the Keeseekoowenin First Nation. Be informed this is a major concern as we the Keeseekoowenin First Nation have never been consulted at any time by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship or Harrison Municipality for input in such a major project that would drastically affect the livelihood of the Keeseekoowenin First Nation. According to the Supreme Court of Canada it states; it is the government's duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal peoples has been recognized by Canadian courts as a means to reconcile the relationship between the Crown and Aboriginal peoples. This is because the duty to consult and accommodate requires government authorities to create opportunities for participation and input from Aboriginal peoples impacted by proposed decisions.

The Keeseekoowenin First Nation is concerned that pollutants and associated fertilizers transported downstream from surrounding farmlands will contribute to poor water and soil quality. Also the impacts caused by the water levels would drastically affect fisheries and aquatic life within the watercourse routes.

Keeseekoowenin First Nation has already encountered high water level conditions which has caused problems with culvert and road washouts over the past three years. This has caused major safety concerns in student transportation and the overall safety of residents due to limited access for emergency vehicles.

The high water levels has had many impacts on the Keeseekoowenin First Nation, such as deteriorating road conditions which has contributed to extra costs related to busses, vehicles and road repairs. Infrastructure has also been affected by the flooding with additional major expenses. In other circumstances such as beaver dams, be advised that Keeseekoowenin First Nation will not accept any costs or responsibility for cleaning the watercourse discharge routes and maintaining water flow. The flooding continues to have significant impacts and undue hardships on the Keeseekoowenin First Nation.



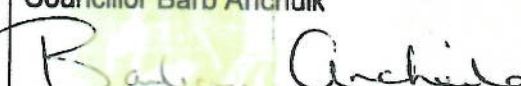
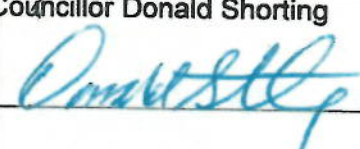
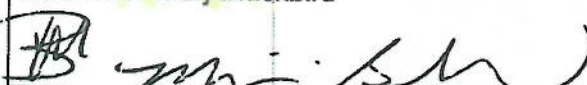


The Chief and Council of the Keeseekoowenin First Nation awaits a positive response to ensure proper water outflow rates from Sandy Lake, Beaufort Lake and Thomas Lake do not exceed the capacity of the drainage route. The Keeseekoowenin First Nation has major concerns with the water level control project, therefore we request that our interests are protected and we are kept informed about the proposed plan for the Water Level Control Project.

Attached are 6 photographs of the flooding on the Keeseekoowenin First Nation, noted as Appendix A.

In closing, should you require further information please do not hesitate to call 1-204-625-2004.

Sincerely,

Chief Norman Bone 	Councillor Barry Bone 
Councillor Barb Anchuik 	Councillor Donald Shorting 
Councillor Marj Blackbird 	

Cc.

Gianni (John) de Francesco
Regional Director General
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Councillors
RM of Harrison

Councillors
RM of Yellowhead

APPENDIX A

Southwest Section 27, Within Township 18, Range 21, W. Pr. MER.



Southwest Section 27, Within Township 18, Range 21, W. Pr. MER.



Southeast Section 15, Within Township 18, Range 21, W. Pr. MER.



Southeast Section 15, Within Township 18, Range 21, W. Pr. MER.



Following photos are from Southwest Section 27, Within Township 18, Range 21, W. Pr. MER.

