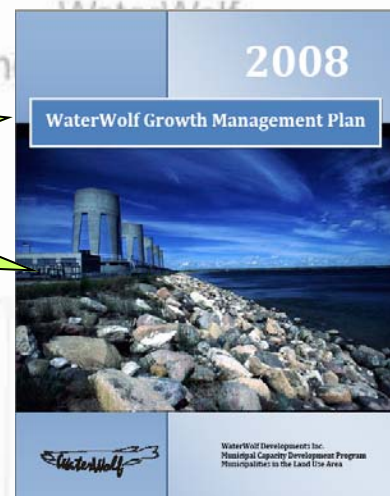


CONGRATULATIONS TO MARK ZDUNICH (KENASTON) AND KEITH HAMPTON (CENTRAL BUTTE) WHO WERE THE WINNERS OF OUR TEMPLE GARDENS MINERAL SPA PACKAGES! A TOTAL OF 172 BALLOTS WERE ENTERED!



If you still have concerns or input you would like to provide, contact your local Rural or Urban Municipality.

For more information or clarification, contact Russ or Denise at 1-888-929-9990.

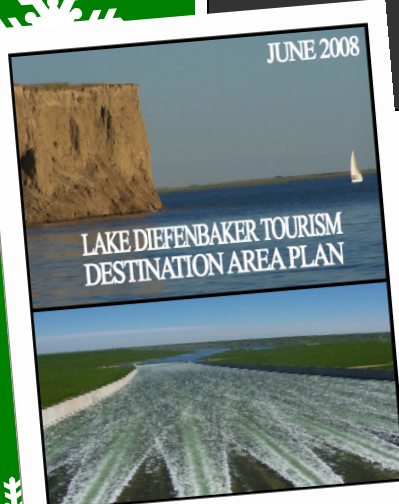
For updates on the unfolding planning process go to www.waterwolf.org

January 8, 2009 is the next WaterWolf Planning Workshop in Outlook at the Legion Hall. Look for a report from our WaterWolf Governance Committee made up of: Dave Cross (Village of Elbow), Yvonne Arntsen (RM of Fertile Valley), M.L. Whittles (WaterWolf Vice-Chair), Edna Laturus (RM of Canaan & Village of Lucky Lake), Nick Patkau (RM of Rosedale), Donald Shirliff (RM of Victory), Darice Carlson (Village of Glenside), Trent Michelman (RM of Rudy & Town of Outlook) and Harvey Pippin (RM of Vanscoy).

During the months of October and November, I attended the WaterWolf Open Houses. From my perspective as Project Manager for the Lake Diefenbaker Tourism Destination Area Plan, they were extremely positive. Some of the most engaging Open Houses included those communities where the general public, including ranchers and tourism operators, attended and provided input. I felt that those who attended the Open Houses left with a clear understanding of the Tourism Plan and how it fits within an overall Growth Management Plan. As for me, I left with a more in-depth understanding of resource management issues, and input from a diverse mix of industry stakeholders that are ready to work with me on implementation of the Tourism Plan.

You can find a copy of the Lake Diefenbaker Tourism Destination Area Plan on the www.waterwolf.org site! Check it out!

Sylvia Waterer



Russ McPherson
Project Manager
russmcperson@midsask.ca
306-867-9557



Denise Stroeder
GIS Technician
denise@midsask.ca
306-867-9580

What's Happening?

WaterWolf

NOVEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

... a message from the Project Manager

The WaterWolf Growth Management Plan has been in the hands of ratepayers and the general public since July 1, 2008; with the process beginning over 2 years ago. Sixteen rural municipalities and the urban municipalities they encompass have been examining the draft plan from their own perspective. The Open Houses throughout the region, with our planners and WaterWolf staff on hand, offered the opportunity for input and clarification. It is now time for the next steps.

Our planners have been reviewing input from all sources, and are now moving to revise the draft plan to reflect changes and suggestions. One of the goals of the planning group has been to move toward a more formal regional partnership that will create a regional table to continue the planning process, and potentially provide other needed regional services. To that end, a sub-committee of the planning group will begin to examine governance models that fit our region's needs, and make recommendations back to the full planning group. Funding for the initiative over the last three years has come from Western Economic Diversification and the Rural Secretariat, and it is now time for the municipalities to take ownership of the initiative.

Recommendations of the governance group will be at the regional table by early January for their review and comments. The aim will be to reach consensus on both governance and funding early in the new year, so that the planning region becomes a permanent part of the regional landscape. The Lake Diefenbaker Tourism Destination Area Plan has shown the kind of synergies that regional focus and co-operation can achieve, and it has grown out of the regional planning initiative. For information, to share concerns, or just to chat about the initiative, please visit www.waterwolf.org for contact information.

Russ McPherson
Project Manager

Published by: WaterWolf
420 Saskatchewan Ave W
P.O. Box 176, Outlook, SK, S0L 2N0
1-306-867-9566 OR 1-888-929-9990

www.waterwolf.org
info@waterwolf.org

After 7 Open Houses, 1122 km, 35 hours, & 250 people later....

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

- There is general interest throughout the entire region for Light Industrial development
- There is concern about the lack of accommodation and adequate conference facilities throughout the region
- People are quite passionate about Nuclear Energy, pro or con, although the vast majority are in favour. There was also support for wind and solar power generation throughout the region
- More recreational facilities are required throughout the whole region, i.e. Marinas, campgrounds, boat launches, etc.
- Eco-tourism and back country outfitting were themes that emerged, especially in the southern part of the WaterWolf region
- Most felt that the river and the lake should be developed
- The built features in order of importance are Gardiner Dam, Lake Diefenbaker, SkyTrail and the Marina at Elbow. After that Highway #11, Railway, etc
- The natural features in order of importance are the South Saskatchewan River, open spaces, and valleys were topping the list
- Based on designation of special areas, there is a high degree of interest in zoning
- Separation of the South Saskatchewan River & Lake Diefenbaker with Intensive Livestock Operations was deemed to be more than 3 miles, but the vast majority indicated they would like to see ILO's greater than 3 miles from water
- Intensive Livestock Operations, followed by Nuclear Development, then by Hutterite Colonies and finally indiscriminate development, rounds out the "Top 4" things that people do not want to see developed in the area
- There was good reception to the Open House Process and also a request for more communication prior to Open Houses
-
- "Communication between the planners and the public is crucial" - Dundurn Open House
- "...In Alberta only millionaires have access to shoreline property, we do not want to go that route..." - Loreburn Open House
- "Encourage passive solar design building, aim for sustainability." - Delisle Open House
- "I appreciate how hard it is to balance the lifestyle we currently enjoy with the need for development to survive." - Demaine Open House
- "I would like to see more camping areas, at the present there is not nearly enough." - Riverhurst Open House
- "We need to see more Recreational Housing sites on Lake Diefenbaker and along the South Saskatchewan River" - Bladworth Open House
- "When a larger group is present maybe a verbal presentation along with your research work would help." - Conquest Open House



The Municipal Capacity Development Program is pleased to have had the opportunity to assist the municipalities of WaterWolf and the Mid Sask REDA to further their working relationship and plan for the future of their larger community. We hope that WaterWolf continues on as a model of success for other inter municipal groups with similar interests in sustainability. We look forward to the next steps!

Shelley Kilbride
Municipal Capacity Development Program

The Open Houses were intended to raise awareness as to:

- the variety of land uses within the WaterWolf region
- the development opportunities which may come, or may need encouragement, by means of a Growth Management Plan.

The large map was a great communication piece to show where, and what is the WaterWolf District, and that it is voluntary. Many questioned as to "why" this area, and how it came to be.

There were many community members who said they supported land use planning, to give some predictability to some areas, including identifying areas for Intensive Livestock Operations and residential subdivisions, i.e.. close to water lines.

We highlighted that the Land Use Concept Plan identifies Potentials, not Zones.

Other questions raised included:

- Where do developers go to get the information they need?
- How do we keep involved and informed as community members?

Karen Thogersen

The WaterWolf Project is one of the most unique and surprising projects of my thirty year urban and regional planning career. It is a planning and development project for the members and by the members. As such, comments and critiques of the draft product (and future revisions) are essential. Our job as planners from the Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP) has been to guide, but not to direct the plan. In the end, the WaterWolf Project will be what the local municipalities want and will include those municipalities who deem it worthwhile and relevant to their future planning and economic development needs.

Who knew that the original seven rural municipalities might expand to include over forty urban and rural municipalities in a proposed regional planning district – a planning district with one third the area of the Kingdom of Belgium and a planning population of over 18,000 people! I emphasize "proposed", as the final form and agenda of WaterWolf is being directed by the local member municipalities. Who knew that farmers, ranchers, cottagers, First Nations and townfolk would take such an active role in mapping out THEIR general plan for future planning and development in the region.

The Open Houses this Fall have been part of this process. People attending my sessions were candid and generally positive with the draft results – some changes, corrections and adjustments were made based on better local knowledge and local preferences. More importantly, people were beginning to talk about the future in a more constructive manner. However, I would hope more people in the WaterWolf District will offer us comments, suggestions and directions. Local input and direction is what is required to ensure the final product best reflects the requirements of the needs of current generation and the dreams of future generations in the WaterWolf District.

Dwight Mercer

