



## WaterWolf Planning Workshop

Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Outlook Legion Hall

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### 1. Introductions

### 2. Waste Disposal Presentation

- Craig Miller – Millar's Waste Disposal Services

*"My name is Craig Miller, my wife Monique and I own and operate Miller's Disposal Services; a company that handles liquid and dry waste materials servicing the Lake Diefenbaker Region for the last 15 years. The disposal industry is going through major changes; watching what is going on in the Northern USA, we can be sure that the changes will eventually make its way up here.*

*Potable Water is not easy to find. Many people will remember all the RM public water wells – the water most of us were raised on; they now all have signs posted at them that read, "Non-Potable Water". When I get a call to supply potable water, the only locations that supply potable water around the entire lake area are Riverhurst, Elbow or Outlook. There is nothing available at Birsay, Lucky Lake or Beechy. If a new development was to be started on the West side of the Lake, having potable water will be very expensive to establish. It will either have to be trucked in or a water plant will have to be built (costing in the neighborhood of \$1 million). For interest sake a company in Taber, AB that supplies the resorts in that region charges \$60.00/1,000 gallons and the fill site at the city of Taber supplies the water to his trucks at 200 gallons a minute, which helps keep the costs down.*

*The next area that I want to talk about is sewage; which is also becoming more difficult to find a disposal site for. When I first took over my business, when asked where to dispose of the sewage, the previous owner would say, "When you are in a new area just drive over the hill and let it go." When I took over the sewage business on the east side of the lake the trucks came equipped with pipes to shoot it into the ditch. In fact, 12 years ago during a storm, a SERM officer told me to "dump it in the ditch, just make sure it flows away from the lake." Just recently, I jokingly asked that same SERM officer if this practice was still deemed as OK, he laughed and said no! With it now being 2008, there are rules and regulations that septic haulers have to abide by, otherwise SERM and the Health District can have your business license taken away.*

*For starters, there only place left in Canada you can field spread is in the southern half of Saskatchewan, providing there are no registered lagoons available to dump into. I cannot see that there are many years left for this policy, so what do you think that means? The shortest haul to a registered lagoon for a septic hauler in an area in Minnesota is 80 miles. Riverhurst/Palliser Regional Park are in the process of having their lagoon approved so Palliser Park residents can dump their sewage there. This process began almost a year ago. They had to estimate the number of gallons to be dumped, have random sewage samples collected and sent to SERM, and an engineering study had to be completed. This all took place after Riverhurst had given the Regional Park permission to dump in their lagoon. The good thing about this is the area will have a registered lagoon, but the downfall will be if Palliser Regional Park expands any further, more funds will have to be set aside to expand the lagoon to hold the extra capacity.*

*Further north along the lake is Douglas Provincial Park. They have their own lagoon that was built in the 1980's; however it is at maximum capacity. The lagoon at Elbow is certified, but it has reached its capacity, and with the growth happening in this community along with the Resort Village of Mistusinne, they are in need of a expansion.*

*A very large lagoon was constructed at Danielson Provincial Park back when the dam was being built. This area could handle new volumes of septic waste providing that Sask Parks would allow the use. At Coteau Beach and Hitchcock Bay we practice field-spreading because there is not a registered lagoon in the area. If the province decides to ban field-spreading, this area will have limited options as Outlook would be the*

closest registered lagoon. It would then fall on the Town of Outlook to decide whether it is willing to commit this capacity versus saving it for their own expansion within the community.

Prairie Lake Regional Park south of Beechy also relies on field-spreading. In this area they are challenged by farmers who practice continuous cropping and therefore leaving no fallow land for the waste to be spread on; as well as others who simply do not want the waste spread on their land. The parcel(s) of land that has been earmarked for field-spreading is a fair distance from the Regional Park, making for a longer haul, therefore increasing the cost to the cottage owners to have their tanks pumped out.

The disposal of dry garbage is also becoming a regional issue. Years back, we were able to assist in the hauling of dry garbage during the slow hours of the day to various landfills in the area who were open to the public 24/7. A monthly fee was charged to have it picked up and hauled to the landfill. Things have changed drastically in last few years. Palliser Regional Park and the Village of Beechy have built small landfills to service the needs of their residents, however, other areas like Elbow and Lucky Lake have had their landfills permanently closed. In other areas around the lake, it is becoming very expensive to get rid of dry waste. The increase of population around the lake during the summer months means excess garbage that has to be disposed of somewhere. Construction of new cottages/homes around the lake also generates large amounts of waste. For example, a renovation will generate over 80 yards of waste and a new construction will yield between 30 – 40 yards of waste. As you can see regional solutions are needed to address this issue.

After working in the area for 15 years, I have learned that people have a tendency to overlook the seriousness of potable water, liquid waste and dry waste disposal. These issues need to be dealt with at the beginning of development, not half-way through after the initial investment has already been made. On a positive note, Millar's Waste and the RM of Coteau are working on a regional landfill project which may be able to accept dry waste from all areas of the Lake Diefenbaker Region."

- Is there any thought to looking at 2-3 Waste Management Authorities within the WaterWolf Area? Dedicating landfills with a longer lifespan, promoting composting and waste at source so you are not hauling them longer distances.
- Fred Wilson (RM of Dundurn) –4 Municipalities, the Resort Villages of Thode, the Resort Village of Shields, the RM of Dundurn and Town of Dundurn are looking at a regional solution for sewage disposal. There was an existing joint transfer station that was shared between the RM and the Town. Thode & Shields were using another site that was originally built for Blackstrap Provincial Park – which was closed down in 2005. This left the Resort Villages with no place for their sewage. Dundurn did not have the capacity to take this extra sewage on. All 4 Municipalities decided to ban together and figure out a solution. The RM needed to provide a facility for the disposal of waste water. They have done a pre-designed study that has been presented to SERM; intent is to form a Waste Water Utility Board. A rural water utility is already established bringing in the water from the City of Saskatoon. The new lagoon has both options for the sewage to be pumped through pipes and to be hauled there. This lagoon is a 2-stage lagoon with aeration. Aeration eliminates a large footprint being left on the land. The total cost of the project is going to be around \$9 million; this includes everything from the lift stations, decommissioning the old lagoon, road work, etc. This cost is spread out over the 4 Municipalities involved; including some government funding.

### **3. Lake Diefenbaker Destination Area Plan Presentation**

- Ian McGilp – Tourism Saskatchewan
- Each participating municipality will be provided with a printed plan to be displayed in their municipal office. The plan will also be available on the [www.waterwolf.org](http://www.waterwolf.org) website.
- Signatures of participating municipalities are being gathered to add to the final plan document. Once all of the signatures are collected, they will be added to the plan, and then will be delivered to various government departments.

#### 4. Updates

- The first draft of the WaterWolf Growth Management Plan will be provided to all municipalities involved. This plan will also be available on the [www.waterwolf.org](http://www.waterwolf.org) website.
- Tim Cheesman (Municipal Capacity Development Program) – Information has been provided outlining potential government structures, community consultation, etc. The final structure has not been finalized for the WaterWolf Area. The MCDP are sourcing out funds to help keep the WaterWolf program up and running. They have been helping to develop action plans, a working relationship with each other, etc. The plan is just the start of the process; there has been tremendous growth from the beginning of the WaterWolf project from 7 Rural Municipalities and the Urbans within, to 14 Rural Municipalities and the Urbans within. The MCDP will continue to support the WaterWolf project as it moves along.
- April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> – Urban Municipality Meetings
- Individual meetings were held with 16 Urban Municipalities. A 10-15 page Socio-Economic Profile for each Municipality were created. It was found that there were a range of situation problems, and in some cases, were able to find local solutions. Some are in distress, some are sound with their development plans. There are groups within WaterWolf that are doing good things that should be transferred to other areas. These meetings were the first step towards a long-term continuous plan. Zoning bylaws that exists are cookie-cutter templates; they range from 1958 – present. Most of them are from the early 80's. Issues that are important need to be identified. Many urbans do not have a good handle on their infrastructure; many do not know water, sewer capacity, etc. The MCDP will create a brief snapshot of each municipality showing where they are and where they need to be.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Administrators Writing Workshop
- Tax Notice Summary - Copies of a one-page summary were provided to all Municipalities within the WaterWolf area. Each municipality is encouraged to include this summary in their tax notices that goes out to all of their ratepayers, (if the tax notices have already been sent out, then another means of distribution will be need to be used, ie. Mail drop). This summary will also be posted on the [www.waterwolf.org](http://www.waterwolf.org) website.
- Discussion on a common Bylaw to restrict motorized vehicles on the riverbank - This would be very hard to enforce this. An area in the Great Sand Hills have adopted a bylaw dealing with this issue so they may be a good source of information.
- Potential Budget – Planning Commission - Russ presented an example budget for the formation of a Planning Commission. This example budget will be available on the [www.waterwolf.org](http://www.waterwolf.org) website.

#### 5. Presentation of the Draft Plan

- This document is not complete; this is still a draft plan. This is meant to be taken back to each municipality for discussion and review by all residents / ratepayers within the municipality. Residents should be encouraged to visit the website, read the plan and navigate through the online map. Changes will be made in the fall. Open houses will be hosted in the fall.
- Reference maps are included throughout the document where they fit in with the text; these will be changing over the next few months as we gain access to new data. The maps will be current on the Internet Map Server at [www.waterwolf.org](http://www.waterwolf.org)
- Visions and goals are included in the plan, as well as actions to move forward.

- Recreation Sites were not listed in the plan. Reference needs to be made that there are satellite land locations that belong to the main Provincial Park sites. Ex. Elbow Harbour Recreation Site belonging to Douglas Provincial Park; and Coldwell Recreation Site belonging to Danielson Provincial Park.
- Any feedback from this plan needs to be directed to the Russ or Denise at the WaterWolf office either at 306-867-9566 or [info@midsask.ca](mailto:info@midsask.ca)

6. Next Meeting Date

- September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- Dates, times and locations of the Open Houses will be announced in the next couple of months.