



MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF COTTAGE OWNERS Inc.
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Pointe Du Bois Interview with Marr Consultants RE: Dam Renewal Project Hearings

Rene Comeault (area representative) and myself attended a brief meeting on Monday evening. This was a chance for MACO to present their point of view for cottager's interests in the region.

We brought up a number of things that had not been mentioned. It will be interesting to see what comes of it.

Briefly,

The project planning is behind, as there have been issues that have affected the possible location of the main powerhouse. This is mostly because of aquatic species like the Sturgeon who spawn where they originally wanted to locate it. Engineering has had to rework everything.

Hwy 315 will be upgraded prior to commencement of the project, as it is not rated for the traffic that will be required to construct the dam. There are delays in locating the necessary materials like gravel and sand as they want to get them closer than originally planned for all phases. Originally they wanted to get material from the Milner Ridge area, but due to road and traffic concerns, that is changing.

We warned of issues like boat launches and docks and swimming areas that will upset many people if water levels change. Alternatives need to be available. We also suggested more interactive items like places that people could see storyboards or web cams on video screens in tourist huts during construction. We felt this safer for viewing instead of trying to get close to the actual site. We mentioned water safety for people on watercraft that may want to get too close. We hope there will be enforcement to prevent these situations becoming accidents. Rules alone will not be effective for all. We asked for easy links to project info for the public on the MB Hydro website. This should start on the home page. That Hydro have a link the public can use to send their own concerns as individuals prior to or during the project if an item pops up.

On another front we pleaded that rules for housing and planned camping rules for contractors so none of the renters can cause a problem for locals including over-crowding. We also cautioned about having rules for the waste removal and septic people. MACO asked that all operators be MB licensed, and given enough advance notice to properly meet the needs of locals and construction. We recommended they not over-use local facilities and cause any extra costs for locals during construction due to hauling distances or delayed service.

A few other things came up, but mostly had been heard by other groups. Just felt they were concerns for our members as well.

This is an early phase, and we will be invited again when things are more set with firm plans for dam alternatives. Dam relocation has set the entire project back months.

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