

Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) - Flin Flon / Creighton Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

February 27, 2008 – Flin Flon City Hall Council Chambers
Meeting #4

Attendance

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Membership					
Don Aasen Town of Creighton		Shelly Jones General Public		Deb Odegaard FF&D Env't Council	X
Rob Bratvold Creighton School Board	X	Tom Lindsey Steelworkers Union		Bill Pauley Flin Flon School Division	X
Ian Cooper HBMS	X	Charlene Logan MCRRHA		Dave Price Green Project	X
Cheryl Hordal General Public		Barb Lyons General Public	X	Tom Therien City of Flin Flon	
Bev Hill NorMan Regional Health	X	Christa McIntyre Healthy Flin Flon	X		

Guests / Other		
James Irvine (Guest via phone) Saskatchewan Health	Shirley Neault (Recorder) HBMS	TAC members (Observers) MB & SK governments
Susan Roberecki (Guest via phone) Manitoba Health	Elliot Sigal (Guest) Intrinsic Environmental	Members of the public (Observers)
Sheldon McLeod (Facilitator) S.L. McLeod Consulting	Katie Garinger General Public - Student	

Introduction

- Facilitator Sheldon McLeod introduced Katie Garinger, a local student who is interested in the process and may be invited to officially join the CAC at the end of this meeting.
- A review of the draft notes of the previous meeting was conducted and approved for posting on the website.
- Action Items from the previous meeting were reviewed. The status of these action items is summarized in the table at the end of these notes.
- Facilitator Sheldon McLeod indicated that he has been asked by non-CAC members (observers) to add items to the agenda. A process for dealing with these requests was discussed. The decision was made to circulate draft agendas to the membership to obtain their views and decisions for inclusions / exclusions.

Member's Commentary – Community Feedback

- Each CAC member was given the opportunity to share what they are hearing in the community regarding the HHRA. Comments included:
 - It is very quiet.
 - "Of course there are metals in soil".

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
018	Put together and circulate a proposal regarding snow sampling for review and comment from the other members	Dave Price	2007-12-14	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-27, Complete

Presentation – Saskatchewan and Manitoba Departments of Health – James Irvine and Susan Roberecki

- A presentation was provided on the Provincial Health Departments' plans to collect additional data for the region compared to other locations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
 - Meetings are planned with MB/SK Health Department representatives and the corresponding cancer agencies to compare frequencies of Flin Flon and Creighton residents, frequencies within the Norman and Mamawetan Churchill River regions and frequencies within the two Provinces.
 - At the same time, information will be gathered from Vital Statistics regarding the overall causes of death for residents of Flin Flon and Creighton.

Question: How do we get information regarding people that move away (e.g. retired people)?

Response: It is impossible to gather information for people that move away. However, age comparisons will be made that factor in the number of elderly people here versus other communities.

Question: When did the changes in health benefits at HBMS change?

Response: 1999.

Question: Can the length of time that residents live here be factored in?

Response: That level of detail cannot be gathered as the data will be averages and not individual data. The comparisons to other areas will compare the same data. Determining exposure times will not be possible.

Question: It looks like the cancer data will be disease rates while the other sources will be mortality rates. Is that correct? If so, can the other sources be studied for non-mortal effects?

Response: Yes, that is correct. The other sources pose challenges due to too many other factors (e.g. number of doctors in the community, etc.).

Question: What is the timeline for gathering and analyzing the data?

Response: The Health Departments hope to have a better sense of the timeline by the end of March but the overall goal is to be complete sometime in June or July.

Presentation – HHRA Update – Elliot Sigal, Intrinsic Environmental

Reference Documentation - Intrinsic – HHRA Update Feb 27, 2008 (presentation)

- Elliot presented an update on a PowerPoint presentation.

Question: Why is thallium included?

Response: As thallium was included in the initial MB Conservation study, including it here is consistent.

Question: Where is the CCME line?

Response: That could be added to the graphs.

- The data contributes to the path of the HHRA and confirms that the path is the correct one.

Question: Does the dust data include the schools?

Response: Yes

Question: When will we know if the dust data is valid?

Response: The data on the computer will be looked at again and reanalyzed, if possible. If it is not, re-sampling will have to occur in mid to late summer.

Question: The timing of the original sampling was questioned previously. Is the timing a factor now?

Response: No, because re-samples won't be collected until mid to late summer allowing sufficient time for outdoor dirt to be tracked into the home by children, pets, etc. Windows will also have been opened.

Question: Does the dust issue hold up the HHRA?

Response: Specific to these results, yes but overall, no. Reports can still be drafted and reviewed. We will just have to add the data when it is available, similar to what will happen with the food data.

Question: Will the snow sampling data from the previous study be used?

Response: Yes

Question: Is the snow and ice cover going to impact the home water sampling program?

Response: The ongoing source testing of water compare with the one-time residential sample collection should cover this concern. As well, the size of the source water body and the ensuing dilution addresses this issue.

Question: Can the timeline be distributed separately?

Response: Yes (see action #024)

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
020	Add a paragraph to the food consumption survey explaining objectives	Elliot Sigal	2007-12-12	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-27, Complete
021	Provide comments to Sheldon on the draft food consumption survey	CAC	2007-12-21	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-27, Complete
022	Polish the food consumption survey	Communications Working Group	2008-01-15	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-27, Complete
024	Distribute timeline (Gantt) to CAC	Elliot Sigal	2008-03-25	2008-02-27, new

Communication of Results

- A draft letter to the individuals whose homes were sampled was reviewed, while reminding the members that Jacques Whitford took great care to preserve the privacy of these homeowners.
- The anomalous results will be hand-delivered and explained, rather than sent via mail.
- It was discussed that the environmental criteria could be removed from the table that will be attached to the letter. These were only used in the draft because there are no human health numbers for these factors (see action#025).

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
025	Review sample letter with spouses to gauge comprehension of the results presented & provide feedback to CAC CWG members (Robert & Dave)	CAC Members	2008-02-29	2008-02-27, new

General Communication Processes

- The group has been provided with three separate documents (see action #026) containing questions and comments that the process for dealing with has not been determined. A proposal was discussed to deal with communications to and from the CAC. The proposal is to have the Communications Working Group (CWG) handle these questions and comments by:
 - Acknowledging receipt of communication;
 - Forwarding the question or comment to the appropriate people for review and response;
 - Discussing these communications at each meeting during the “Community Comment” agenda item; and
 - Forwarding the responses to the full CAC membership.
- It was decided that an agenda item will be added (near the end of the meetings) to provide the public observers an opportunity to provide limited comments.
- Saskatchewan Environment posed a question regarding concerns that if the MB Government is going to replace soil in parks, will the Creighton residents be looking for the same to occur on the SK side (see action #027).
- The media attention following the last meeting was discussed.

Question: If CAC members are approached by the media, do we refer to our CWG reps?

Response: The reps accepted this responsibility, but reminded members that they are still free to present their own views.

- The Open House is still being planned for mid to late April. The planned hours of operation are from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. It was then suggested that it should stay open until 8:30 to allow sufficient time for workers on a 12-hour day shift (see action #028).

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
026	Have the hand-written communications from the public typed and redistributed to the CAC	Ian Cooper	2008-03-07	2008-02-27, new
027	Forward comments or concerns from SK residents on possible precautionary soil improvement plans that MB Conservation was looking at in FF, as would relate to similar work in SK to SK Environment	CAC Members	2008-07-31	2008-02-27, new
028	Forward any further thoughts regarding the open house to CWG reps	CAC Members	2008-04-04	2008-02-27, new

Public Feedback

- Although it is still early in the process, more PR is likely needed in the near future.
- The stuff being discussed is irrelevant to most people.

Question: Will there be a local press release regarding the food survey?

Response: The Reminder will run something if it is supplied to it.

- It was suggested that future advertisements for CAC meetings include agenda items and the web site address.

Committee Operations

- The Terms of Reference document was approved as a living document (see action #029).

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
023	Make more copies of the MB and SK fact sheets produced by the Health Departments and make available for circulation through various people and organizations	Bev Hill	2007-12-20	2007-12-06, new 2008-02-27, Complete
029	Adjust sections 5.5 and 5.9 of the TofR	Sheldon McLeod	2008-03-25	2008-02-27, new

- The student representative, Katie Garinger, was asked if she remained interested in joining the group. Based on her response, the CAC welcomed her as its newest member.

NEXT MEETING: **Tentatively April 24 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**
FF Council Chambers (Venue to be confirmed)