

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

September 10, 2008 – Creighton Community Hall  
Meeting #7

## Attendance

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

Guests / Other		
Sheldon McLeod (Facilitator) S.L. McLeod Consulting	Shirley Neault (Recorder) HBMS	Elliot Sigal (Consultant) Intrinsic Environmental
TAC Member (Observer) SK Government	TAC Member (Observer) MB Government	5 Public Observers
Dave Bezak (via telephone) MB Conservation	Geoff Jones (via telephone) MB Conservation	

## Introduction

- Facilitator Sheldon McLeod called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.
- A review of the draft notes of the previous meeting was conducted. An expanded response, supplied by the Health Departments, to the cancer rate question was also reviewed. The notes, including the aforementioned response, were approved for posting on the website.
- Action Items from the previous meeting were reviewed. The status of these action items is summarized in the tables throughout these notes.

## Ecological Risk Assessment

- A response to last meeting's question regarding an ecological risk assessment (ERA) was responded to by Saskatchewan Environment:
  - Several sources of ERA work have been compiled including studies done by Manitoba Conservation and ongoing HBMS monitoring and related studies. The HHRA itself will also supply some ERA data. The remaining gap, if any, can then be reviewed to determine what further studies are needed.

## 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:
  - Most members agreed that they are not hearing much.
  - At the recent Healthy Flin Flon meeting (attended by 5 or 6 people), one person suggested that the dying grass in their (uptown area) yard was related to the soil (see action #034).
  - A member was asked why we are not going straight to biological monitoring (i.e. test the kids).
  - Another member was asked when the dirt is arriving.

## **Soil Improvement**

- The recent soil improvement announced by Premier Doer was discussed. The first two parks to be completed are North Avenue and Foster Park. Eight others will be completed in 2009. A landscape architect has visited Flin Flon and is working on plans for soil improvement. These plans will be reviewed by City of Flin Flon and Manitoba Conservation personnel. Once sign off on these plans is complete, then 10" of soil will be placed as described in the plans.
  - The criteria for the selection of the sites were:
    - The site must have been sampled during Manitoba Conservation's 2006 soil survey;
    - The site must be frequently used by children (i.e. contains play structures to attract children to the park); and
    - The site, based on 2006 samples, had to have concentrations of at least one of the elements of concern above the CCME guidelines for the protection of human health.

Question: Who is going to do the work?

Response: That is still to be determined and will be part of the review process, followed by tendering. The City may provide project management.

Question: Are we testing the soil being brought in?

Response: Yes

Question: Kin Park is being done now – is it being done by others?

Response: Yes (by the Kinsmen and Kinettes). The soil results at that park were below the CCME guidelines. Other parks not on the list were also either below the guidelines or do not have play structures on them.

Question: What is the source of the soil going to be and will it be comprised of sand, clay, topsoil or a mixture?

Response: The material will probably come from The Pas but availability and cost will be factors as well.

Question: Foster Park just had fresh sod laid on it. Does that impact the choice of parks?

Response: A well-defined playground was there when the samples were collected. The targeted area is outside of the now fenced-in soccer area. The removed play structures are planned to be replaced.

## **HHRA Update – Elliot Sigal, Intrinsic Environmental**

Reference Documentation – Intrinsic - HHRA Update Sept 10, 2008

- Some issues with the supplemental dust sample results have arisen:
  - The initial results did not make sense (e.g. an odd tin-lead correlation, no soil-dust or geographical correlation) so the samples were sent to a different lab.
  - The results from the second lab are significantly different than the first lab's results. At this time there is no good explanation for the differences.
- Of the 38 samples collected, enough material from 20-25 of the samples to allow them to be analyzed at a third lab. These results will guide decisions regarding which data to use in the HHRA.
- An independent audit of the QA/QC programs at the first two labs is underway.
- All decisions to date have been guided by the TAC.

Question: Where was the soil analysis done?

Response: At the Winnipeg lab of the same company that completed the first set of dust samples (the dust was analyzed at their Edmonton lab). The soil results were consistent with the Manitoba Conservation results so are believed to be okay.

- To complete the food survey, fish were gathered from nine area lakes. Sediment and water samples were also collected from these lakes.
  - Blueberries were gathered from thirteen area locations and submitted for analysis.
  - Fish gathered by Manitoba Conservation from Schist and Athapap Lakes were also supplied to the food study.
  - A draft report on the food survey is scheduled to be supplied to the TAC by the end of October.

Question: When a previous garden study was completed, the lettuce was analyzed both washed and unwashed. Are the blueberries being analyzed the same way?

Response: The blueberries are not being washed. This will give us a worse case result, even though most people probably wash their berries before eating them.

### **Peer Review Process**

- The process for the peer review selection that is being managed by the TAC was shared with the CAC:
  - To avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest, the peer review will be guided by and accountable to primarily the government members of TAC;
  - An independent third party will be retained to coordinate and oversee the operation of the external expert review panel;
  - HBMS will undertake the administrative function to develop and let an RFP, subject to the approval of the forum, to identify parties and their approach/capacity to potentially serve as the independent third party coordinator;
  - The choice of independent third party will be made by the government members of TAC,
  - HBMS will retain the chosen third party to manage and oversee the review panel operation subject to processes agreed to by government members of TAC; and
  - The report from the review panel will be delivered to the TAC.

### **Observer Comments**

Question: Why are we doing this (the study) again? There are many previous studies out there already.

Response: This HHRA is a compilation of all potential data to determine human health risk. The studies cited are focused on specific elements of the bigger picture HHRA.

Question: Is this going to lead anywhere? Will we see the results?

Response: Yes

Question: Some people are already having their blood analyzed. Can this information be used in the HHRA?

Response: Not easily; the HHRA may lead there anyway.

### **Public Engagement**

- Initial thoughts on how to engage the public when the final HHRA results are ready were discussed. Ideas included consideration of an article in the Cottage North / Roots North magazines and another open house.

### **Other Business**

- A discussion has been initiated with member Therien to consider being replaced as an observer to the TAC (see action #035).

#	Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
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 2008-04-24, ongoing 2008-06-17, ongoing 2008-09-10, ongoing
030	Distribute snow and drinking water reports to the CAC	Alan Hair / Shirley Neault	2008-07-02	2008-06-17, new 2008-09-10, ongoing (drinking water circulated; snow not yet available)
031	Request that the TAC consider recommending an ecological risk assessment	Sheldon McLeod, with Tom Lindsey / Tom Therien (on behalf of CAC)	2008-07-16	2008-06-17, new 2008-09-10, <b>Complete</b>
032	Offer suggestions for engaging the public when the final report is ready	CAC Members	2008-10-15	2008-06-17, new 2008-09-10, ongoing
033	Provide CAC members with the number of hits that the soil website has received	Alan Hair	2008-07-11	2008-06-17, new 2008-09-10, <b>Complete</b>
034	Provide dying grass information to MB Conservation personnel and they will look into the issue	Deb Odegaard	2008-09-19	2008-09-10, new
035	Let Sheldon know if you are interested in becoming a TAC observer	CAC Members	2008-09-30	2008-09-10, new

**NEXT MEETING:**            **Tentatively November 19 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**  
**Location: to be determined**