



Release

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FLOODWAY AUTHORITY OUTLINES **10-POINT PLAN FOR ONGOING PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Public Participation Agenda Has No Expiry Date: Gilroy

Winnipeg, MB – With plans and preparations underway for the start of construction on the Red River Floodway Expansion Project, the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) today unveiled a 10-point plan to facilitate ongoing public consultation and community participation as the floodway project moves forward.

“In July, the floodway expansion project received the green light from Canada and Manitoba to proceed with this critical flood protection project,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “As the project nears the start of construction, we want to reassure the public that we are committed to continue to consult on this important project. The plan outlined today reinforces our commitment to Manitobans and provides a blueprint for the months and years ahead.”

The 10-point plan includes:

- **Advisory Committees** – The MFA will establish three standing advisory committees to provide input to the MFA as the project proceeds: Community Liaison Committee, Recreation Working Group & Fisheries Technical Experts Committee.
- **Groundwater Monitoring Peer Review** – In partnership with Manitoba’s Department of Water Stewardship, MFA will ensure an arms-length, independent peer review team is established to review the project’s groundwater monitoring and protection plans.
- **Aboriginal Communities** – MFA will continue an ongoing dialogue with local First Nations and Metis communities regarding various economic and environmental opportunities.
- **Municipal Governments** – MFA will initiate a schedule of regular meetings with rural municipalities and the cities of Winnipeg and Selkirk to provide updates on the project, respond to potential questions, and hear feedback on the project.
- **RM of MacDonald** – The MFA will work in partnership with the Rural Municipality of MacDonald regarding the final design of the West Dike extension. Community meetings will be held prior to construction.
- **Highway Bridge Construction** – MFA will initiate local meetings with residents who may be impacted by individual highway bridge construction projects – with a special emphasis on groundwater protection and potential traffic disruptions.

- **Workplace Meetings** – MFA will initiate regular meetings with participating contractors and unions regarding any potential safety, human resource and administrative matters that may arise on the project.
- **Communication** – MFA will continue to publish regular newsletters for local residents to provide project updates and progress reports. MFA will maintain its toll-free line for rural residents to report groundwater and other concerns. MFA’s project web-site will also be enhanced.
- **Public Information Booths** – MFA will continue to establish booths at local shopping centers and community places throughout the region to provide the general public with project updates and answer questions.
- **Drainage & Navigation** – MFA will meet with stakeholders, such as the Cooks Creek Conservation District (CCCD) and Save Our Seine Inc. (SOS), to ensure MFA’s final design plans enhance local drainage opportunities and support navigation safety.

“As the floodway project proceeds, this 10-point plan will ensure that Manitobans have input into the project over the next five years,” said Gilroy. “Today’s announcement reinforces our view that our public consultation process has no expiry date. We look forward to working with Manitobans in the months and years ahead as we improve flood protection and protect the environment.” Gilroy noted details on these initiatives will be provided in the upcoming weeks and months as the 10 point plan is refined.

Over the last two years, the floodway expansion project has undergone an extensive environmental review process that has included an independent Environmental Assessment and the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As part of this process, MFA conducted an extensive public consultation process that included:

- Four rounds of public consultation – three of which were held prior to the filing of the EIS
- More than 300 hours of stakeholder meetings
- Approximately 20 community meetings & information sessions - attended by more than 1,500 residents
- A project web-site that has received over 100,000 hits
- The distribution of approximately 100,000 newsletters and information packages
- Participation in four weeks of Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) public hearings
- \$300,000 to support the participation of seven groups at the CEC hearings – including Peguis First Nation, Coalition for Flood Protection North of the Floodway, Ritchot Concerned Citizens Committee, Rivers West, , CCCD, SOS and 768 Association.

In early July, the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) received an environmental license from Manitoba Conservation and federal authorization from the Government of Canada to begin construction on the expansion project. Gilroy indicated that the MFA is fully committed to taking federal and provincial licensing conditions for environmental approval fully into account in the project.

The Red River Floodway expansion project will divert more water around Winnipeg during major floods by more than doubling the capacity of the floodway channel. By improving flood protection to 1 in 700 year level of protection, floodway expansion will protect more than 450,000 Manitobans, over 140,000 homes, over 8,000 businesses and prevent more than \$12 billion in damages to the provincial economy. Canada and Manitoba have confirmed their commitment to the floodway expansion project.

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