

Clear Hills Watershed Group

1st informal meeting: Nov. 16, 2006 - 7:30 @ Larsens

In attendance: Mike Rudekawich, Lindsey Wasylciw, Mary Ann Shepansky, Peter and Joanne Frixel, Dave & Sherri Larsen

An informal gathering was held to discuss how to study the water in the area. People brought information and ideas they had to share.

The following are some ideas brought forth:

Most important that all creeks are defined. Big 'ponding' areas, wetlands, sloughs, lakes - identify all sources of water in the county. (Thought this would take at least a year)

We should promote Environmentally Friendly Farming Practices (EFP) - Possibly lobby gov't. for more \$ for plans - ranchers.

Check out www.ab-conservation.com (1-877-969-9091) for free magazine.

Become involved with or aware of other environmental groups eg. PAC to DMI. (Glen & Lindsey already are)

Highlight good environmental practices with tourism/tourists.

Raising awareness of how trees affect our water cycle and water levels, drainage etc. - keeping shelter belts.

Be alert to and take note of possible projects in the area (eg. Peace River Tar Sands) that would use large amounts of water.

Talk to other areas that our water flows into.

Invite other residents to take part in the group - possibly through the County Newsletter or Fairview Post.

Get some "Watershed Guides" for everyone in the group. (Sherri)
Copy WS Stewardship Directory Development Project for Mike/MaryAnn
Work towards doing a public awareness workshop - Mike would make slide

presentation, present pertinent articles to people. - possibly in Jan./Spring?

Form a society. Get an executive and directors (maybe a representative from each area/ward)

We could possibly monitor levels of rain in the county - AFSC has some people already monitoring.

Wind, soil monitoring??

We could develop a grid to monitor rain to cover all areas, collect data.

Cultivate interest in protecting our water from contamination and raise an interest in our water usage.

Peter will find maps etc. re: topography - area water maps to try and determine what is here.

We should lobby to no longer drain any land - preserve our wetlands

Joanne will ask Allison about how to do water testing. We should do our own water testing. Could each pick different areas to do or get local schools involved as well. (Worsley, Hines Creek, Menno Simons)

Create a map with plastic overlays showing water sources, flow etc. for effective presentation.

Identify useage - eg. Hines Creek Golf Course irrigation.

Lindsey will find good articles with information pertinent to Alberta/our area. (Will present at public presentation.)

Question - How would air contamination (eg. Hog Barns and toxic gases from them) affect our water when it rains or settles on our land - acid rain?

The Watershed issue should be treated as separate of the Hog Factory issue.

The ultimate goal: To protect our water sources from depletion and contamination.

Other goals: To get baseline testing done of our water sources.

To get a handle on where our water sources are in the county.