



TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

**A TECHNICAL REVIEW REPORT
PREPARED FOR THE**

RM of Springfield

Ridgeland Holding Co. Ltd.

E ½ of Section 6-10-7 EPM

TRC 12-116

September 23, 2025

A. INTRODUCTION – THE TEAM

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) is supported by the following department personnel:

Agriculture (AGR)

- Agri-Resource Engineer
- Business Development Specialists
- Veterinarians
- Agri-Ecosystem Specialists

Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures (NRIF)

- Crown Lands Manager
- Fish Habitat Specialist
- Habitat Mitigation Biologist

Environment and Climate Change (ECC)

- Environmental Engineer
- Environment Officer
- Water Rights Licensing Technologist
- Land-Water Specialist
- Groundwater Specialist

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI)

- Senior Development Review Technologist
- Senior Flood Protection Planning Officer

Municipal and Northern Relations (MNR)

- Community Planners

And any other specialist or department that may have an interest or is consulted during the TRC process.

THE TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC) REPORT

Purpose of TRC Reports

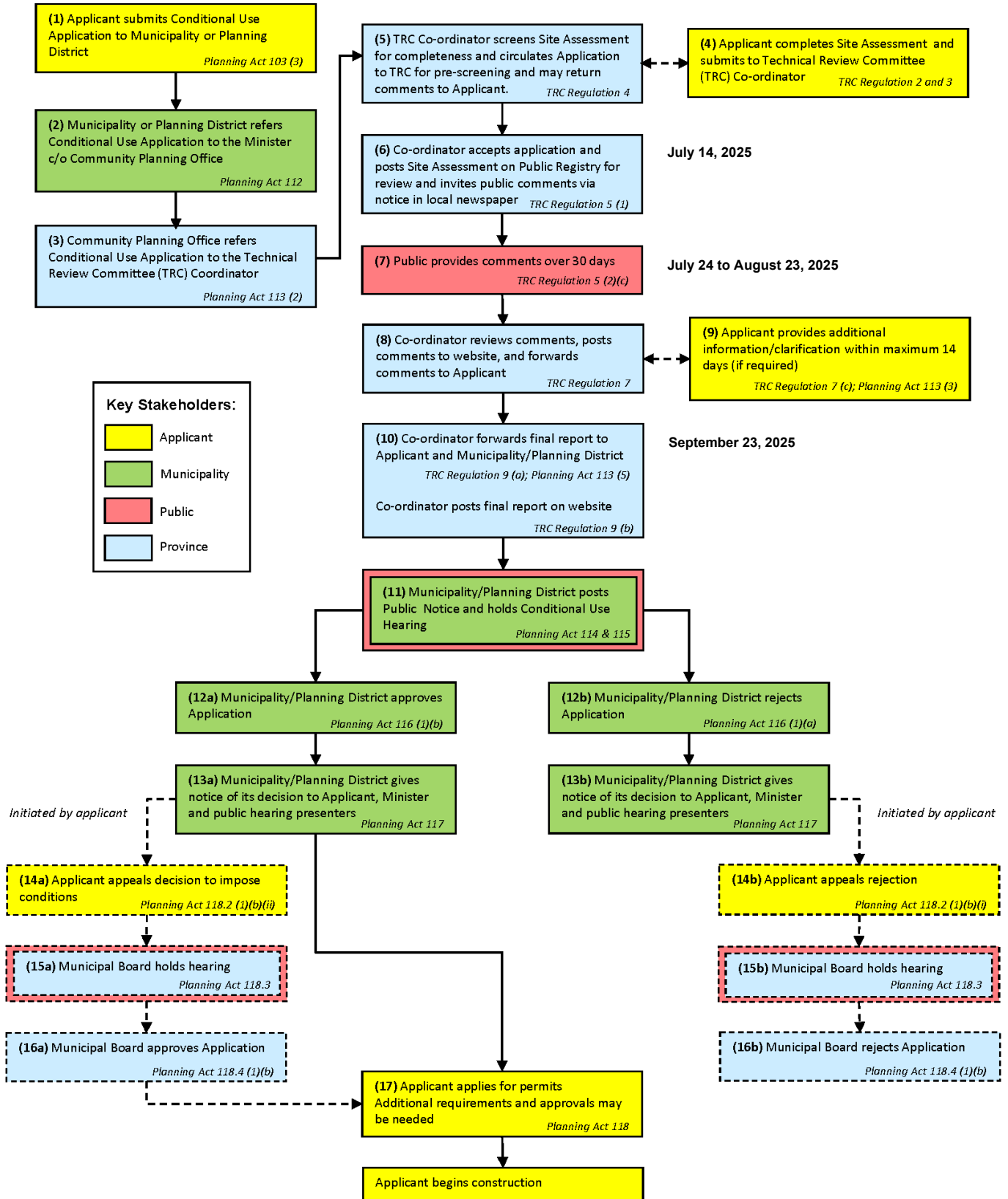
To provide objective, credible, technically-based assessments that:

- a) Enable municipal councils or planning district boards to make informed decisions regarding Conditional Use applications;
- b) Create common stakeholder understanding regarding livestock proposals, their potential impacts, and related regulatory requirements and safeguards;
- c) Provide a vehicle/forum that enables the sharing of public concerns and proponent responses;
- d) Offer recommendations to both councils/boards and proponents; and
- e) Represent the fulfillment of the TRC's role, as per 116(1)(b)(i) of The Planning Act – to determine, based on available information, that the proposed operation will not create a risk to health, safety or the environment, or that any risk can be minimized through the use of appropriate practices, measure and safeguards.

Should a municipal council or planning district board provide conditional approval of a proposal, the project proponent may be required to obtain various permits and licenses from the Province to address in greater detail environmental aspects of the proposal. As of November 1, 2019, a proponent may appeal a council/board's rejection of their application or appeal a condition imposed on the approval of a council/board to the Municipal Board.

Livestock Technical Review Process

(June 19, 2024)



B. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LIVESTOCK OPERATION

Further information may be found at https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/livestock/public_registries.html

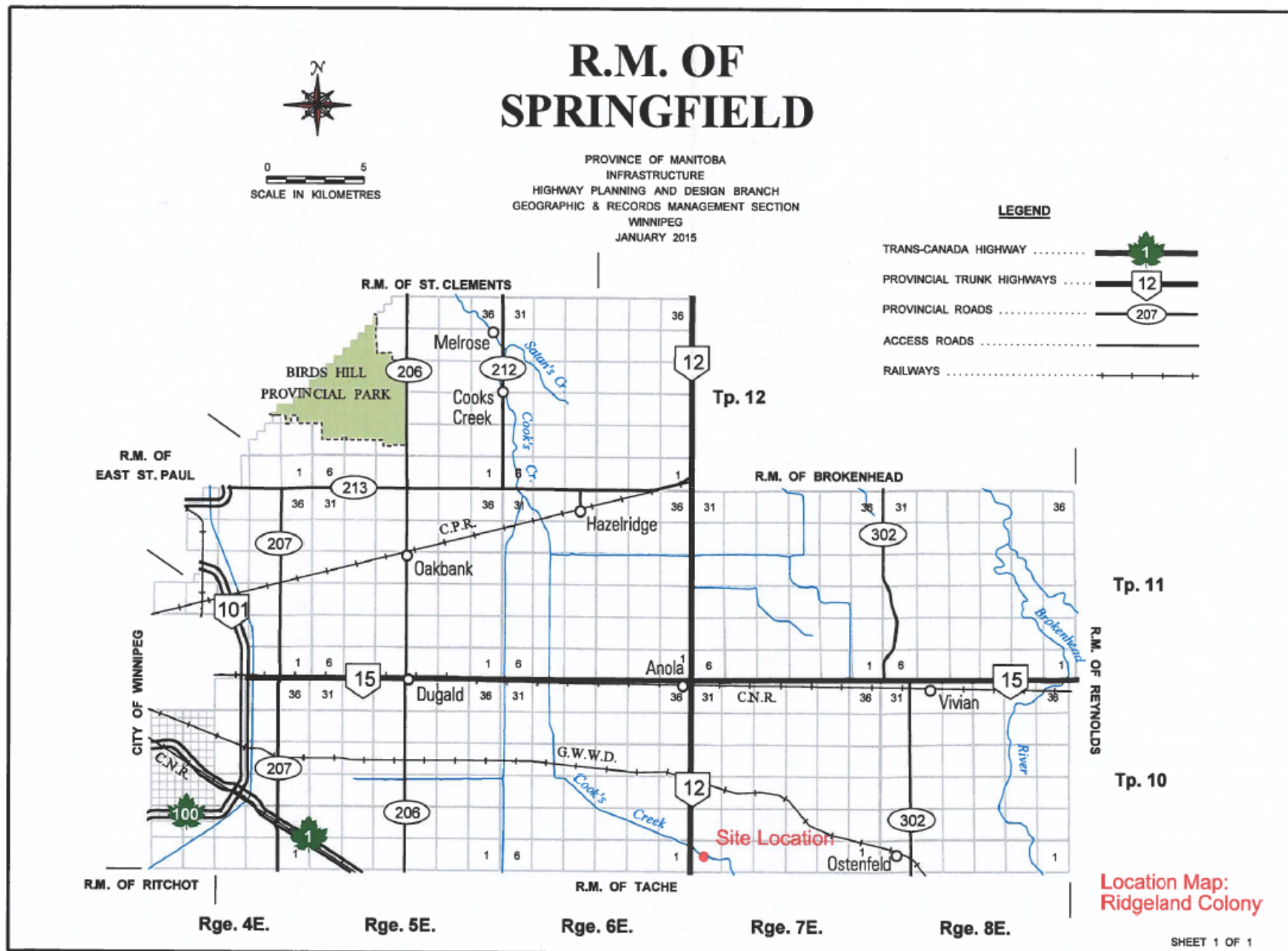
Applicant: Ridgeland Holding Co. Ltd.

Site Location: E ½ of Section 6-10-7 EPM (Refer to map below)

Proposal: The applicant proposes to expand an existing mixed livestock operation. The proposal involves increasing from 2,400 to 20,000 broiler chickens and from 9,700 to 20,000 layer chickens (while maintaining existing non-poultry operations), representing an increase from 924 to 1,097 animal units.

This will involve the following:

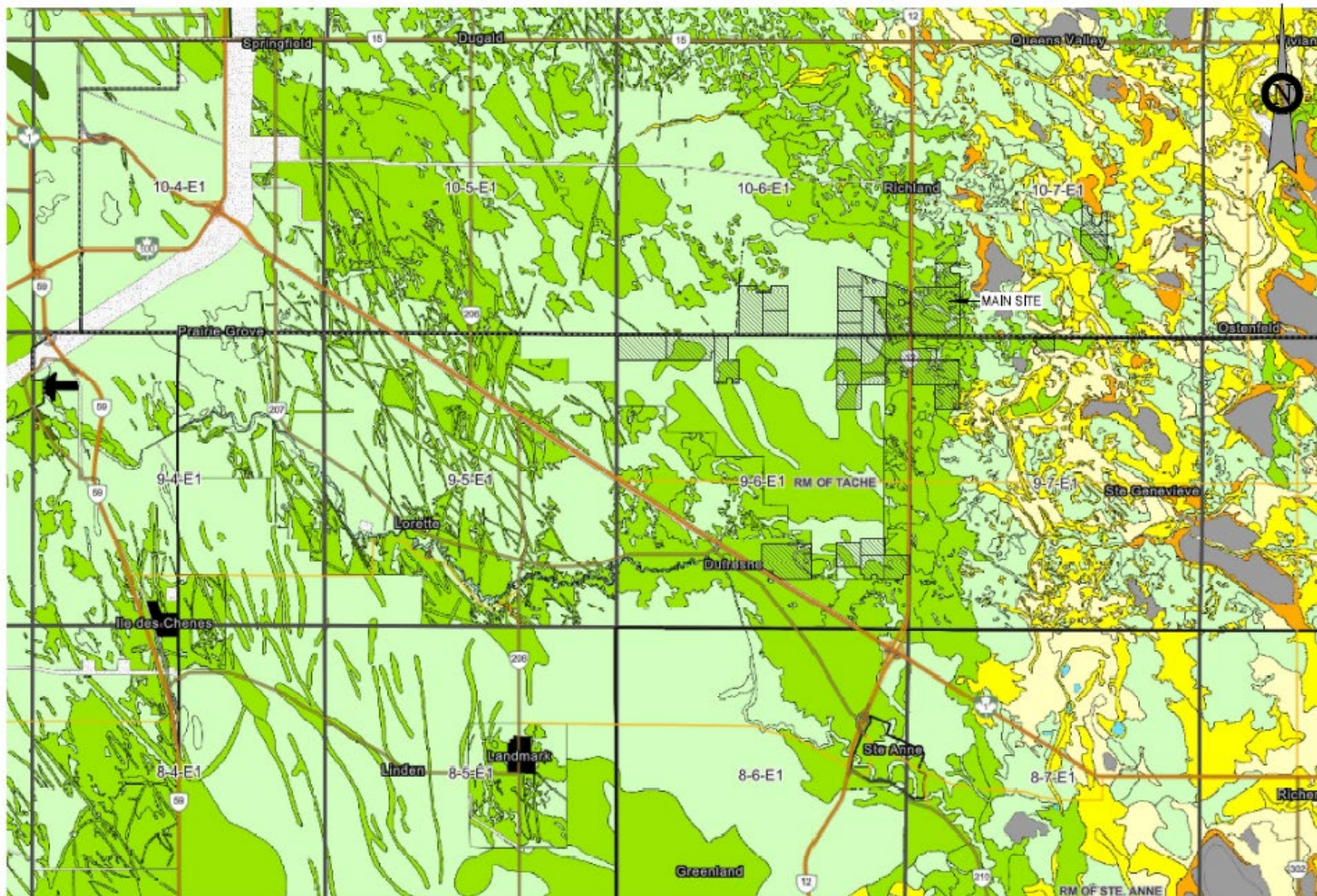
- Construction of a new barn for layer chickens and continued use of other existing barns, as is;
- Expansion of existing earthen manure storage;
- Estimated daily water use of 24,344 imperial gallons from an existing well;
- Composting of mortalities using a Biovator; and
- Truck haul routes as shown in map below.



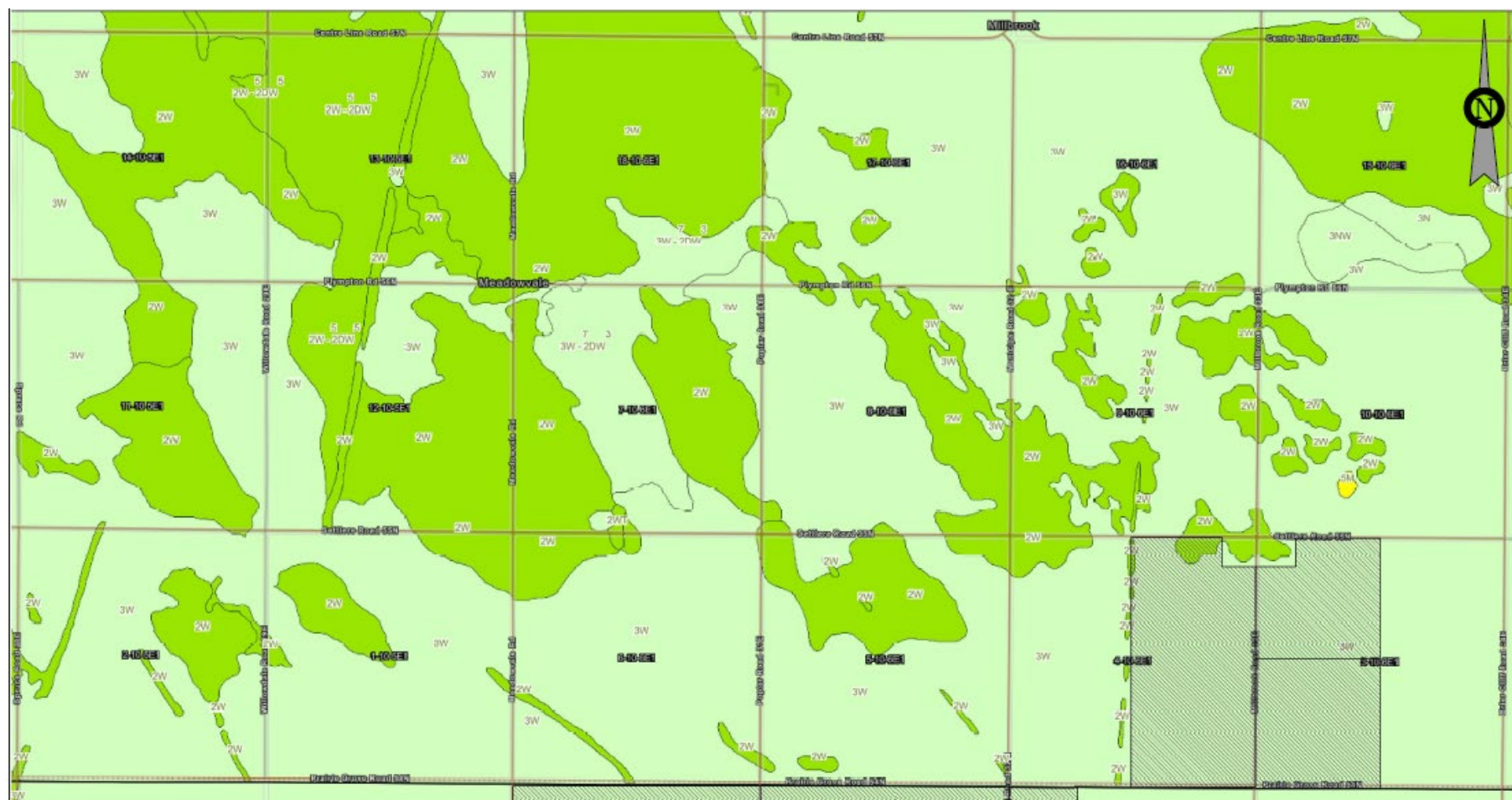
Location Map

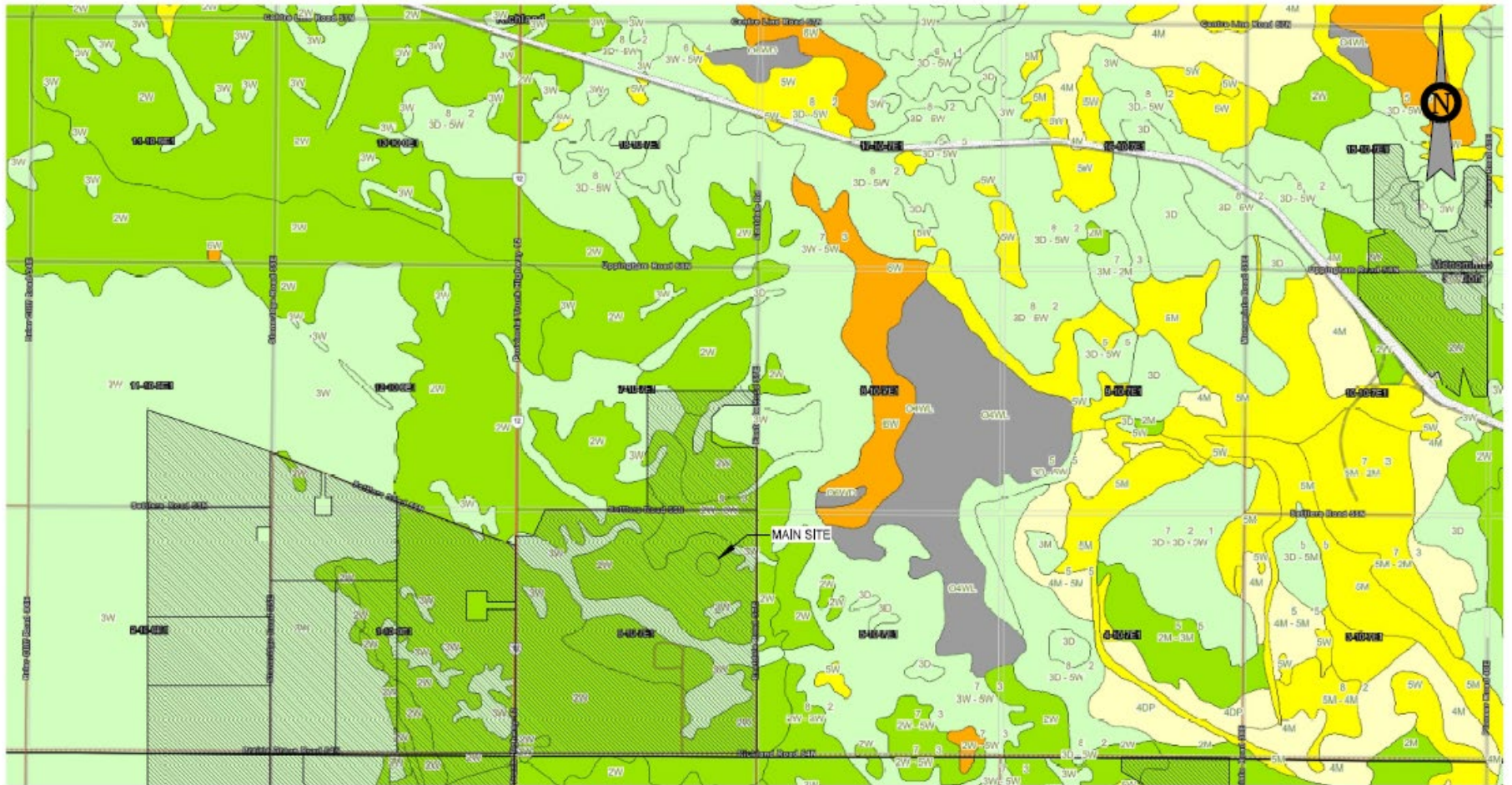


Site Map

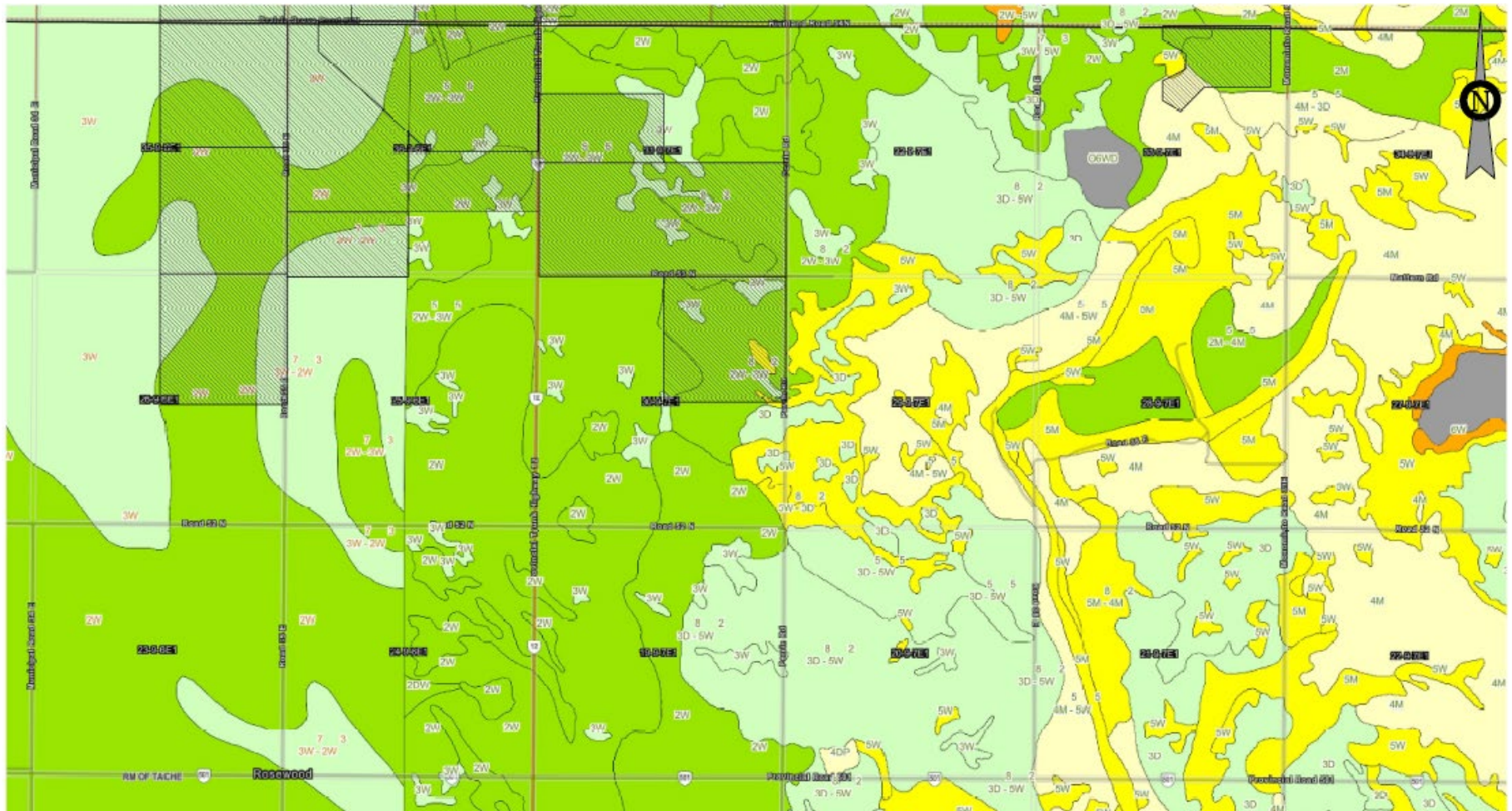


Spread Field Map (1)

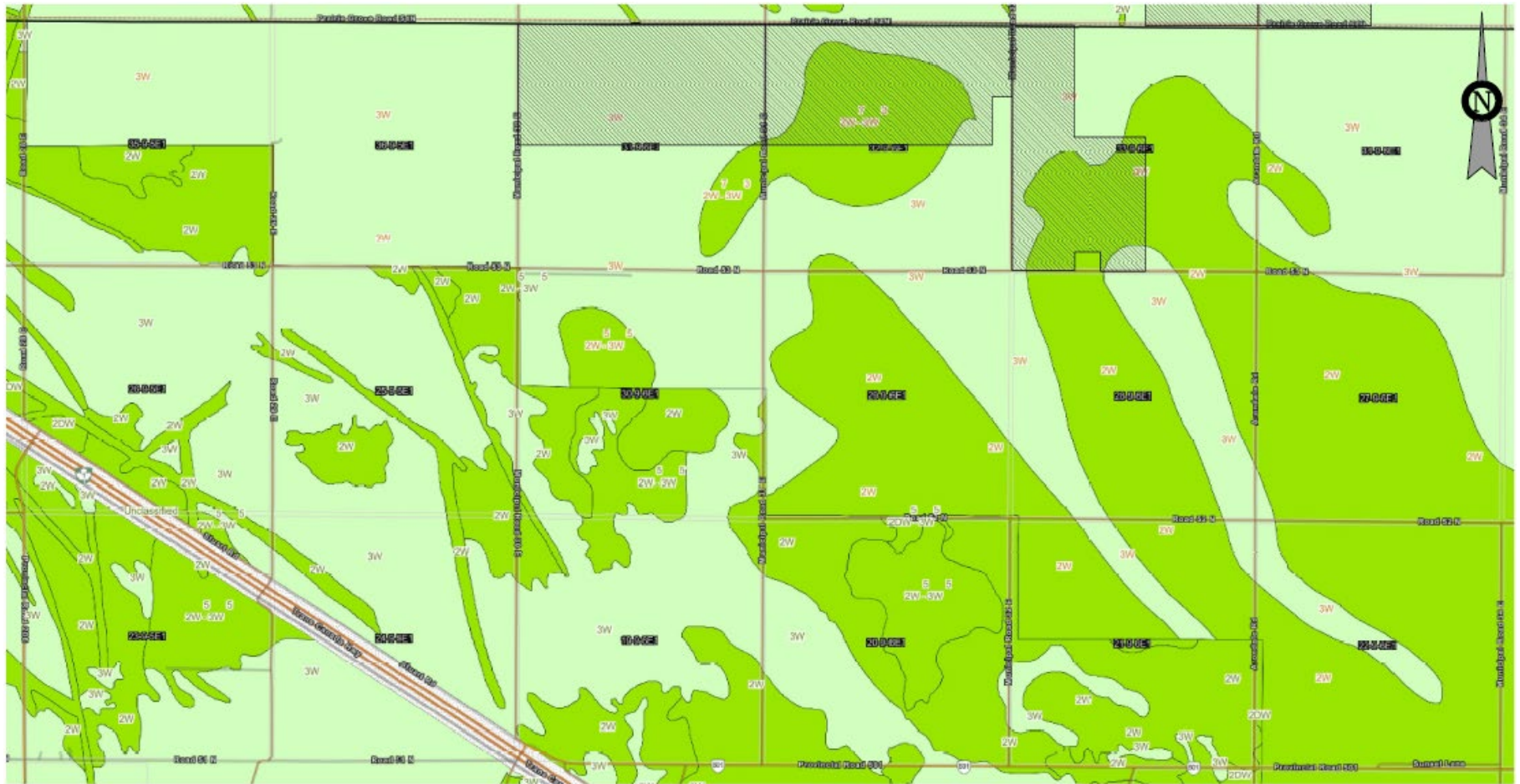




Spread Field Map (3)

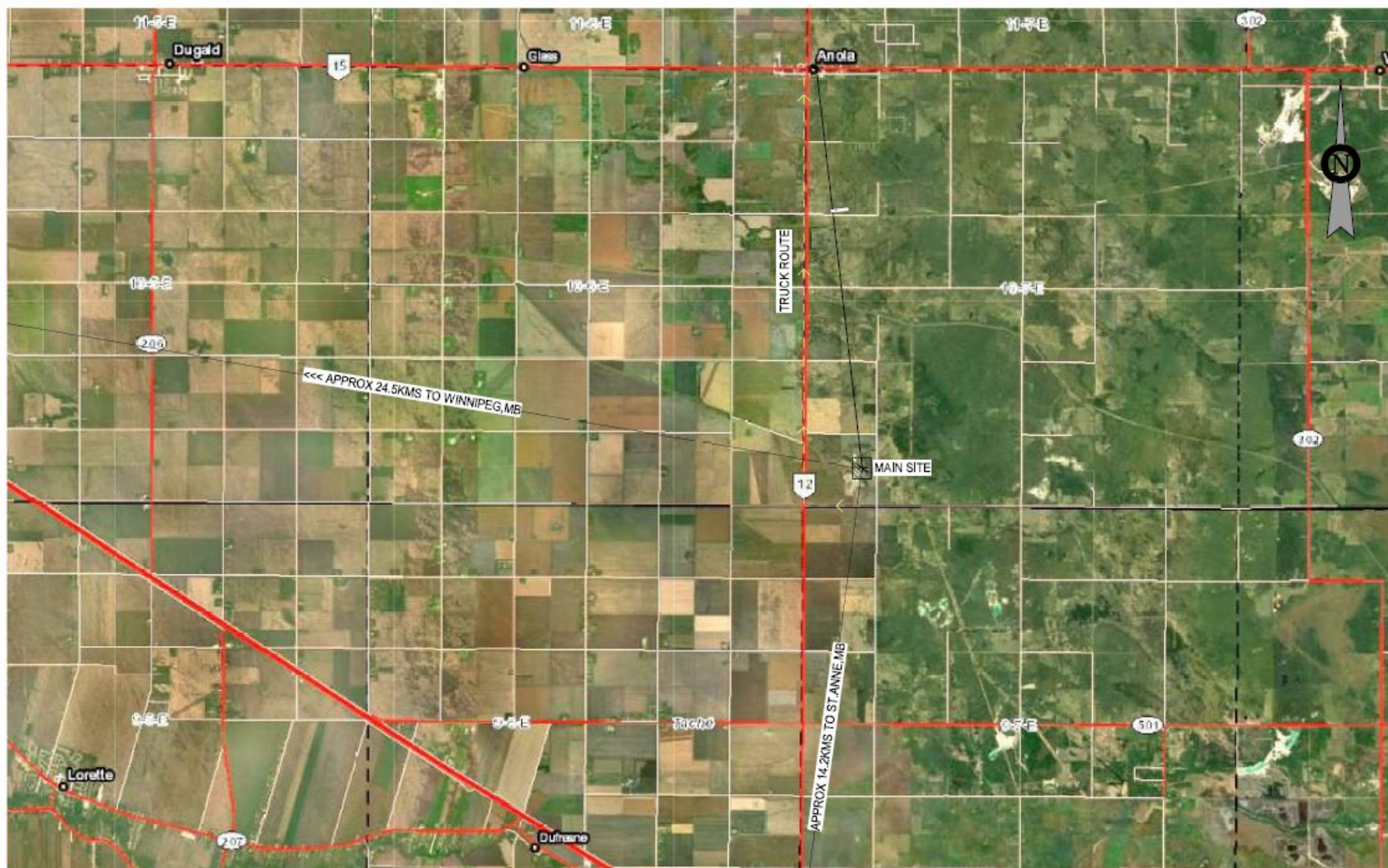


Spread Field Map (4)





Spread Field Map (6)



Truck Haul Route Map

C. SITE ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Related Section in the Site Assessment		Related Provincial Requirements and Safeguards	Dept.
1	Description of Operation and Nature of Project	The Planning Act requires that that an application to approve a conditional use for a livestock operation involving 300 or more animal units must be referred to the Livestock Technical Review Committee (TRC) for review. The RM of Springfield Development Plan By-law 18-09 states that a report on proposed new or expanding livestock operations involving the production of 300 animal units or more is required and shall be prepared by the Technical Review Committee and submitted to Council. Ridgeland Holding Co Ltd's application is to expand poultry operations in a mixed operation of more than 300 animal units. As such, they have been referred to the TRC for review. The Technical Review Committee Regulation 119/2011 requires an applicant to submit a completed site assessment. The TRC has received and accepted for review a complete site assessment from Ridgeland Holding Co Ltd, including all information necessary to review the application.	MNR
2	Type and Size of Operation	Ridgeland Colony is seeking Conditional Use approval from the RM of Springfield to expand their layer operation to 20,000 layers (equivalent to 166 Animal Units (AU)) and their broiler operation to 20,000 chickens (100 AU). The total number of AU on the Colony following the expansion would be 1097.	AGR
3	Animal Confinement Facilities	Additional livestock will be contained within the new construction (layer barn), and the alteration of an existing (broiler) building will be reutilized as storage.	MNR
4	Confined Livestock Areas	The proposed facility is not considered a Confined Livestock Area and is not regulated under the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation	ECC
5	Project Sites Unsuitable for Development	The proposed manure storage facility is not located within Nutrient Management Zone N4 or any Nutrient Buffer Zone.	ECC
6	Water Source: Existing Well Water Requirements of 24,344 imperial gallons per day	Ridgeland Holding Co Ltd holds a valid Water Rights Licence for agricultural – aquaculture purposes. It is advised that the proponent contact the Water Use Licensing Section to determine if a licence amendment is required: wateruse@gov.mb.ca.	ECC

Related Section in the Site Assessment		Related Provincial Requirements and Safeguards	Dept.
7	Development Plan	The Planning Act requires that development plans include a livestock operation policy that guides zoning by-laws dealing with livestock operations. The Planning Act requires that municipalities issue a development permit before any development takes place on a site. All development must comply with the Zoning By-law and Development Plan. Any proposed development that does not comply with required separation distances or setbacks must obtain Council approval following public hearing to vary those requirements. Designation The site of the proposed livestock operation, located in the E ½ 6-10-7 EPM in the RM of Springfield, is designated Agricultural Preserve Area (RM of Springfield Development Plan By-law 18-09). The proposed new layer barn will comply with Development Plan Livestock Policies 3.11, including the 100m setback from a watercourse per policy 3.11.15. Note: Development Plan Amendment By-law No. 18-09 was approved on February 5, 2019 to allow existing operations to expand beyond 300 AU within the Agricultural Preserve Policy Area as a Conditional Use.	MNR
8	Zoning By-Law	Zoning The site of the proposed operation is zoned “AI” Agricultural Intensive (Springfield Zoning By-law No. 08-01) with a minimum site area requirement of 80 acres and a minimum site width requirement of 660 feet. The proposed operation complies with the Zoning By-law. Note: Zoning By-law No. 08-01 was approved on February 3, 2010 to allow existing operations to expand beyond 300 AU within the “AI” Zone as a Conditional Use.	MNR
9	Separation Distances	The proposed expansion from 924 AU to 1,097 AU remains within the 801-1600 AU category in Table 51.3.2.1 of the RM of Springfield Zoning By-Law 08-01, meaning that required separation distances will be unchanged from what they are currently. Those separation distances are: - 600m (1,968 ft) from single residence to earthen manure storage facility. - 300m (984 ft) from single residence to animal housing facility and non-earthen manure storage facility. - 2400m (7,874 ft) from designated residential or recreational area to earthen manure storage facility or feedlot. - 1600m (5,249 ft) from designated residential or recreational area to animal housing facility and non-earthen manure storage facility. Measurements appear to indicate that no variance orders for separation distances are required.	MNR

Related Section in the Site Assessment		Related Provincial Requirements and Safeguards	Dept.
10	Abandoned Wells	The proposal indicates that water for the proposed livestock operation will be sourced from an existing well at NE ¼ 17-6-8 EPM. The provincial water well database contains information for a well associated with the proposed operation. The proponent has stated that they are not aware of any abandoned wells on the project site or manure spread fields. If any abandoned wells are encountered, they must be properly sealed if not in use, and a <i>Sealed Well Report</i> must be filed with Manitoba Environment and Climate Change, Groundwater Management Section. For guidance on well sealing and submission of reports, contact Manitoba Environment and Climate Change at (204) 945-6959 or consult: https://www.gov.mb.ca/water/groundwater/wells_groundwater/index.html. A licensed well drilling professional should carry out well sealing for all but the most basic wells. A list of currently licensed well drilling professionals is available at the link above. The applicant submitted a well table search request to the Groundwater Management Section. Upon further review, it was noted that some wells in the provincial wells database were not captured in the initial table because they are plotted near the middle of the quarter section. These additional wells are associated with the following land descriptions: NE ¼ 10-10-7 EPM, SE ¼ 6-10-7 EPM, NE ¼ 33-9-7 EPM, NE ¼ 35-9-6 EPM, SE ¼ 35-9-6 EPM, SW ¼ 6-10-7 EPM, S ½ 12-9-6 EPM, E ½ 11-9-6 EPM, E ½ 1-10-6 EPM, and 10-9-6 EPM. The proponent is expected to make a reasonable effort to determine whether wells are present within the proposed manure spread fields, including both (a) the wells identified above and (b) all wells listed in the well table originally provided. If confirmed that no wells are located within the identified spread lands, no further action is required. As a reminder, under the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation (LMMMR), a minimum setback of 20 metres must be maintained from any well, spring, or sinkhole during manure spreading, or 15 metres where a permanent vegetative buffer is in place.	ECC
11	Water Control Works	There are no new water control works proposed. If water control works are proposed, an authorization under The Water Rights Act is required. Note #1 - Any filling or draining of regulated wetlands (Class 3, 4 or 5) constitutes the construction of water control works. Note #2 – Class 6, 7 and Unimproved organic soils (ag capability) cannot be drained.	ECC
12	Manure Type and Storage: Solid and Liquid Manure Earthen Manure Storage	The applicant will modify or expand an existing manure storage. Under the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation, the applicant must obtain a permit from Environment and Climate Change to modify or expand the storage. Once in operation the applicant must: • Ensure there is sufficient capacity to store all manure through the winter. • Maintain the structural integrity of the storage. • Operate the storage so that it does not pollute surface water, ground water or soil.	ECC

Related Section in the Site Assessment		Related Provincial Requirements and Safeguards	Dept.
13	Mortalities disposal methods identified: Composting	The applicant will compost mortalities. Under the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation, the applicant must: • Ensure the composting does not pollute surface water, groundwater, or soil. • Locate the composting site at least 100 m from any surface watercourse, well, or the operation's boundaries. • Ensure the composting facilities and process are acceptable to the director	ECC
14	Setback Distances from Manure, Livestock, and Mortalities to Water and Operation Boundaries	The applicant has indicated that all setback distances meet minimum requirements set out in the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation	ECC
15	Building in Designated Flood Areas	The farm property is not within a Designated Flood Area. There are areas on the property which are at risk of flooding in the event of a 200-year flood on Cooks Creek; however no flood protection information is currently available. We recommend all new permanent structures should be 1.5 m (5 feet) above the ordinary high-water level, with a minimum setback distance of 30.5 m (100 feet) from the top of the bank of Cooks Creek to mitigate the risk of flooding and erosion.	MTI
16	Odour control measures (project site)	Ridgeland Colony has indicated that there are existing shelterbelts. Should odour become a problem for neighbouring residents, there is a complaints process under The Farm Practices Protection Act. A person who is disturbed by any odour, noise, dust, smoke or other disturbance resulting from an agricultural operation may make a complaint, in writing, to the Manitoba Farm Industry Board. The Act is intended to provide for a quicker, less expensive and more effective way than lawsuits to resolve nuisance complaints about farm practices. It may create an understanding of the nature and circumstances of an agricultural operation, as well as bring about changes to the mutual benefit of all concerned, without the confrontation and the expense of the courts.	AGR
		Ridgeland Colony has indicated that there are existing shelterbelts. Section 116(2)(c) of The Planning Act allows a municipal council to require a manure storage cover and/or the establishment of shelterbelts as a condition of approval to reduce odour from the livestock operation.	MNR
17	Land Available for Manure Application	The estimated land requirement for Ridgeland Colony is 1,666 acres for the phosphorus excreted by all of the livestock and poultry owned by the Colony, or 1,375 acres for the nitrogen, whichever is higher. Ridgeland Colony has exceeded the land requirement by demonstrating that they have access to 5,556 suitable acres. Additional details can be found in Appendix A.	AGR
		The proposed spread fields shall comply with the RM of Springfield Development Plan By-law 18-09 Development Plan Policies 3.11.4 to 3.11.22 (Livestock Policies) and the RM of Springfield Zoning By-law 08-01.	MNR
18	Setbacks for Manure Application	Under the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation, manure spreading must meet setback distances to all surface watercourse and groundwater features.	ECC

Related Section in the Site Assessment		Related Provincial Requirements and Safeguards	Dept.
19	Manure Transportation and Application	Please be advised that any structures placed within the controlled area of a Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) or Provincial Road (PR) (125 ft from the edge of the right-of way) requires a permit from our office. For permit information, please email accessmgmt@gov.mb.ca or call 204-583-2433. Permit information can also be found at https://forms.gov.mb.ca/highway-permits-application/index.html The placement of temporary drag lines or any other temporary machinery/ equipment for manure application within the right-of-way of any PTH or PR requires permission from Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's Steinbach Office. Please contact Robert Fender, Regional Planning Technologist, at (204) 346-6266 or Robert.Fender@gov.mb.ca. Please also notify the Regional Planning Technologist for the placement of temporary draglines or other temporary equipment for manure application within the controlled area of a PTH or PR (125 ft from the edge of the right-of-way).	MTI
		Under the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation, the applicant must: - Operate with an annual manure management plan which includes: - Manure type, volume, and nutrient values - Spread field location and soil class - Soil tests showing nitrogen and phosphorus levels - Crops to be grown - Manure application rate - Ensure manure does not pollute groundwater, soil or escape the operation's boundaries. - Follow requirements for the land application of manure, including nitrogen limits and phosphorus thresholds.	ECC
20	Manure Application on Lands Subject to Frequent Flooding or Inundation	The applicant has indicated that some spread fields are located within a regularly inundated area. Under the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation, manure applied there between September 10 and November 10 must be injected or incorporated within 48 hours. This does not apply where perennial forages are established, or the soil is not disturbed except for seed planting or commercial fertilizer application and has adequate crop residue to control erosion.	ECC
21	Projected Truck Haul Routes and Access Points	The proposed truck haul route utilizes an existing municipal road which connects onto PTH 12. We don't anticipate a significant increase in use.	MTI
		The proposed site is accessed by municipal roads 37E and 54N, and PTH 12. As per Section 116(2) of The Planning Act, municipalities, as a condition of approval, may require proponent to enter into a development agreement regarding the condition and upkeep of local roads used as truck haul routes.	MNR

Related Section in the Site Assessment		Related Provincial Requirements and Safeguards	Dept.
22	Conservation Data Centre Report	<u>Provincial Requirements</u> Known rare species will not be impacted on new site/lands <u>Related Provincial Safeguards</u> The information provided in the assessment suggest that there will not be any conflicts with species protected under the <i>Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act</i> and/or <i>Species at Risk Act</i>, or designated as rare or uncommon by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (MBCDC). This review is based on existing data known to the MBCDC of the Wildlife Branch at the time of the review. These data are dependent on the research and observations of our scientists and reflects our current state of knowledge. An absence of data does not confirm the absence of any rare or endangered species. Many areas of the province have never been thoroughly surveyed, however, and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. The information should, therefore, not be regarded as a final statement on the occurrence of any species of concern. All future observations of rare or endangered species made by the proponent should be reported to the MBCDC for further review.	NRIF

Provincial Departments: Agriculture (AGR); Environment and Climate Change (ECC); Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI); Municipal and Northern Relations (MNR); Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures (NRIF).

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISPOSITIONS

Public Comment Summary	
Mavis Druzyk	Concerns Concerns Regarding: • The increase in water usage. • A discrepancy between the number of animals and animal units in the public notice. • The potential increase in odour. • The potential increase in wildlife.
C. Hugh Arklie	Concerns Concerns Regarding: • The mention of a possible future expansion and how this compromises the validity of a conditional use permit. • The location of the operation within a flood prone zone. • The lack of evidence for the rationale behind the expansion. • The thoroughness of the provincial technical review process.

A full copy of the public comments as well as the proponent's response may be viewed on the public registry at: https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/livestock/public_registries.html

See Appendix B for the proponent's response to the public comments.

E. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The information contained in the Site Assessment submitted by the proponent generally meets provincial requirements. Based on available information, it has been determined that the proposed operation will not create a risk to health, safety or the environment, or that any risk can be minimized through the use of appropriate practices, measures and safeguards.

Recommended Actions to Council

1. As per Section 114(2) of The Planning Act, at least 14 days before the date of the hearing, Council must:
 - a) send notice of the hearing to
 - i. the applicant,
 - ii. the Minister (c/o the Beausejour Community Planning Office),
 - iii. all adjacent planning districts and municipalities, and
 - iv. every owner of property located within three kilometres of the site of the proposed livestock operation, even if the property is located outside the boundaries of the planning district or municipality; and
 - b) publish the notice of hearing in one issue of a newspaper with a general circulation in the planning district or municipality or, when there is no newspaper with a general circulation in the area, post the notice in the office of the planning district or municipality and at least two other public places in the district or municipality; and
 - c) post a copy of the notice of hearing on the affected property in accordance with the Posting Requirements outlined in Section 170 of The Planning Act.
2. Council should specify the type(s) of operation, legal land location, number of animals in each livestock category, total animal units, and expiration date (as per Planning Act section 110(1)) in its Conditional Use Order.
3. As per Section 117 of The Planning Act, Council must send a copy of its Conditional Use Order to
 - a) the applicant,
 - b) the Minister (c/o the Beausejour Community Planning Office), and
 - c) every person who made representation at the hearing.
4. Under Section 116(2) of The Planning Act, council may consider including the following conditions on the approval of this application:
 - a) Measures to ensure conformity with the applicable provisions of the development plan by-law, the zoning by-law and any secondary plan by-law
 - b) Measures to implement recommendations made by the Technical Review Committee
 - c) Requiring a manure storage cover
 - d) Requiring a shelterbelt to be established
 - e) Requiring the owner to enter into a development agreement dealing with:
 - i. The timing of construction of any proposed building
 - ii. The control of traffic
 - iii. The construction or maintenance of, or a sum of money to the planning district or municipality to be used to construct, roads, traffic control devices, fencing, landscaping, shelter belts or site drainage works required to service the livestock operation.

5. Council is requested to include in their resolution and/or Conditional Use Order notification that, as per Section 118.2(1) of The Planning Act, an applicant may appeal the following decisions of a board or council to the Municipal Board:
 - b) for an application for approval of a conditional use made in respect of a large-scale livestock operation,
 - i. a decision to reject the application,
 - ii. a decision to impose conditions.
6. As per Section 118, no development or expansion of a livestock operation that is the subject of an application under Part 7, Division 2 of The Planning Act may take place until
 - a) the application is approved and the applicant complies, or agrees to comply, with any condition imposed on the approval under this Division; and
 - b) the applicant obtains every approval, including any permit or licence, required under an Act, regulation or by-law in respect of the proposed operation or expansion, and complies with, or agrees to comply with, any condition attached to the approval.
7. Council is welcome to contact Manitoba Environment and Climate Change, Environmental Approvals Branch, or Regional Environmental Compliance and Enforcement staff with respect to the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation (M.R. 42/98), including compliance and enforcement issues.

Recommended Actions to Proponent

1. That any additional measures identified through subsequent provincial licencing or permitting in order to minimize any identified risks to health, safety and the environment be undertaken.
2. That as per Section 118.2(2)(b), an applicant may appeal the following decisions of a board or council to the Municipal Board respecting an application for approval of a conditional use:
 - i. a decision to reject the application,
 - ii. a decision to impose conditions.

F. TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Name	Department	Title <i>Branch</i>	Contact
Holly Ervick-Knote	Municipal and Northern Relations	Senior Planner <i>Community Planning Services Branch</i>	204-945-1312 holly.ervick-knote@gov.mb.ca
Petra Loro	Agriculture	Livestock Environment Specialist <i>Sustainable Agriculture Branch</i>	204-918-0325 petra.loro@gov.mb.ca
Julie Froese	Environment and Climate Change	Environmental Livestock Coordinator <i>Environmental Approvals Branch</i>	204-945-7104 julie.froese@gov.mb.ca
Karin Newman	Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures	Habitat Mitigation Specialist <i>Wildlife Branch</i>	karin.newman@gov.mb.ca
Jeff DiNella	Transportation and Infrastructure	Senior Development Review Technologist <i>Highway Planning and Design Branch</i>	204-430-7176

Appendix A

Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures – Fisheries Branch

Fisheries Branch staff have reviewed the proposal and advise that if the proponent adheres to all mitigative measures prescribed by ECC to protect surface waters and riparian habitats, we have no additional concerns with the proposal as described.

Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures – Lands and Planning Branch

A review of the information provided suggests there is no impact to Crown land administered under The Crown Lands Act. This review is based on information known to the Lands and Planning Branch as documented in the Crown Lands Registry System.

Manitoba Agriculture – Sustainable Agriculture Branch

In areas of lower livestock intensity, such as the RMs of Springfield and Tache, it is currently the Province of Manitoba's policy to require sufficient suitable land for all of the nitrogen and half of the phosphorus generated by the livestock. This policy assumes that more land is available in areas of lower livestock intensity to balance manure phosphorus with crop phosphorus removal, should it be necessary in the future.

Typical, modern feeding practices for poultry, pigs, cattle and sheep were used to estimate nutrient excretion by the livestock at Ridgeland Colony. Realistic, long-term crop yields from the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) for the RM of Springfield were used to estimate crop nitrogen uptake and phosphorus removal rates for the crop rotation specified in the proposal.

Land suitability is determined using soil testing for phosphorus and soil survey to establish the agriculture capability. Soils must be below 60 ppm Olsen P to be considered suitable. Detailed and reconnaissance soil survey is available in the area to determine the agriculture capability of the land. The soil survey indicates the land is predominantly Classes 2 and 3. The most significant limitation in the area is wetness (W) with small areas of droughtiness (M) and compaction (D).

The estimated land requirement for Ridgeland Colony is 1666 acres for the phosphorus excreted by all of the livestock and poultry owned by the Colony, or 3333 acres for the nitrogen, whichever is higher. Ridgeland Colony has exceeded the land requirement by demonstrating that they have access to 5556 suitable acres.

Appendix B



Unit 8 – 851 Lagimodiere Blvd.

Winnipeg, MB. R2J 3K4 www.southmandesign.ca 204-668-9652

September 4, 2025

Attention: Technical Review Committee

Re: Ridgeland Holding Co. Ltd. (TRC 12-116) – Public Comment Responses

In consultation with the proponent, we have prepared the following responses to the comments received through the public review process.

Response to Mavis Druzyk:

Water usage for all development at Ridgeland Colony is licensed through the Water Licensing Branch of Manitoba Environment and Climate Change based on the daily usage exceeding 25000L/day. As part of this licensing process the volume of use is taken into consideration and used to assess the impact on the aquifer and adjacent water uses. In situations where it is determined that the use will be a detriment to the aquifer or adjacent neighbours, limitations will be placed on the applicant, or they will be directed to consider alternative water sources such as surface water collection and/or increased efforts on water conservation. The presence of artesian wells in the area is typically an indicator of ample water supply within the region. Since the colony's establishment in 1967, no water supply issues related to depleted groundwater resources has ever been identified.

With regards to the animal units, the animal unit calculator spreadsheet identifies the animal units contributed by all livestock species raised on the colony both currently and proposed. It is proposed to increase the broiler chicken inventory from 2400 birds to 20000 birds which represents an increase in animal units from 12 AU to 100 AU. The layer chicken inventory is proposed to be increased from 9700 birds to 20000 birds which represents an increase in animal units from 81 AU to 166AU. If we combine the AU's from both species, the proposal will increase the AU from 93 to 266, an increase of 173 AU. This 173 AU increase represent the same increase when totalling AU from all species (924 AU to 1097).

Inevitably with livestock operations and earthen manure storages, there are times throughout the year when odours will be present depending on wind direction. Odour production from the barn facilities, particularly with poultry, is considered to be minimal due to the frequent removal of the manure from the facility and in the case of broilers the high concentration of bedding to manure that keeps the bedding/manure mix dry and typically not offensive. The proposed expansion of the earthen manure storage will be within the confines of the existing shelter belt so it is not anticipated that odour intensity would increase from current levels.

Liquid from the earthen manure storage is typically pumped from the manure storage to the receiving parcels of land via industrial lay flat hoses that are rolled out and then reeled back up once application is complete. Routing of these hoses is typically along rights-of-way and municipal ditches in order to cross under roadways and highways. Where this occurs, approvals have been obtained and it is a requirement of the proponent to inspect these hoses at frequent intervals when in use. Intermittent inspection by Manitoba Environment and Climate Change staff also occur to ensure the hoses and associated application equipment are well maintained and low risk to the environment.

The proposed poultry additions will house all of the birds within the buildings with no access to the outdoors. No increase in wildlife activity would be expected as a result of the proposed additions.

Response to C. Hugh Arklie:

The increase in the broiler flock is in anticipation of the future expectation that the broiler capacity will most likely be increased, to increase the efficiency and profitability of that enterprise. The statement with respect to the evaluation of the broiler flock expansion requirements refers to the building sizing and configuration as this is impacted by best animal practices and changing processor demands. The intent is to determine the building size and configuration at the time that the decision is made by the proponent to proceed to the construction phase and implement the design criteria in effect at that time. From the perspective of the Technical Review it was decided to include this increase in the current application to ensure that the long term goals of the colony are achievable and sustainable based on the current regulations and the maximum animal units expected for the long term.

The laying hens will be housed in groups in what is termed “enriched cages” which afford the 5 freedoms. The 5 freedoms include, freedom:

- 1) From Hunger and thirst
- 2) From Discomfort
- 3) From Pain, Injury and disease
- 4) To express normal behaviour
- 5) From fear and distress

The proposed cage system conforms to the Animal Welfare Act and is consistent with industry standards within Canada. This would not be considered a “free run” system.

The question with respect whether the project is within a flood prone zone refers to manure application fields. There are instances where portions of fields may be flooded during spring runoff and heavy rainfall events. These areas are well known to the proponent, and it has been demonstrated that the available land base far exceeds the requirements for long term sustainability thus allowing for manure

application to be avoided in these areas. The calculation of the available acres for manure application also has discounted for these areas where there is a high probability of moisture damage causing crop damage.

It is a natural occurrence that the population of a colony will increase over time, eventually leading to a situation where the colony splits and a new sister colony is started. This last occurred at Ridgeland in 1998 and since that time the colony's population has gradually rebounded with a healthy young demographic reaching adulthood in the next several years. These youth are anticipated to marry and have their own families, increasing the financial demand for subsistence and quality of life. Unlike in the past where land prices were affordable and land was readily available, increasing land base to increase revenue from crop production is not as lucrative. In the case of Ridgeland, increasing livestock production to be more efficient and cost competitive has been determined to be the most viable option.

The TRC process is a means of establishing the long-term sustainability and regulatory compliance of a livestock operation. Through this process it provides an opportunity to inform the surrounding community of the intentions of the proponent and allows this same community to express any concerns or ask any questions that may be relevant to their situation. Before the TRC process was established, the availability of information with regards to such a proposal was very limited and significantly much harder to access. The process in place today provides all stack holders whether near or far, the opportunity to voice their concerns and ask relevant questions, and at the same time enables the proponent to respond to these same items. The process also provides valuable information and insight as to the technical information and the concerns of adjacent landowners to the municipality, which inevitably will aid in the decision-making process.

Respectfully Submitted; South-Man Design Group Ltd.

Per,

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