

7317434 Manitoba Ltd. - Crystal Spring Colony Farms Ltd.

Crystal Spring Colony New Development - Wastewater Lagoon - File 6193.00

Public Comments Received:

- Public Comments Received (2)

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 24, 2023 12:07 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: 7347434 Manitoba LTD. - Crystal Spring Colony New Development - Wastewater Lagoon - File: 6193.00

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Dear Sir,

[REDACTED] up and down Willow Creek, just south of Gimli, Manitoba. I know that Creek well, but I wouldn't suppose, even with the exposure that I've had, that I know much about how close we are to a nutrient load tipping point. But we're close. This is why I strongly oppose the proposed building of a sewage lagoon that could impact Willow Creek and inevitably Lake Winnipeg, which is merely 5 miles from the lagoon site.

Generally, the Creek, which is currently supporting a plethora of flora and fauna species including 4 types of fish, painted and snapping turtles, a variety of shorebirds, song birds, and waterfowl, beaver, muskrat, otter, deer, and an impressive array of invertebrates, is running low on water. The exception was the summer of 2022 which saw high water levels Province wide. In recent years, however, Willow Creek has seen excessive plant growth due to the low water levels combined with the high nutrient load that funnels into the Creek as it makes its way from Fish Lake absorbing phosphorus and nitrogen from over 700 kilometres of ditch run-off. In the East Interlake Conservation Districts Willow Creek Management Plan, the EICD acknowledges that Willow Creek is currently in a degraded state. It simply cannot absorb the excess of nutrients in the water before it reaches Lake Winnipeg where it is responsible for massive algae blooms in addition to other problems related to toxicity.

If you come to paddle with me, you will look down into the water and see an over population of invasive and non-invasive submerged plant species. When the water becomes thick with plant growth, through eutrophication, it chokes out the sunlight and lowers the oxygen levels in the water. As a result few species of fish can survive in the water. Turtles are less likely to see their prey as it also is with the Pelicans and Herons that frequent the Creek. Less oxygen in the water is bad for all living species.

There is a tipping point for Willow Creek where the available plant life will reach a saturation point and will not be able to absorb any more nutrients. The International Institute For Sustainable Development has actually been removing cattail from Netley Marsh because it has been so saturated with carbon that it will just release it back into the water once the plant begins to die. This is where Willow Creek is heading. We have so few wetlands to mitigate the high nutrient levels in our Creeks and Rivers. On the West side of the Lake it is only Netley, Willow Creek, and the Icelandic River that can help provide concentrated wetland to carry out this valuable work for free. All we need to do is protect it.

Class 4 wetlands are semi-permanent ponds and lakes are characterized by marsh vegetation, which dominates the central zone of the wetland, as well as coarse emergent plants and submerged cattails,

bulrushes and pond weeds. These wetlands frequently maintain surface water throughout the growing season. Look on a map of Manitoba and consider how much Class 4 wetland we have left. You won't believe your eyes. Willow Creek is Class 4.

This project cannot move forward without a heavy weight on our conscience. There is so much out of our control when it comes to this ecosystem. But saying, 'no', to this project is a tangible way to demonstrate that we care about this Creek, this Lake, the occupants of this habitat, and the future generations of people who will occupy this land.

We need a well informed public forum to discuss this project and its potential impacts. In lieu of that, I for one, say 'NO!'

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 30, 2023 5:07 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Lagoon File 6193.00

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Approximately 2 years ago a cone of silence descended over all levels of government regarding a "proposal" for a development of a hutterite colony on section [REDACTED]. A proposal consists of information regarding some development while it is still on paper and rightly circulated for comment by affected parties. Unfortunately this "proposal" was missent. The hutterite method of development generally consists of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for land purchases and site infrastructure prior to public comment. Today section 28 has road development, natural gas, 3 phase hydro and current building construction. Upon review of Environment File 6193 for lagoon siting and operation; an alternate plan should be considered. All lagoons built with clay liners inevitably leak. This project has cost millions already so why build something with ancient technology that is prone to failure and environmental contamination, not to mention smell. A proper state of the art water treatment plant would make the most sense as our lake is already dangerously loaded with human waste from Winnipeg. Pictures in the proposal show the water level of an above average spring (2022). All of this surface water caused extensive overland flooding and washed out roads in numerous spots. Our home is 610m from the proposed lagoon placement. We see firsthand how poorly our drain system is maintained and by adding these new roads and improperly placed culverts only make the drainage problem in the spring worse. The maps in the proposal indicate only a few home owners with wells in the area, however they didn't include everyone in the RM of Gimli downstream of the creek. One major problem the local land owners face is future development. Would you buy land to build a retirement home beside a lagoon? I personally know everyone that owns property in the area and this is a huge concern. What will this do to my property value? I hope this alternate lagoon proposal merits critical consideration as it would address some nuisance claims regarding the impacts on fish spawning and downstream waters to Lake Winnipeg and nutrient loading contributing to properties [REDACTED] and commercial and sport fishing.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 20, 2023 3:23 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD. – CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT – WASTEWATER LAGOON – FILE: 6193.00

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Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 35)
Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6

Attention: housseini.coulibaly@gov.mb.ca

November 20th, 2023

Re: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD. – CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT – WASTEWATER LAGOON – FILE: 6193.00

As a private citizen living in the Lake Winnipeg watershed, and a lifelong Interlake, Manitoba resident I have serious concerns about the continued excessive nutrient loading of Lake Winnipeg and associated drains, streams and rivers.

I do not have concerns about developments as long we observe all present regulatory processes to ensure NEW developments do not add to the already obvious problems we have in Lake Winnipeg.

The Crystal Spring Colony Development is akin to dropping a village onto virgin agricultural land next to Willow Creek which as been classified by the EIWD (East Interlake Water District) as the second cleanest in their district. Biggest reason for this is the lack of human development on its watershed. This development will change this and a basic lagoon treatment may not be enough to mitigate the added nutrient levels that will be discharged.

It is expected that the lagoon discharge meet the 1mg total phosphorus limits set out in all municipal sewage treatment plants, however conditions should be set for government monitoring of the effluent before discharge and public notification to those downstream when this is happening.

Willow Creek drains through the Miklavik and Siglavik cottage and home developments, and are a unique sheltered harbour. This fall we had seen particularly odorous and dangerous algae infestations in Gimli and Silver Harbour locations exasperated by the sheltered nature on these harbours. Siglavik and Miklavik are man made inland harbours and as such are even more isolated by the wind and wave action which dissipates algae along most of the Lake Winnipeg shorelines. This new Crystal Springs Development WILL add nutrients N and P to the Willow Creek watershed and my fear is that the Miklavik and Siglavik developments will become a nutrient

sink or trap and feed excess algae growth in those and nearby locations. So far we haven't seen that problem there if this years algae blooms and fish kill offs at Gimli, Silver harbour and Hnaua beaches are any indication. Those areas are way more open to wind and waves yet had a major algae problem this fall. If I were in those development I would have grave concerns. These questions need to be answered:

- Who will be monitoring the lagoon to ensure compliance? ([See Section 5.2 “Reporting” in the proposal, on p. 29 of the PDF](#)) In particular, who is checking re: compliance with MECP licence requirements of no more than 1.0 mg/L total phosphorus? How often will TP be measured? How many litres will be discharged? What will be the total tonnage of N and P added to the watershed?
- Will compliance results be made public?
- What happens if this lagoon is non-compliant with 1.0 mg/L limit?
- What if any contingencies will be put in place to protect against/mitigate impacts of extreme weather (e.g. flooding) or equipment failure?
- What is the current phosphorus load to Lake Winnipeg from this sub-watershed? Can this area handle additional phosphorus loads?
- This lagoon will handle waste from approximately 200 people as well as “livestock production.” ([See executive summary of proposal, on p. 5 of the PDF](#), and also p. 9-10) What extent/scale of livestock production is planned and how will the manure from this be managed?
- How will the addition of the abattoir to the human waste affect the efficiency of the lagoon and discharges. Abattoirs have a very large water usage and while they may claim it is not for commercial use, it is a matter of semantics, as it is essentially an abattoir for a village sized community, not a small butcher shop. How will they handle the solids, fats, possible pathogens and antibiotic contaminants. Most literature I have research recommend that all solid matter be removed and go to compost or buried.
- Present site plans do not indicate an area to compost the poultry waste (manure) which over time will be substantial with 15,000 birds. How will manure be distributed and where? How do they prevent leaching into the watershed as this area has considerable low lying and overland flooded circumstances.
- This question is outside the scope of the lagoon's environmental approval process, but is worth raising because abbatoir waste is not the same thing as manure produced from animals. So, the lagoon may be able to meet the 1.0 mg/L phosphorus limit, but what about the potential for an increase in phosphorus-rich manure on fields and then leaching into the watershed. Has this factor been considered and how will it be addressed?
- It sounds like the barns will initially used for 15,000 poultry broilers (meat), however the plans do show additional barns. Once they have approval for the lagoon, can we be assured that hog, cattle or others will not be added without another licence review?

While the present regulations stipulate a 1mg/litre total P maximum, a better measure would be the total amount of P in tonnage that will be discharged into the aquatic system. One way to make a pollution problem go away is to dilute it until it meets standards. This however skews the intent and the goal should be to keep the N and P out of the waterways and onto the fields as fertilizer.

In closing I know that Crystal Spring Colony Development will try be a good neighbour, and steward of the land and water, they have indicated that this is their goal and only through frank dialogue can we move forward and address concerns. New developments should incorporate the latest and greatest technology, and not the bare legislated minimum. We have enough problems with existing municipal waste disposal standards not being met, so we don't need to add to the problem.





Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 8, 2023 3:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Re: FILE 6193.00

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Thank you for your email I'm definitely looking into this and trying to get the facts about the application.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 8, 2023, at 11:09 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

As a resident of Gimli Manitoba I am hereby stating my concern about this file and its effect on the Lake Winnipeg Watershed. Please do not allow it to proceed. THANKYOU

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

**Protest is when I say this does not please me.
Resistance is when I ensure what does not please me occurs no more.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 8, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini; [REDACTED]
Subject: FILE 6193.00

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As a resident of Gimli Manitoba I am hereby stating my concern about this file and its effect on the Lake Winnipeg Watershed. Please do not allow it to proceed. THANKYOU

[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

**Protest is when I say this does not please me.
Resistance is when I ensure what does not please me occurs no more.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 22, 2023 9:48 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Springs Hutterite Lagoon

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Good Morning

I am sending this Email in regards to the proposed sewage lagoon the above colony is applying for. I am a long time resident of Gimli and as such I have witnessed a steady decline in the water quality of Lake Winnipeg. I know there are many factors causing this decline but have we not learned anything from the past. I think the city of Winnipeg dumping billions of raw sewage in the Red River in the last decade is bad enough, but to consider a sewage lagoon expansion in an area that flooded a couple of years ago(overland flooding from Willow Creek and South Malonton Drain) is beyond belief. I have friends in Winnipeg telling me they would not swim in the lake after seeing the algae blooms and the water quality reports posted on the province website. We need someone in authority to take a stand and start to actually do something instead of talking . I hope you and your department are those people.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 23, 2023 9:37 AM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD. - CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT - WASTWATER LAGOON - FILE: 6193.00

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As a private citizen living in the [REDACTED], I have serious concerns about the continued excessive nutrient loading of Lake Winnipeg and associated drains, streams and rivers.

I do not have concerns about developments as long as we observe all present regulatory processes to ensure NEW developments do not add to the already obvious problems we have in Lake Winnipeg.

The Crystal Spring Colony Development is akin to dropping a village onto virgin agricultural land next to Willow Creek which has been classified by the EIWD (East Interlake Water District) as the second cleanest in their district. The biggest reason for this is the lack of human development on its watershed. This development will change this and a basic lagoon treatment may not be enough to mitigate the added nutrient levels that will be discharged.

It is expected that the lagoon discharge would meet the 1 mg total phosphorus limits set out in all municipal sewage treatment plants; however, conditions should be set for government monitoring of the effluent before discharge and public notification to those downstream when this is happening.

Willow Creek drains through the Miklavik and Siglavik cottage and home developments, and are a unique sheltered harbours. This fall we saw particularly odorous and dangerous algae infestations in Gimli and Silver Harbour locations exacerbated by the sheltered nature of these harbours. Siglavik and Miklavik are man made inland harbours and as such are even more isolated by the wind and wave action which dissipates algae along most of the Lake Winnipeg shorelines. This new Crystal Springs Development WILL add nutrients N and P to the Willow Creek watershed and my fear is that the Miklavik and Siglavik developments will become a nutrient sink or trap and feed excess algae growth in those and nearby locations. So far we haven't seen that problem there if this year's algae blooms and fish kill offs at Gimli, Silver Harbour and Hnausa beaches are any indication. Those areas are way more open to wind and waves yet had a major algae problem this fall. If I were in those developments I would have grave concerns. These questions need to be answered:

Who will be monitoring the lagoon to ensure compliance? In particular, who is checking re: compliance with MECP licence requirements of no more than the total tonnage of N and P added to the watershed?

Will compliance results be made public?

What happens if this lagoon is non-compliant with 1.0 mg/L limit?

What, if any, contingencies will be put in place to protect against/mitigate impacts of extreme weather (eg. flooding) or equipment failure?

What is the current phosphorus load to Lake Winnipeg from this sub-watershed? Can this area handle additional phosphorus loads?

This lagoon will handle waste from approximately 200 people as well as "livestock production." What extent/scale of livestock production is planned and how will the manure from this be managed?

How will the addition of the abattoir to the human waste affect the efficiency of the lagoon and discharges? Abattoirs have a very large water usage and while they may claim it is not for commercial use, it is a matter of semantics, as it is essentially an abattoir for a village sized community, not a small butcher shop. How will they handle the solids, fats, possible pathogens and antibiotic contaminants? Most literature recommends that all solid matter be removed and go to compost or be buried.

Present site plans do not indicate an area to compost the poultry waste (manure) which over time will be substantial with 15,000 birds. How will manure be distributed and where? How do they prevent leaching into the watershed as this area has considerable low lying and overland flooded circumstances. This question is outside the scope of the lagoon's environmental approval process, but is worth raising because abattoir waste is not the same thing as manure produced from animals. So, the lagoon may be able to meet the 1.0 mg/L phosphorus limit, but what about the potential for an increase in phosphorus-rich manure on fields and then leaching into the watershed? Has this factor been considered and how will it be addressed?

It sounds like the barns will initially be used for 15,000 poultry broilers (meat); however, the plans do show additional barns. Once they have approval for the lagoon, can we be assured that hog, cattle or others will not be added without another licence review?

While the present regulations stipulate a 1 mg/litre total P maximum, a better measure would be the total amount of P in tonnage that will be discharged into the aquatic system. One way to make a pollution problem go away is to dilute it until it meets standards. This, however, skewers the intent and the goal should be to keep the N and P out of the waterways and onto the fields as fertilizer.

In closing, I know that Crystal Spring Colony Development will try to be a good neighbour and steward the land and water. They have indicated that this is their goal and only through frank dialogue can we move forward and address concerns. New developments should incorporate the latest and greatest technology, and not the bare legislated minimum. We have enough problems with existing municipal waste disposal standards not being met, so we don't need to add to the problem.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: December 8, 2023 3:19 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Opposition to Wastelagoon proposal
Attachments: petition_signatures_jobs_37752692_20231208211453.csv

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Good afternoon,
Please see attached petition regarding opposition to the wastewater lagoon.
File 6193.00

There are 203 residents opposed and the number is growing daily.

[REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 20, 2023 2:43 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Cc: [REDACTED] Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Subject: 7317434 Manitoba Ltd, Crystal Spring Colony New Development - Waste Water Lagoon
- File 6193.00

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Hello,

As per the above mentioned development, I am strongly opposed to the proposed waste water lagoon development and its potential related negative effect (pollution) to Willow Creek and the Lake Winnipeg waters.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Gimli, Manitoba
R0C1B0

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 17, 2023 3:23 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT - WASTEWATER LAGOON

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Dear Sir,

Please register my opposition to the new development by the Crystal Spring Colony. The posted assessments of the site include several recommendations and modifications before the start of the proposed enterprise. These alone make The Crystal Spring Colony's project dubious. These reports are mostly concerned about the safety of the colony.

My concern is not for the safety of the Colony but the safety of the environment: Willow Creek, The people living downstream, The Willow Creek Marsh, and Lake Winnipeg.

Factors that have no mention in the assesments:

- 1) information about handling of the waste from the barn with 15,000 chickens + future expansions. What will happen to the waste from the barns? Will this be used in fertilizing the fields surrounding the colony? How will Willow Creek be protected from contamination?
- 2) Information about the operation of the lagoon. What will go into the lagoon? How often will it be emptied? How will it be emptied? Will the lagoon stay in balance?
- 3) In general the time for building lagoons is a thing of the past. It is important to note that The RM of Gimli has de-commissioned its lagoons in place of a waste water treatment plant. Lake Winnipeg is under environmental threat and we cannot allow this kind of "old fashioned" thinking when it comes to the environment. We need better treatment of all waste waters.

Finally I need to disclose that I am a permanent resident of the Miklavik development on the banks of Willow Creek (RM of Gimli). We are a community of about 100 households who are sending our waste water to the treatment plant through the low pressure sewage system..

Kindly

[REDACTED]

Gimli, Mb

R0C 1B0 [REDACTED]

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2023 1:21 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Spring Lagoon

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MR. Coulibaly,

As a resident of [REDACTED] on Lake Winnipeg I am very concerned about the wastewater lagoon that is being proposed by Crystal Spring Colony. I thought we had finally come to realize that our wetlands are gravely in need of protection and this lagoon seems to be a step backwards. Please accept this letter as my protest against this development.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 21, 2023 4:15 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: 7317434 MANITOBA LTD. – CRYSTAL SPRING COLONY NEW DEVELOPMENT - WASTEWATER LAGOON – FILE: 6193.00

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Hello, I would like to voice my objection to this project as it can impact lake Winnipeg in a negative way with runoff entering the lake. This year the lake had a lot of algae which inhibits our enjoyment of the lake as our cottage is nearby. I would like to see lake Winnipeg better protected from current and future degradation.

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPad

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 16, 2023 1:53 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Springs Colony Proposed lagoon in Armstrong

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to implore you to block the construction of said lagoon. We have been property owners in the town of Winnipeg beach since 1945 and have seen the deterioration of the lake. At a time when we are trying to save the lake and salvage the fishing industry, with concerns for residents who obtain their water from the aquifer in the area of Armstrong as well, this is not fitting in to any of this.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 27, 2023 6:31 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Springs Lagoon Proposal Opposition

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I am firmly opposed to the wastewater lagoon proposed project along 15.

As a graduate with highest honours in Environmental Sciences and having lived in the area for over 50 years this project could a colossal detrimental impact in our drinking water and lakes. There is a main drainage along 15 E to the south that flows directly into Lake Winnipeg. This now healthy ditch is host to diverse aquatic organisms, birds and mammals alike.

The proposed project will have a grave impact on the environment.

Sent from my iPhone

Sagan, Barsha

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 26, 2023 9:45 PM
To: Coulibaly, Housseini
Subject: Crystal Spring Colony New Development - Wastewater Lagoon

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Hello,

I am greatly concerned about the environmental impact of building a wastewater lagoon that empties into Lake Winnipeg.

The health of Lake Winnipeg is already suffering. I do not think allowing more nutrients which contribute to algae blooms into the lake is a wise decision. We should be doing everything in our power to improve the quality of the water flowing into Lake Winnipeg. At this point, anything that has a negative impact no matter how small should not be built. We need to look for better and more sustainable ways to treat human and abattoir waste than having it run into our ditches.

Willow creek is a beautiful and special place. The amount of wildlife that can be observed is astounding. I have spent many hours with my family along its banks. I hate to think what adding wastewater to this creek will do to the animal populations that have evolved to live in tune to the creek's natural water quality.

It's not good enough to say we don't expect an environmental decline in Willow creek or Lake Winnipeg. I want to know that every single creature along the effluent's pathway will not be affected.

Thanks for your time,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 20, 2023 2:05 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Crystal Spring development

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Good morning

I am writing to lodge my concern over the project by Crystal Spring Colony to build a large scale chicken farm adjacent to Willow Creek, which drains directly into Lake Winnipeg.

As a resident living along the creek I am concerned over any large scale farming operation along the creek. My family have been involved in the fishing industry for many generations and have seen direct impact on the fish, including huge blue/green algae blooms.

I am also aware of changes to the staffing component that used to be responsible for monitoring public health regulations. Who is going to monitor this farm to ensure that untreated effluent isn't leaking from the lagoon into the water shed? I am also very distressed to see that construction has begun on site without any opportunity to respond to concerns coming from the community. This doesn't do anything to instill confidence in operation and its intention to meet requirements.

It is very difficult to change what has happened to the lake but we do have an opportunity to make good decisions now to protect the lake going forward. Please stop this project!

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
Gimli, Mb

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 21, 2023 2:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: File: 6193.00 Crystal Spring Colony New Development-Wastewater Lagoon SE 8-18-3E
R.M. Armstrong

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The following is in regards to the above proposed development and environmental licensing.

1-The report does not provide a discussion on any alternate location for the proposed lagoon within Section 28. The site selected is in a location that is closest to existing rural residential developments. The proponent should provide discussion on why other locations within Section 28 were not considered.

A location in the NW quarter would provide additional buffer distance from the lagoon to the rural residential developments.

A location in the NW quarter would take advantage of wooded cover to provide a larger windbreak for the lagoon to assist in reducing odor disbursement.

2-The The Detailed-Reconnaissance Soil Survey of the Fisher and Teulon Map Sheet Area indicates soils in Section 28 are predominantly Inwood - Meleb in all four quarters suggesting that the lagoon could be constructed in any of the quarters. A liner as proposed in the proposal has already been identified as being required.

The report does not make any reference to alternate sites being considered for the lagoon.

3-The SE 28 has a strip of Chatfield Complex (peat) that transects the quarter section. This is an area of Organic soil and peaty meadow with very poor drainage. Reeds and sedge vegetation is associated with this soil type. An unnamed drain exists on this soil type that intersects with the municipal drain on the south boundary of Sec. 28 along Road 106 N. This vegetated drain as illustrated in the Hydrologic Report Photo 15 could be considered as an alternative discharge route with a lagoon located in the NW 28.

This discharge route would be on Proponent land for monitoring, maintenance and effluent testing in the discharge route.

The proposal should provide a discussion on the options for a relocated lagoon taking advantage of the Chatfield Complex soil to function as a third cell for the effluent to function as a polishing cell to remove nutrients associated with the discharge.

4-The proposed lagoon discharge indicates the second cell would discharge into the municipal ditch and flow into Willow Creek to the north. The proponent has transferred responsibility for the majority of the discharge route to the local municipal government when the responsibility for the maintenance of the effluent discharge route should rest with the proponent.

5-A location in the NW 28 would avoid the community development area and in this quarter the option of a longer vegetated discharge route could be constructed to function as a third cell for polishing the effluent.

This location provides the option for the construction of a new vegetated discharge route on Proponent land that either intersects with Road 15 E ditch or intersects with Willow Creek in the NE 28. The proposal acknowledges the vegetation associated with the discharge route in the RM ditch would further dilute and polish the effluent.

These suggested considerations put the management and maintenance of the discharge route with the Proponent. This option provides the Proponent with opportunity to monitor the discharge routes on property they own to ensure compliance requirements are met.

There is no discussion in the proposal that discusses what opportunity exists to utilize the effluent as a source of fertilizer (direct injection) for the agricultural lands located on Sec 28.

It is noted in the proposal there is no consideration for the construction of a third vegetated cell to remove nutrients from the discharge to improve discharge quality. This is problematic considering Willow Creek is a Type A fish habitat, an important recreational use area and that Lake Winnipeg is the final receiving water for the effluent discharge. A design of a lagoon that meets minimum standards is not appropriate with the environmental challenges that Lake Winnipeg faces.

6-There is no information in the report that discusses nutrient levels in the discharged effluent.

7-There is no discussion in the report regarding cumulative effects assessment of the proposed development.

8-There is no quantification of what a trickle discharge would be. The proponent should provide a specific flow rate of what a trickle discharge is?

9-Proponent should provide details regarding duration of a discharge.

10-The proposed discharge route does not provide information on discharge route in the RM drain and the drop in elevation that exists along the road as it nears Willow Creek. Flow rates and the elevation drop would be of interest if a discharge should occur during a significant rain event or if an emergency discharge would be necessary.

11-Discharge during October is a period when plant growth has slowed or stopped and nutrient uptake is reduced or does not occur.

12-Summer 2021 Willow Creek had virtually no flow due to drought conditions. Effluent dilution as suggested in the proposal would be adversely affected during a similar event. The proponent should provide a discussion on the reports assertion of dilution of the effluent and the associated minimum or no effect in Willow Creek and Lake Winnipeg.

13-Beaver Dams affect flow on Willow Creek. The report does not discuss how these dams would affect the proposal's assertion of dilution in Willow Creek.

14-The report indicates the abattoir is for colony use only and will not process animals for commercial sale. The proposal does not provide a discussion on the potential to compost animal byproduct from the abattoir as an alternative to using the proposed lagoon.

15-The proposal does not provide information on ground water use. If a Water withdrawal licence is required an assessment on effects to existing domestic wells should be provided.

16-Effects to Aboriginal, Treaty and Metis specific Rights can not be determined unless Manitoba conducts an Initial Assessment of the proposed activity. The Initial Assessment will provide Manitoba with the information to make an informed decision if consultation is or is not required. This is a government responsibility. Manitoba is aware that Lake Winnipeg is an area of importance to Indigenous Peoples for the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty Right activities.

17-The proposal indicates the RM of Armstrong will benefit with increased tax revenue from the development of a new colony. The RM of Gimli tax base would not benefit from lagoon development but will be the recipient of all effluent from the proposed lagoon development.

18-Does the proposed livestock population produce enough animal wastes to require a Provincial Manure Management Plan?

For your consideration.

[REDACTED]

Show quoted text

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 25, 2023 12:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Crystal Colony 7317434

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Good afternoon,

I am emailing in regards to the above proposal as I am a frequent user of our waterways in the Interlake area. It is not a new concern that our waterways are suffering from eutrophication. And yet, there continues to be a lack will to do anything about it as evidenced by this proposal for a sewage lagoon that will ultimately discharge into Lake Winnipeg and significantly impacting the wetlands prior.

I respectfully request the colony find a different location to develop.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 21, 2023 12:43 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public registry file 6193.00

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Dear Sir,

Regarding Crystal Springs Colony application for a wastewater lagoon in the RM of Armstrong, I strongly urge you to deny it. I am a visitor to the surrounding area and have heard many concerns over the years from locals about declining water quality, proliferation of drains, loss of habitat and lack of enforcement for regulations from loss of staff.

A development of this size - hundreds of people and buildings on a section of forested wetlands - should have the same requirement for a treatment plant that a town has. The size of the chicken operation with its attendant use of antibiotics and production of disease from confinement also calls for industrial sewage treatment.

Instead, the public and our water is being offered a lagoon situated in a high water table area prone to flooding. Not even a liner, just compacted clay soil with no additional cleansing treatment or even landscaping to disguise a cheap, bermed toxic pool of waste released regularly into Willow Creek and Lake Winnipeg. Adding its load of nutrients and chemicals to our beleaguered lake and its out of control harmful algae growth.

According to the engineer's report, five other drains and field drains also go through inadequate culverts to sluice into Willow Creek. Erosion control measures are lacking, and holding back the flows in retention areas that would allow the water to cleanse itself are also lacking. What are we expecting to happen with concrete structures and roads on this former habitat? A disaster for water and wildlife. The engineers found peat in the soil and is to be scraped off and piled up to make space for domestic and commercial buildings. How does the release of carbon from the ancient peat deposits fit with Manitoba's climate change goals? Not well. And how many places in the Interlake have been protected to compensate for this harm to a great many acres? Not many.

Wetlands are vital habitat for birds, animals and fish. I see nothing in the plans for this section of land that helps ecological functioning, only harm. If the RM of Armstrong council thought the taxes the Colony brings could make up for the further loss of water and air and land quality they were mistaken. The amount of drains in this area is a disgrace, and poor Willow Creek was a mistake to develop in the first place. Sending the wastewater downstream is not being a good neighbor.

There was a study done on nearby Washow Bay cataloguing the demise of fish spawning habitat due to run off from fields and small intensive hog operations that had proliferated to the point the RM couldn't even keep track of them. I suggest you read the reports from provincial fisheries staff (Ken Kansas among others) for context, and to check with the Village of Dunnottar to find out how lagoon systems for sewage can be managed to produce drinking water quality releases. It requires more land and more effort than Crystal Springs Colony has in its currant proposal.

Inadequate sewage treatment is taking place all over the province and seriously affecting our surface and groundwater supplies. How can we consider licensing another cheap lagoon under the guise of agricultural or commercial or domestic development? We can't.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

La Salle , Manitoba

R0G 1B0

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 27, 2023 1:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Lagoon RM Armstrong

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Subject: Lagoon RM Armstrong

Dear Housseini: I am sending this to you in regards to the planned lagoon for the Clear Water Colony in the RM of Armstrong. I came by the information by accident as my wife happened to have spare time to read an old paper, these day there are far better ways to get information out than that. I have great concern about the colony and the use of a lagoon in such a sensitive area that is upstream from a large area of recreational and commercial use for fishing, and were thousands of homes are located. Having worked for mining companies over the years any operation of this size would be required to build a proper waste water treatment plant. The RM of Armstrong will be gaining the tax benefit but it will be the RMs of Gimli and St. Andrew and the people that live there, that will be feeling the impact of this plan. From reading the article in The Express Weekly News that this location is one the worst areas to put a lagoon, and there seemed to be no guaranty on the types of animals that will be raised there.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], RM Gimli

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 16, 2023 1:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: new lagoon

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I am opposed to any lagoon, including the one from a colony in Alexander RM, that empties into our precious Lake Winnipeg. We are already struggling with various environmental issues, let alone adding more fuel to the fire. We have only one Lake Winnipeg. Do not help kill it.

Thank you in advance for protecting Lake Winnipeg.

Respectfully,