

April 21, 2009

Mr. David McIntyre
Municipal Programs
Program Management Branch
Alberta Transportation
2nd Flr Twin Atria Building
4999 – 98 Ave.
Edmonton, AB
T6B2X3

Dear Dave:

Re: Funding application/County of Wetaskiwin/Engineering Specifications/Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater System

We appreciate your taking the time to meet with representatives of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) in Edmonton last week. It was a very helpful discussion.

The PLWA is an incorporated society with charitable status established in 2007 to enhance, preserve and protect Pigeon Lake. Our membership continues to grow and at last count exceeded 1700 residents of Pigeon Lake and its watershed. Our Board includes representatives from the lakeshore community, agriculture, seniors, small and large business, the professional community etc. Our members have expressed very clearly that their primary policy concern is the expansion of the regional wastewater system to include all summer villages and other residential, commercial and recreational areas around the lake. We have been advised by Environment Alberta and the Health District that we have both a nutrient problem and a fecal coliform problem in Pigeon Lake. The lake has been posted with algae advisories and some beaches have been closed from time to time when fecal coliform counts have exceeded acceptable levels. Many thousands of Albertans use Pigeon Lake summer and winter for a variety of recreational activities. Local businesses and the regional economy depend on a clean and useable lake.

The PLWA has joined with the summer villages, the counties of Wetaskiwin and Leduc, the first nations communities, and the provincial and federal governments to clean up the lake. We have launched extensive public information and education programs for lake and watershed residents, homesite assessments, shoreline cleanups and other self-help measures to do everything we can as local residents to identify and address the issues associated with the challenges of maintaining this important Alberta resource.

This letter is being sent to reinforce our representations to you that it is critical to the ongoing viability of Pigeon Lake that the provincial government fund this next step in the process of expanding the regional wastewater system around the lake. It is one of a variety of initiatives short and long term which will have to be employed to restore the lake to long term stability.

Once again thank you very much for your participation in this important process. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information to you about our activities.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Stevens
President

cc. Diana McQueen, MLA, Parliamentary Assistant to Environment
Blaine Calkins, MP
Larry McKeever, Councillor, County of Wetaskiwin
Nancy Watson, Councillor, County of Wetaskiwin
Frank Coutney, CAO, County of Wetaskiwin
Vern Siemens, Councillor, Leduc County
Doug Wright, CAO, Leduc County
Ralph Johnston, Chair, NEPL
Roger McKeachern, Chair, Steering/Planning Committee/Regional Wastewater System
Summer villages