

Morris, Man.  
May 18, 1966

FLOOD PROTECTION MEASURES re FARMERS

A meeting of Councils representing the municipalities of: FRANKLIN, MONTCALM, MORRIS, MACDONALD and RITCHOT was held on the above date to discuss the Government's policy re permanent dyking of farm units.

Reeve Bruce MacKenzie chaired the meeting and introduced the Reeves and Councillors, as well as the M.L.A.'s and the Press.

Speaking on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Morris, he pointed out that the inundated area in this municipality in 1950 represented land assessed approximately in the amount of \$4,000,000.

Art Vermette, Reeve of R.M. of Montcalm questioned Harry Shewman, M.L.A. as to how the figure of \$500. for dyking a farm unit had been derived at.

Shewman replied that this was a tentative figure and felt that after applications for assistance had been received, appraisers would be able to assess the situation better.

Bruce MacKenzie then read the terms of reference received by municipalities which clearly states: "The Province will pay up to \$500. per farm unit .....

John Tanchak, M.L.A. also felt that this figure was tentative but in his opinion this certainly was not adequate.

Reeves Lloyd Magarrell, R.M. of Macdonald & Dave Proteau, R.M. of Ritchot cited cases in their municipalities where tentative dykes had been built and these cost considerably more than \$500. They also felt the figure set was far too low.

Bruce MacKenzie stated that the policy of ~~dyking~~ protecting Towns with permanent dyked at 100% government share was OK but felt that the program was not equitable, based on assessment, where our farm units were concerned. No reduction in water levels anticipated for the future leaving farm properties in a hazardous position with little assistance in sight. Dyking farm yards could create quite a snow problem in winter; therefore it would appear that raising buildings might be the better solution. A flexible program should be initiated permitting expenditures for this purpose, based on need and cost.

W.F.Schellenberg expressed the opinion that flood protection costs for farm units should be on graduated scale; not a flat figure of \$500. Government appraisers could assess the need.

Harry Shewman, M.L.A. referred to the policy followed in the 1950 Flood, which showed that new appraisals had been made in many cases and extra aid given. A world wide Manitoba Relief Fund was established which made it possible to pay for various losses of chattels and the like. About \$1,000,000. was available for these losses, at that time. About \$1,400,000 remained in the Manitoba Relief Fund in 1950 which was transferred to the National Disaster Fund. The Provincial Government is striving to get \$500,000. from the Federal Government, a like amount from the National Disaster Fund and will match with a like amount. Should this materialize, aid would be made available for the loss of chattels and various other expenses. Problems are being assessed now and solutions to these problems are anticipated.

John Tanchak, M.L.A. stated that residents of the flood areas have a legitimate request when asking for permanent protection. Man made drains have channeled so much water into our main rivers in the past years, that flood threats or flooding are bound to be more frequent. Dyking of Towns has proved to be feasible and should be encouraged. To solve the farm problem it appears that ring dykes or raising or relocating of buildings seems to be the solution; but the figure of \$500. for this purpose should be raised. Flexibility in policy required - aid given according to cost of project required. Immediate protection necessary. When the people speak - Government will and must act.

Wm. Kyle, Councillor R.M.Montcalm felt that farmers would not mind paying a portion of the costs of flood protective measures but due to heavy costs involved the percentage of payments to be made would of necessity have to be borne by the government.

Willow Forrester, Deputy Reeve of Montcalm suggested that study be made of a diversion channel around the flooded area leading into the Winnipeg Floodway. The Marsh River if cleaned could be a diversion channel. But by all means protect the agricultural area.

Bruce MacKenzie suggested that we aim for immediate assistance. Larger projects were good but would have to be considered on a long range program.

C. J. Neufeld, Councillor & Deputy Reeve of R. M. of Morris expressed being in favor of a diversion but being a long range program, would endorse dyking around farms and any other measure to alleviate the immediate problem. As a construction man, he could see that the \$500 policy set at present, was just a scratch. The silting problem in drains and rivers was a major factor to be looked into.

John Tanchak:- Recommend to the International Joint Commission not to lose sight of a long range diversion program and cleaning and straightening of Red River.

G.P.Goossen, Councillor R.M. Morris was in agreement with the percentage sharing of cost of dyking and raising of buildings. The Village of Rosenort was considering dyking if found feasible.

Bruce MacKenzie recommended raising certain roads and bridges to leave ingress and egress to areas affected by flooding.

Other Councillors in attendance endorsed the suggestion that the Government pay 100% of farm flood protection up to a certain amount and share balance with farmers.

John Tanchak reported having talked to the Chairman of Red River Valley Board, Mr. Boles, who had indicated that the time limit for making applications for permanent dyking and the like would be extended beyond the July 1st, 1966 date, as now stated in the terms of reference.

Harry Shewman endorsed this statement.

It was moved by William Kyle, R.M. of Franklin and seconded by Willow Forrester, R.M. of Montcalm

THAT Stan Braun, Solicitor, draft a brief to the Provincial Government setting out the wishes of municipal men, as to change of the present policy of remuneration to farm units re farm dyking or other protection. Also to have the government carry the cost of raising certain roads and bridges in flood threatened areas along the Red River.

AND further, that the following Committee be appointed to study and approve this brief and then present same to the Government for consideration:

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|-----------------|----------------------|
| Bruce MacKenzie | Reeve R.M. of Morris |
| Art Vermette    | " " Montcalm         |
| John Hunter     | " " Franklin         |
| Lloyd Magarrell | " " Macdonald        |
| Dave Proteau    | " " Ritchot          |
| Wm. E. Dueck    | " " Rhineland        |
- or alternative members appointed by their municipality.

Albert St. Hilaire expressed dissatisfaction as to welfare distributed during the Flood. Unfairly distributed.

Discussion followed regarding assistance for loss of chattels, moving and loss of livestock, poultry, etc. and evacuation expenses.

if  
It was reported that/damage to buildings amounted to under \$500. claimant would not have to submit bills. - Over this amount - Yes.

Art Vermette moved that the meeting adjourn. - Seconded by Dave Proteau.

27 municipal councillors  
and 2 M.L.A.'s attended.

D. J. Harder  
Secretary-