

R. B. CHURCH

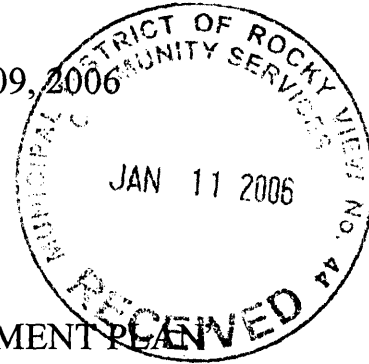
R. R. #1

Airdrie, Alberta

T4B 2A3

Monday, January 09, 2006

Mr. Alan Pentney
Alberta Environment
Mr. Tim Dietzler
M. D. of Rockyview



RE: "NOSE CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN"

Dear Sirs:

Since the Golden Rod Hall Open House, I have reviewed the "Draft Management Plan" for the Nose Creek Watershed and consulted with a number of watershed scientists and regulators who have been involved in similar plans elsewhere in Canada. Let me also indicate that my family has continually farmed and ranched the lands through which the Nose Creek flows for over the past 110 years.

Allow me to summarize my comments in this letter and to request an opportunity to present backup data to the Partnership, at your convenience. My conclusions are as follows:

1. The Nose Creek Watershed Partnership is to be commended for bringing the concept of a watershed management plan to the public's attention. I assume the Partnership is serious in its final sentence "it is the intent that these recommendations will be supported and implemented by everyone living and working in the watershed".
2. No landowners, through whose land the Creek flows, short or long term, has been directly involved in the Nose Creek Watershed Partnership planning.
3. References cited, with the exception of Stonekess (1981), do not reflect the history of the Nose Creek Basin Watershed. The above study was done as a result of the landowners' complaints about the quality and quantity of the Nose Creek waterflow. In the 1960s and 70s the flushing of the Airdrie and Crossfield sewage lagoons made the Nose Creek an "open sewer", to the extent cattle would not drink from the Creek.
4. The lack of historical background is reflected in the fact that both Nose Creek and West Nose Creek are considered to be "similar" watersheds. The recommendation to change the classification from a "D" to a "C" in light of fisheries potential is ludicrous!

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Nose Creek has a high temperature intermittent flow rate verses West Nose Creek over the years. The historical and planned Government utility and transportation development along the #2 Highway corridor on the Nose Creek are not consistent with the plan for the Nose Creek Watershed. The impact of the cities of Airdrie and Calgary, as well as Crossfield, have impacted Nose Creek. Since the 1920s when the original Edmonton Trail was moved to the "5th Meridian", the Transportation needs have had impact.

5. The report attempts to address the issues of jurisdictional authorities. However, the effectiveness and the impact on affected parties by the suggested "one plan fits all" approach to the eight "recommendation categories" for the Nose Creek and West Nose Creek is improbable. For example, the Cities of Airdrie and Calgary and the #2 Transportation and Utilities Corridor have a concrete asphalt storm water management problem (predicted by Dillon, 1980) and the Governments cost efficient land use challenges are not consistent with the "no net loss" channel length concept presented.

In summary, the difficulty in development of a plan, which recognizes differences in creek, flows over the years; between branches of the Nose Creek Watershed at different locations; and different land use is illustrated in Section 3. A historical and planned data base (P16) needs to be established before many of the policy decisions of the Partnership are presented to different levels of Governments for consideration.

Sincerely,


R. B. Church

Chair Emeritus

Alberta Science and Research Authority

cc: Dr. M. Hayashi, University of Calgary