

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

The Council of the R. M. of Morris held a special Committee meeting on April 8, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the R. M. of Morris.

Reeve Herm Martens presided.

Council Members present were: Ralph Groening, Lionel Wiens, Sieg Neumann, Leo Kornelsen, Barry Fraese, Denis Robert.

Also present were: Peter Mah and Brad Friesen of the Man. Pork Council
Jeff Senebald and Reg Spears of Elite Swine

Elwyn Eidse, Ken Rempel and Don Martens of K-Line

Bill Oakley of KPA

Dennis Vielfour of Hy-tech

The purpose of this meeting was to meet with companies involved with the hog livestock industry and to discuss issues of the industry.

Topic 1 The first issue of discussion was the growth of the hog industry in this Province.

The responses to this question were different depending on the company. Some felt that there would be a moderate growth in the industry, however, Elite Swine indicated that their plans were more aggressive and that in the next 2 to 3 years they were working at a growth rate of 10% to 15%. This would supply the Maple Leaf plant in Brandon with the capacity for 2 shifts.

Mr. Bill Oakley stated that he felt the industry growth would be about 7% and down to 3% in 5 years. The Maple Leaf plant in Brandon has capacity for 2 shifts and when they have filled the capacity needs for the two shifts, then what happens.

Mr. Ken Rempel indicated that the Canadian pigs have a very high and good market in the U.S.A. because the health status is so much higher.

Mr. Dennis Vielfour indicated that there needs to be a price increase in the hogs, however the U.S.A. connection to sell isowears is good. It is good to have Maple Leaf in Brandon, but they do not want any competition. He indicated that it is critical that the distances between barns be maintained.

It was mentioned that available workers for the barns can be difficult at times. There is a Certificate Course at Assiniboine Community College. Workers are needed, affordable housing is needed and these are problems where the barns are located. The housing issue is a big concern and factor but it is likely one that will resolve itself over time. But to find immediate housing for 10 or 12 employees in close proximity to the barn can be very difficult.

Topic 2 How can we work together in an orderly fashion in this expanding industry.

It was mentioned that the Rural Municipality of Morris has had a very rapid growth expansion of hog in the last few years.

By working together, the barns have got to prove themselves to the Municipality and to their community.

Peter Mah stated that having a sabbatical from considering hog barn applications may create legal implications by doing so. The Municipality should have a Livestock operations policy (create a livestock law) and have this policy as an amendment or schedule to our Development Plan. There is funds available for area consultations.

Mr. Dennis Vielfour indicated that there is great difficulty in educating the public. The challenge is bringing confidence back to the neighbors and the community.

They were asked about setback distances between barns, types of barns, sizes, etc. and it seems that there is no exact number that all can agree to. It was also mentioned that the people at the meeting and their companies are the salesmen to promote the hog barn applications but once that application has been approved and built, they have a very limited authority to help ensure the compliance to regulations of that barn operation.

Topic 3 How can we sell expansion to the public.

The size of the barn is the greatest problem to the general public and selling the product is no different if it is to 2 people or 1000 people. To sell any projects you need to have rules and having rules also requires that they be enforced and complied with. There needs to be some clarification of the benefits and positive to the community to have a hog barn in the area and they also need the community involvement.

Topic 4 How do we address the minimizing of the odor and the environmental concerns.


That topic was left with no answers, the hog barns do smell and there is no product to eliminate the smell, but there is research and experimenting done on a continual basis to address the odor issue.

In the closing of the meeting, each group (and each person) was allowed to make some closing comments on the meeting.

Most were appreciative of the fact that the meeting was held and that Council was taking this initiative in bringing these groups to a single meeting.

Mr. Peter Mah indicated that he is of the opinion that the sabbatical taken by Council is wrong and that we should be setting regulations that applications must adhere to.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



Grant Macaulay, Secretary