I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak. I am a grain and oil seed producer. The RM of Killarney – Turtle Mountain has 17 ILO’s with licensed lagoons, representing approximately 10% of the portioned assessment. I have as a councilor for the RM attended all the Conditional Use Hearings over an 11 year period. Notices are sent to the residents and landowners within a 2 mile radius for the Conditional Use Hearings and they are also invited to an informal meeting with the Technical Review Committee and members of council to review the report, usually two weeks before the Conditional Use Hearing. As a council member, I have relied heavily on the Technical Review Committee’s report and expertise.

The Government pause fuels uncertainty in the livestock industry. A large number of changes to regulations have been implemented, and based on science these have been considered improvements.
In 2001, the councils of Turtle Mountain and the Town of Killarney implemented a 3 mile buffer zone around Killarney and a one mile buffer at Ninga, Holmfield, and Pelican Lake. Within these areas no ILO’s could be located.

The RM requires all lagoons to be covered May 1st. Extensions are granted with written requests, e.g. completion of spring application of manure which is required to be injected into the soil, spring or fall.

Killarney Lake is located in our community as a water source for potable drinking water and recreation. It is very important to our community. It is a typical Prairie Lake that has suffered from algae blooms for centuries. The past treatment for this problem was Blue Stone or copper sulfate of which 60 tons are lying at the bottom of Killarney Lake.

The Killarney Lake Water Quality Committee was formed in 1996 and was made up of members from the Manitoba
Conservation, PFRA, Council and members of the community. Water tests were collected at designated locations of the Long River Water Shed. This watershed begins in a large, forested area in the Turtle Mountain – Wakopa Conservation area on the United States and Canadian side of the border. Water samples were collected at several locations, the first at the edge of the Turtle Mountain natural area, the 2nd down stream from spread acres for manure management, 3rd several miles of crop land, and the final collected downstream from a cattle operation. The steep elevation is the largest contributor for turbidity and phosphorus loading.

The Long River runs parallel to Highway 3 and Killarney Lake with flow access by two bridges crossing the highway. Peak flow pushed the cleaner water out of the lake and replaced it with nutrient rich water. Highway reconstruction and removal of the old bridges allowed for an opportunity for controls. Culverts with control gates allow the heavy flow to pass by the lake and with testing and experience the gates
are opened to recharge the lake with the slower flow which is cleaner and has reduced levels of phosphorus.

The Canada-Manitoba Farm Stewardship Program which ends March 2008, is a program that allows producers to self-evaluate their operations and accelerate the adoption of beneficial management practices on farms for water, soil and the environment. There is a benefit to this program and funding of the program should be extended with producers evaluating and implementing improvements to their Environmental Farm Plans yearly.