

## Abstract Submission for 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference

Title of Presentation:  
Floodway Expansion Recreation Consultation Study: Presenting possibilities

Category: River Tourism and Recreation

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## Abstract

RAS Consulting, TetrES Consultants and InterGroup Consultants were retained by Rivers West to carry out the Floodway Recreation Consultation Study, a consultation process to determine the needs and desires of stakeholder groups related to recreation/conservation opportunities along the expanded Red River floodway in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The study was organized into four phases: 1) key-person interviews with a cross-section of stakeholders potentially interested in recreation along the expanded floodway (information gathering); 2) data confirmation and documentation; 3) workshops (issue resolution); and 4) open houses (public consultation).

Phases 1 and 2 involved gathering and documenting stakeholder information through key person interviews on a number of issues, including: current use of the floodway for recreation purposes (location, nature of activity, seasonality, etc.), proposed activity on the expanded floodway (potential conflicts with land use and other activities, physical requirements, maintenance requirements, infrastructure requirements). Phase three involved inviting all stakeholders interviewed for the study to participate in workshops to discuss issues identified in the first two phases and to work together to resolve such issues. The final phase of the study provided the general public with an opportunity to review information received throughout the process and to offer their comments and ask questions about the study.

Results from the study were promising, with diverse stakeholder groups indicating that it is possible to have a multifaceted recreational facility that would be of benefit to all individuals/organizations interested in using the expanded floodway.

The focus of the presentation will be on key conclusions from the study that could be taken into consideration when developing a future floodway recreation plan, as well as proposed principles for the development of recreational opportunities along the expanded floodway.

**Biographical sketches**

Richard (Dick) Stephens is the principal of RAS Consulting, an independent consultancy based in Winnipeg. With over 30 years experience in Manitoba Environment and Conservation, ultimately as Director of Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs. Dick specializes in public consultation, consensus building, legislation and policy assessment and development, strategic regulatory advice, and intergovernmental collaboration.

John Osler is a Principal, Manager and Consultant at InterGroup Consultants Ltd., an independent, interdisciplinary firm based in Winnipeg, specializing in socio-economics, natural resource management, policy assessment, social sciences and planning. John has been involved with the majority of InterGroup's public involvement and socio-economic projects since joining InterGroup in 1990.

Roger Rempel, P. Eng. is a managing partner and Environmental Engineer for TetrES Consultants Inc, an award-winning Manitoba-based environmental consultancy operating throughout Western Canada and the northern U.S. Since 1991, Roger has been involved in a large number of significant environmental assessments and public consultation efforts for projects ranging from Floodway Expansion to Drinking Water Treatment Plants. Roger also serves as the President of the Consulting Engineers of Manitoba in 2006-2007.