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**From:** Wanja Nordin  
**Sent:** November 13, 2024 9:48 AM  
**To:** Karen Burnand  
**Cc:** Shelly Armstrong  
**Subject:** FW: Concerns re: Application for Amendment RA23022A Mitchel Kroetsch  
**Attachments:** basementwatertable.jpg; feedlotrunoff2.jpeg; cemeterywatertable.jpg

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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**From:** Ruth Burke <degumom3@yahoo.ca>  
**Sent:** November 13, 2024 9:44 AM  
**To:** Lynn Stone <lynn.stone@nrcb.ca>  
**Cc:** laura.friend@nrcb.ca; Fiona Vance <fiona.vance@nrcb.ca>; Bill Kennedy <bill.kennedy@nrcb.ca>; Francisco Echegaray <francisco.echegaray@nrcb.ca>; laura.partridge@gov.ab.ca; Wanja Nordin <wnordin@flagstaff.ab.ca>  
**Subject:** Concerns re: Application for Amendment RA23022A Mitchel Kroetsch

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November 12, 2024

[lynn.stone@nrcb.ca](mailto:lynn.stone@nrcb.ca)

**In response to:**  
**Application for Amendment RA23022A - Notification Letter**  
**Mitchel Kroetsch**  
**NW 15-47-16 W4M**

Received notification of Mitchel's application amendment today and wanted to respond with our current and continued concerns, opposing the development of this CFO.

Construction was halted because the water table was encountered in the excavation of one of the catchment basins and because of this, an amendment to the original plans was required. We appreciate the diligence that the NRCB displayed (thank you, Fiona) in notifying us (the directly affected parties) of this. In the interim, we took the time to do more research on the water table and runoff for this area, and feel the concerns we have are still very relevant and that regardless of a shallower collection basin, the water table is still an issue.

As I'm sure you know, the water table in our area is the lowest it has been in over 20 years due to drought conditions - most of the ground water in Flagstaff County and beyond has dried up, so currently, the water table does not reflect normal conditions for this area. The fact that Mitchel encountered the water table in his initial excavation should be a major cause for concern as it indicates how shallow the water table lies in this area, and the potential for contamination is very relevant. If the water table is being encountered at this time, when it is at an all-time low, what will things look like when it is back to normal levels? How will making the catchment basins larger in diameter and slightly shallower ultimately avoid contamination?

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I am attaching a document taken from an area history book, showing that burial at Wanda Cemetery was ceased in 1954 due to concerns of water table levels and contamination - this is the same runoff/watershed that Mitchel's proposed development is on. Water is one of our most important natural resources and this area is already struggling with contamination to the Battle River Watershed with the current pollutants and byproducts that are ultimately ending up in the water system. Why would we even consider further pollution of such an important resource? It is a one-way street - once the contamination is present, we cannot reverse the effects. Who will be responsible to clean up the mess once it has taken place?

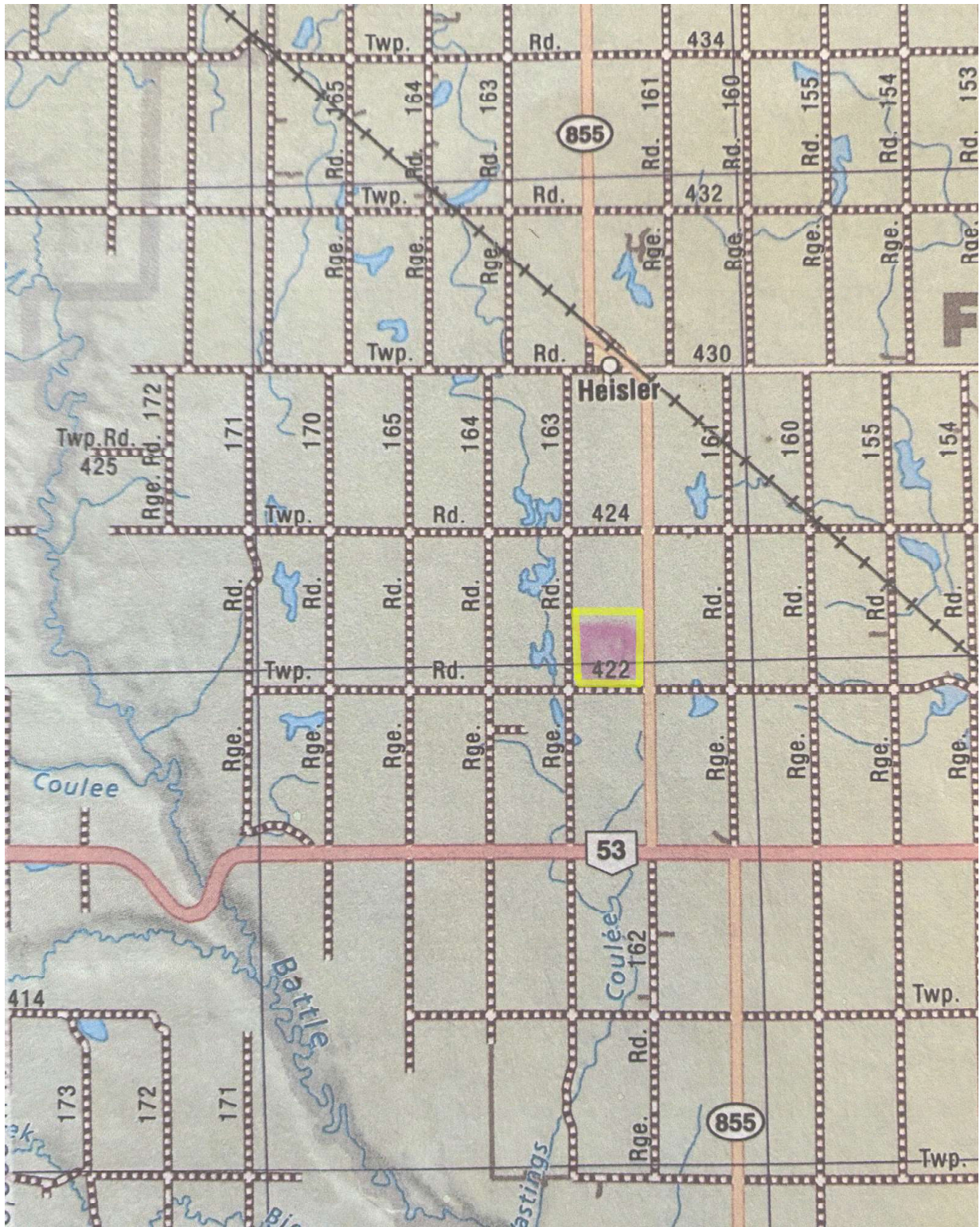
We have also attached a photo of a directly affected party's excavation and how they encountered the water table in their attempts to dig a basement for their home. Their property lies SW of the proposed CFO and is in the same water table/runoff area.

Also, please find attached an email from the Battle River Watershed Alliance to one of our DAPs (Directly Affected Parties) - relevant issues highlighted; and a map of the area showing normal standing water in the area and how it relates to the property where this CFO is being developed.

At the very least, we would like to request that Mitchel be asked to wait with construction of the catchment basins until the water table is at a more standard level (in the spring, after snow melt?) so that a fair determination of how this will affect the stability of the runoff can be made. We believe that any assessment of such at this time is not feasible because of the current drought situation.

Ruth and Bob Burke  
42426 Hwy. 855 - Legal land location: SE-27-042-16 W4

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A photo showing the water table that was encountered when Dallas Oberg (SW of proposed CFO) was digging a basement

### St. Mary's, Wanda Cemetery

Although St. Mary's Church closed in 1952 and the building moved to Forestburg in 1957, we respect the cemetery and site. It is a cherished part of our history.

In 1954 Reverend Father J. Rolheiser received a letter from the Bureau of Vital Statistics advising effective immediately there was to be no further burials in St. Mary's "Wanda" cemetery. Extensive soil testing was done and it was found the water table was too high along with the type of soil making it a restricted cemetery.

The thirty-eight bodies interred at the Wanda Cemetery are:

Dominic Schares  
Jacob Schares  
Christina Schares  
John Schares

Annie Fischer  
Christian Klein  
Louise Poepping  
Blanche Kroetsch

Mike Schares  
Irvin Dietrich  
George Kroetsch  
Mary Kroetsch  
John Kroetsch  
Joseph Laporte  
Theresa Kuntz  
John Messner  
Frank Rich  
Rosanna Dietrich  
Mary Steil  
Barnaby Steil  
Rosina Laporte  
Nicholas Dietrich

Nellie Plant  
Donna Messner  
Alice Plant  
Albert Ault  
Lawrence Kroetsch  
Loren Kroetsch  
Robert Plant  
William Godfrey  
Bernadette Kroetsch  
Edmund Kroetsch  
Marion Strauss  
Eldon Kroetsch  
Reuben Messner

There are three unmarked graves in the cemetery as well.

Wagon Trails in the Sod First Edition has a detailed account of the Wanda district.

