

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

Minutes 17 March, 2008

Meeting Location Langruth, Manitoba

Present: Gordon Goldsborough, Donald Smith, Allan Gaudry, Gary Morlock, Dan Coyle, Bill Finney, David Milani, Rae Trimble-Olson, Tracy Filion

Regrets: Harold Fleming, Linda Schroedter, Bob Harrison, Randy Helgason, Norman Traverse

Secretary: Laura Manson

Invited Guests: Bill Barlow and Sharon Gurney (Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board), Harry Harris (Alonsa Conservation District), Philip Thorvardson (Reeve, RM of Lakeview).

1. Meeting called to order at 10:09 am.
2. Approval of January 21, 2008 minutes. Minutes adopted, with following changes: addition of Norman Traverse to list of those in attendance, Wanda McFayden of the Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba and Rainbow Smelt is in reference to the fishery in Lake Winnipeg.
3. Introduction of Guests: Bill Barlow and Sharon Gurney of the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board, Harry Harris manager of the Alonsa Conservation District and Philip Thordarson, Reeve of the R.M. of Lakeview.
4. Presentation by Bill Barlow and Sharon Gurney "Overview of Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board Functions and Work Plan". The presentation is to be distributed to board members.
5. Presentation by Harry Harris: "Overview of Functions of Alonsa Conservation District" This presentation will be distributed to board members.

What can LMSB do to compliment the work of the Alonsa CD? The Alonsa Conservation District does not have a standard protocol for the sampling of water to analyze the quality and flow data. This is something that the LMSB could discuss with Bob Harrison as the province has standard protocols. In the future this may be something that the LMSB can work on in conjunction with CD's that surround Lake Manitoba. The Alonsa CD is responsible for activities that are usually handled by the municipality. The CD does not receive any funding through the Water Protection Act and the Federal Fisheries Act, however in order for the CD to meet the standards set forth by these acts the CD incurs substantial costs.

6. Report from the Chair
 - Research Proposal: Gordon Goldsborough has applied to the Water Stewardship Fund for funding for a research project to: design a model to understand the water quality issues in the south basin of Lake Manitoba. The model will attempt to look at the impacts of cottage development, drainage, climate change, etc. The study is a continuation of work started by Elaine Shipley (phase two). Gordon expressed concerned about possible conflict of interest. Diana Fred will undertake the project for her master's degree. Gordon has not heard anything about funding.
 - Website: J is not easy to contact. No work appears to have been done on the site. Domain name has not been registered.
 - Science Summit: Scoping meeting on the 18th of March was postponed due to the lack of people being able to attend. The meeting is to be rescheduled. Members of the science subcommittee schedules are: Dave Milani, unavailable from April 27 to 30. Dan Coyle week of April 7th

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committed. Linda Schroedter possibilities are the weeks of the 13th or 20th of April. The first week of April is spring break.

- Phone Tree: Manson and Milani switched places on the phone tree.
- Board Membership: Bob Harrison has still not been appointed officially to the board.
- Portage Diversion: The provision to advise the province on the operation of the Diversion is considered as part of LMSB's terms of reference.
- Long Term Fisher Award Nominations: Board members should spread the word to ensure fishermen from Lake Manitoba are recognized. This could be by word of mouth, through posters, and/or the future website.
- Appointment of vice-chair: There is a need for a vice chair in the event the chair is unavailable. The appointment of the vice chair will be dealt with at next meeting.
- Manitoba Water Council Survey: KPMG was hired to survey a number of groups around the province to find out what they were doing that involves water quality. A number of recommendations were made: one being communication has to be improved. As a result of the Manitoba Water Council survey, a map was created displaying the areas of the province and which groups, whether it is boards, conservation districts, etc, are representing each area. Lake Winnipegosis and much of Northern Manitoba were not represented by any group. This is largely due to the small number of people residing in these areas. However this does not mean that these areas are not important. Lake Winnipegosis is one of the largest lakes in Manitoba and directly affects Lake Manitoba. Miliani has a report that captured many of the issues around Lake Winnipegosis and he will bring the report to one of the Board's meetings. This will help to inform the Board of issues surrounding Lake Winnipegosis.
- The Chair will be attending an International Red River Board meeting on Wednesday to discuss pathogens and parasites that may cross the border from the United States into Canada by way of the Red River. These pathogens and parasites have the potential to enter into Lake Manitoba and surrounding waters. The Chair will keep the board updated with any new information regarding this issue.

7. New Business

- Oath of Office: Board members are to have the provincial oath of office filled out and signed by a commissioner of oaths or a notary public. Members will be reimbursed for any costs.
- Lake Manitoba South Basin Planning Secondary Meeting: Meeting held on 15 February. The research document will be available upon request. Eight policies were looked at. Concerns were expressed regarding recreation as access points to the lake are poor. The report identified a need for a clear recreational and eco-tourism plan and propose wind power development west of the Portage Diversion.
- The Chair would like to give the Minister of Water Stewardship an annual report of the Board's actions, this year it will be a small one but will grow in time. This will be discussed at the May or September meeting.

8. Old Business

- Conflict of Interest Policy: Board members are to review the Manitoba Water Council Conflict of Interest Policy. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Lost Nets on Lake Manitoba: During a 2002 storm about 3,000 nets were lost. Boats are still getting caught in the nets. This issue gained publicity last summer when a boater was almost

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killed. Letters of support have been given from a few associations including the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board for the cleanup of the nets. An initial grant of \$5,000 has been given by the province to start the cleanup. The initial cleanup will be focused on the Laurentian and Delta Beach areas due to the prevailing wind direction.

9. Meetings - Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium

The Chair attended a Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium meeting at which, the education of children about water and water quality throughout Manitoba was discussed. The Chair took note of an idea that came out of the discussion - using micro grants to fund schools to enhance the knowledge of Lake Manitoba in school age children. Schools throughout the province could submit proposals to the LMSB and the board could review them and decide whether or not a micro grant would be given to fund the project. The Chair will approach Dwight Williamson about the possibility of granting micro-grants in schools to help fund education about Lake Manitoba. The Board agrees that this is a good idea.

Conservation Districts and the role that they play in education were also discussed at this meeting with the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium in March 2008. Education is not a traditional role for Conservation Districts and additional activities would require funding. Many ideas for education programs that could be sponsored by Conservation Districts were mentioned including posters, brochures, seminars and websites.

10. Fairford Fish Ladder

Allan Gaudry is a co-chair Fairford Fishway Working Group. Many local fishermen are upset with the Fairford Dam. They feel it is a combination of the debris caught in the fish ladder and the velocity of the water that has impact the fisheries resources of Lake Manitoba. The river was dredged 40 years ago so there are questions whether the fish have abandoned their historic spawning areas and migrate routes along the edge of the Fairford River

The group has been given \$20,000 to study the Fairford fish ladder. DFO has approved the study. North/South Consultants was hired to undertake a fish passage study in October 2007. The report is still in draft form. The field surveys counted very few fish were going through the fish ladder. It was proposed the consultant present their findings at the next Board meeting in Lake St. Martin.

The fish ladder is often plugged with debris. Certified hoist operators are needed to operate the hoist and clean the debris. Having a hoist operator available to remove debris during spawning time would be a huge help.

11. Next Meeting is tentatively in Lake St. Martin in early April. The following meeting will be held tentatively on June 18th or 19th in St. Laurent. The September meeting will be held in Boggy Creek.

12. Adjournment: 2:29 pm.

Materials distributed at meeting

- Manitoba News Release: Melnick Opens Call for Long Service Fisher Award Nominations
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Oath of Office/Confidentiality
- Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board Draft Work plan 2007 – 2009

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- Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board Draft: Current Committees and Objectives
- Questions & Answers – Workshop Break-out Session