

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

Minutes 24 September, 2007

Meeting Location: Lake Manitoba Narrows

Present: Gordon Goldsborough, Allan Gaudry, Gary Morlock, Rae Trimble-Olson, Dan Coyle, Norman Traverse, Donald Smith, David Milani, Bill Finney, Harold Fleming, Linda Schroedter, Randy Helgason, Bob Harrison

Regrets: Tracey Fillion

Technical Secretariat: Laura Manson

Invited Guests: Dwight Williamson (Director, Water Science and Management Branch, Manitoba Water Stewardship)

1) Approval of Agenda

2) Introduction of Board Members: The Board Members stated their names, place of residence and occupations.

3) Introduction of Guests

4) Report from the Chair:

- The Board members are here representing themselves and not any organization.
- If a Board member is not able to attend a meeting they do not need to send a replacement.
- Meeting frequency and schedule: Meetings will be held on the third Monday of every month except for July and August. Emergency meetings may be needed depending on various issues that may arise. Meeting will be held at different locations around Lake Manitoba. Guest speakers may attend meeting to inform the Board of local Lake Manitoba concerns.

5) Terms of Reference: Draft Terms of Reference were brought to the meeting and distributed to Board members. The Terms of Reference were approved by the minister and cabinet, however, if the Board has suggestions, they can be brought to the attention of Minister Melnick. It was indicated that one Term of Reference is in regards to appointing a Board member to the Portage Diversion Advisory Committee; however it is not known if the committee is still in existence.

6) Proposed Operation of Fairford Dam: A conference call took place between the Board, Steve Topping (Executive Director of Manitoba Water Stewardship), and Alf Warkentin (Senior Flood Forecaster). Topping and Warkentin provided an overview of their report proposing operation of the Fairford Dam to reduce outflow by 1000 cfs this fall to reduce the probability of flooding on the Dauphin River due to frazil ice

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formation. The Province has been following the advice of the Lake Manitoba Regulation Review Advisory Committee and the stop logs in the Fairford River have not been changed since June 2005. Following the reduction in Fairford Dam outflows it will take six to eight weeks for the full impact of water level declines to occur along the Dauphin River. Thus, to be effective, action would need to be taken as early as possible. In addition to flooding caused by frazil ice, Traverse described damage that occurs to boats, docks, and equipment from ice. It was noted by Board members that the proposed reduction of outflows still would allow the important fall spawning migration of whitefish to occur. The Board asked that it be kept informed through the fall and winter about the success of the operation and that it be consulted next spring prior to operation.

- 7) **General Discussion:** The Chair would like the LMSB look at recommendations made by the LMRRAC and see if the LMSB is in agreement. Williamson indicated that the Province has accepted the recommendations of the LMRRAC and will continue to implement them unless the LMSB recommends otherwise. In terms of technical support to the Board, Williamson indicated that the province would provide support to the Board as required. Technical support for relatively small projects could be provided at any time, while funding for larger projects may need to be considered through the Province's estimates process for implementation the following fiscal year. Board members raised the issue of possible conflicts of interest. A conflict would arise is a Board member directly benefited financially from a decision made by the Board. Since the Board is advisory to the Province, it is unlikely that a conflict of this nature would develop. In cases where a Board member felt a conflict might arise, Williamson suggested the member should first raise the issue with the Chair. The Chair would prefer the Board communicate via email whenever possible. However those lacking email will still receive all communication, either by phone or mail. Decisions made by the Board should be transparent. A website would be ideal; it would include contact information, lake levels, meeting minutes as well as public meetings. The Chair offered the Delta Marsh Field Station as the LMSB mailing address as well as phone number. All Board members agreed to this.
- 8) **Next Meeting:** Monday the 19 November 2007 at the Delta Marsh Field Station at 10:00am. The Chair would like David Farlinger to attend the next meeting and give the same presentation that he gave to the Minister when the LMRRAC released its final report.
- 9) **Adjournment:** If any questions arise please contact Goldsborough. The Chair would like all Board members to read through the LMRRAC report and bring up any issues at the next meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.