

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

Minutes 8 September 2008

Meeting Location: Steep Rock, Manitoba

Present: Gordon Goldsborough (chair), Randy Helgason, Bill Finney, Dan Coyle, Dave Milani, Harold Fleming, Linda Schroedter, Allan Gaudry, Bob Harrison

Regrets: Donald Smith, Tracy Filion, Norman Traverse, Rae Trimble-Olson, Gary Morlock

Technical Secretariat: Laura Manson

Invited Guests: Cliff Halaburda (Councilor and Deputy Reeve of Grahamdale), Ed Beamish (White Tail Walleye Organization), Eric Olson (Mayor of Peonan Point and member of Northwest Interlake Water Management Association), Malcolm Conly (Environment Canada), Mark Lowden (AAE Tech Services)

Prior to the meeting, the Board went on a pontoon boat tour the of Steep Rock shoreline to view recreational activities that are occurring and then toured the Steep Rock quarry which is being consider for fingerling rearing.

- 1) **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved with the following additions to Other Business: 10a: Presentation by Malcolm Conly, 10b: Shoal Lake Drainage Proposal, 10c: Update on Fairford Fishway.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes:** June 23 Minutes: Item 6b should be changed to 812.13 ft and councilors Kelly McKay and Mark Chartrand to be added to guest list. June 24, 2008 Minutes: Carp Control to not simply address carp but all under utilized fish. Minutes accepted with above amendments.
- 3) **Report from the Chair:**
 - a) **Manitoba-Israel Water Conference:** The Department of Water Stewardship has initiated an exchange of information with Israel on both water quantity and quality. Over the course of 5 days in mid-August, time was spent with Israeli scientists and information and ideas were exchanged. A fund of \$100,000.00 has been set up to fund studies in Manitoba and Israel on water quantity or quality. Another conference is being planned for next year in Israel.
 - b) **Drainage Study:** The Chair has attempted to contact Todd Schwartz of DFO regarding information collected on drainage in Manitoba, and has been unsuccessful.
 - c) **Website:** The LMSB website now has four mockup pages, two of the homepage and two inner pages. The homepage contains two menus. The inner pages show more detail about certain articles and give other links to similar information. The search page is connected to Google and the Google search engine is used. The Board's email addresses are now functioning. They are: info@lakemanitoba.ca,

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secretariat@lakemanitoba.ca, chair@lakemanitoba.ca and vicechair@lakemanitoba.ca.

- d) **Logo:** Motion by Randy to accept the bottom left logo with the two cattails and the fish which will be used with both words and no words. However, the fish will be changed. Action: Manson to inform communications about redesigning the fish.
 - e) **LMSB Presentations:** The Chair has given a presentation to the Friends of the Field Station about the LMSB and its activities.
 - f) **Northwest Conservation District:** The Northwest CD has asked the Chair to attend their first meeting to inform the CD about the LMSB. In the future the CD would like to meet with the entire Board.
 - g) **Follow up graduate study on Lake Manitoba:** The Chair has received funding to do a follow up study on Lake Manitoba. The study will begin in January.
 - h) **Lake Winnipeg Science Sub-Committee:** The LMSB will submit its science workshops report to the Federal-Provincial Lake Winnipeg Basin Committee. The Board will ask the Committee to forward the report to its Science Sub-Committee, for review and identification of any additional information available on Lake Manitoba.
- 4) **Presentation by Mark Lowden on behalf of the *Northwest Interlake Water Management Association and the Whitetail and Walleye Fish and Game Association:***
Mark explained his study on the Basket, Powderhorn, Bear and Proulx Creeks that was done in 2006 and 2007. He addressed the issues of habitat and beaver dams and related them to the importance of fish populations. The presentation will be distributed to all Board members.
- 5) **Presentation by Malcolm Conly of Environment Canada, Science and Technology Branch:**
Malcolm spoke about the Lake Winnipeg Basin Initiative and the Lake Winnipeg Basin Science Sub-Committee. The presentation will be distributed to all Board members.
- 6) **Survey Project Proposal:** A general discussion on the survey occurred. The word cottage will be removed from the proposal. Residences within a mile of Lake Manitoba will be included in the survey, whether they are cottages or homes. First Nations should be included so band councils will be contacted. The Rural Municipalities will be notified that the survey is being sent out and that it does not infringe on any privacy laws. The sample questions will be mailed out to the consulting firms with the RFP to help narrow the scope. However, once the consulting firm is chosen LMSB subcommittee will aid in putting the survey together. Motion by Linda and seconded by Harold to move forward on the RFP.
- 7) **Science Workshops Report:** Changes were suggested and have been incorporated into the report. A new section entitled Drainage will be incorporated and consist of all information pertaining to drainage. The Chair will write a paragraph regarding the

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Lake Manitoba Fishery. The document will be reviewed by the Chair and forwarded to the Federal-Provincial Lake Winnipeg Basin Committee.

- 8) **Hydrological Update:** The level of Lake Manitoba has risen since the June 23, 2008 meeting due to much above average rainfall during the past few months and currently stands at 812.25 feet, just a quarter of a foot below the top of the operating range. The outflow from the lake is about 7300 cfs. No changes in log settings at Fairford Dam are anticipated at least for the next month. The level of Lake St. Martin is 801.8 feet. At this level the First Nations become concerned about flooding. Both lakes are expected to decline very slowly during September unless additional heavy rain develops.

As the outflow is high again this fall Manitoba Water Stewardship may consider an outflow reduction to reduce the risk of frazil ice formation on the Dauphin River. The Board agreed to support the operation of Fairford Dam to reduce the potential for frazil ice formation again this fall if requested by Manitoba Water Stewardship. The Board agreed that the Chair could advise the province of its endorsement if requested.

- 9) **Lost Net Clean Up:** Sixteen nets were retrieved from Twin Lakes Beach. More nets could have been retrieved but a lack of funding prevented this.
- 10) **Shoal Lake Drainage Proposal:** Public meetings are to be held in St. Laurent on the proposal in the near future. It is not known if St. Laurent will commit funding that they have been asked to contribute. The final report on the sustainability and environmental assessment of the project is due in mid-December. The Board would like a presentation on the results of the environmental assessment. Bob Harrison is to arrange a presentation.
- 11) **Fairford Fishway Update:** A meeting was held in August where it was announced that the Department of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation will train 8 people to clear the fishway when it is clogged. The training will take place on the 17, 18 and 19 of September 2008.
- 12) **Next meeting:** The next meeting will take place on Monday, November 3 at 8:30AM in Dauphin. The following meeting has been set for Monday, December 8 in Winnipeg at the Canad Inns Polo Park.
- 13) **Adjournment of Meeting:** Meeting adjourned at 4:18 PM