

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

Draft Minutes 5 and 6, May 2009

Meeting Location: Delta Marsh Field Station

Present: Bill Finney, Bob Harrison, Gary Morlock, Rae Trimble-Olson, Allan Gaudry, Dave Milani, Linda Schroedter, Harold Fleming, Norman Traverse, Donald Smith, Gordon Goldsborough, Tracy Filion

Regrets: Randy Helgason, Dan Coyle

Guests: Nicole Armstrong (MB Water Stewardship)

Technical Secretariat: Laura Manson

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved as is.
2. **Approval of Minutes (March 4th 2009):** Addition of Milani to represent the Board on the TAC committee for the Alonsa CD IWMP under 4g. Minutes approved with above amendment.
3. **Portage Diversion Update:**
 - a) **Hydrological:** Lake Manitoba is now at elevation 812.51 ft a rise of 0.80 feet since the March 4th Board meeting. Lake St. Martin is 801.00 feet with a rise of 0.37 feet but is still below flood stage of 801.7 feet. The Fairford Dam is currently discharging at 8000 cfs.

A Lake Manitoba forecast prepared by the Regulatory and Operational Service, Manitoba Water Stewardship was distributed that indicates:

- For median inflow conditions: Lake Manitoba is predicted to reach a peak elevation of 812.55 feet by the beginning of May, and Lake St. Martin a peak elevation of 801.7 ft by late May.
- For upper decile inflow conditions: Lake Manitoba is predicted to reach a peak elevation of 812.9 feet by mid May, and Lake St. Martin a peak elevation of 802.4 ft by early June.

The Portage Diversion is one of the three provincial flood control structures which include Shellmouth Dam and the Red River Floodway that provide flood protection to the City of Winnipeg. On March 28th the Portage Diversion was first operated because of an ice run at the Portage Control Structure. 6000 cfs was diverted down the diversion and 1000 cfs remained in the river. The peak inflow to the Portage Diversion was on April 15, 2009. About 16,100 cfs was diverted with 8040 cfs flowing down the river. On May 5, about 9500 cfs is entering the Portage Reservoir with 9000 cfs being diverted. The plans are to gradually increase the flow on the river starting on May 6th 2009. To date about 632,300 acre feet of water has been diverted to Lake Manitoba or 80.2%

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of the inflow to the Portage Diversion. This equates to an equivalent water level increase of 6.25 inches on Lake Manitoba.

- b) **Water Monitoring Update:** Presentation by Armstrong to be distributed to all Board members.
4. **Proposal for lost nets retrieval:** Up to \$25,000.00 is available for funding lost net retrievals. In reference to the letter from Derek Kroeker, the Board discussed the possibility of being responsible for the program and what it would entail. It is not within the Board's Terms of Reference to manage such a program. The Board can however advocate the importance of retrieving lost nets. Prior to our next meeting Don will talk to the Whitemud CD, Bill will talk to the Alonsa CD, Rae will talk to the LaSalle Redboine CD and Allan will talk to the West Interlake CD to see if they are interested in applying for funding to operate a lost net retrieval program on Lake Manitoba.
5. **Fisheries Sub-committee Update:** The sub-committee met on March 29th and reviewed the LMSB's Terms of Reference calling for a review of fishery management plans for Lake Manitoba. The attached minutes from the meeting were distributed to Board members. It was felt that the LMSB should hear from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) to better understand their role in Lake Manitoba's fishery. The Fairford Fishway study results and recommendations will be presented at the June meeting. Gaudry will distribute the study to Board members prior to the meeting.

Adjournment: 4:40PM

Reconvened: 9:00AM on May 6, 2009

Present: Bob Harrison, Gary Morlock, Rae Trimble-Olson, Allan Gaudry, Dave Milani, Linda Schroedter, Norman Traverse, Donald Smith, Gordon Goldsborough, Tracy Fillion

Regrets: Randy Helgason, Harold Fleming, Bill Finney, Dan Coyle

Technical Secretariat: Laura Manson

6. Report from the Chair:

- a. **Clean Environment Commission (CEC):** The CEC has come to the conclusion that the City of Winnipeg should use advanced treatment to remove nitrogen at their wastewater treatment facilities. If any one would like a copy of the report Manson can look into getting printed copies. The report is also available on the Commission's web site at http://www.cecmanitoba.ca/resource/File/Winnipeg_Wastewater/NvP_report_final.pdf.
- b. **NASA Image of Lake Manitoba:** An image of Lake Manitoba taken on Monday May 4, 2009 indicates the lake is still ice covered except for a

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wedge just north of the Portage Diversion and a noticeable difference in the colour of the water at the outlet of the Portage Diversion. The link to the website is below:

http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/realtime/single.php?2009124/crefl1_143.A2009124174000-2009124174500.250m.jpg

- c. **Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation Survey:** Probe Research Inc conducted a survey of fishers on behalf of the FFMC. Gaudry informed the Board that the report is available on the FFMC website. Manson will investigate if the report is available and if it is will distribute the link to the Board members.
 - d. **Conservation District Managers Meeting:** Goldsborough attended a meeting on April 7th to update the managers on the Board's activities. Manson will inform Sarah Coughlin and Erin Shay of Manitoba Water Stewardship that Dave Milani will represent the LMSB on the Alonsa CD's IWMP TAC.
 - e. **Probe Survey:** The Board agreed that the survey sub-committee will review and sign off on the final report. A printed copy of the Probe Report will be sent to all of the RMs, First Nations Communities, major towns and CDs surrounding the three lakes.
 - f. **Media:** On the 7th of April, La Liberte published an article regarding Lake Manitoba. On the 25th of April, the Winnipeg Free Press published an article about the Portage Diversion and Lake Manitoba.
 - g. **Email from Johnson:** An email was received from the Johnsons of Eddystone. The Johnsons do not think raising the level of Lonely Lake is a good thing. The Johnson brief should be appended to the Public Open House Report with all the other presentations.
 - h. **Criteria for Letters of Support:** Manson is following up with Sharon Gurney on the LWSB policy for letters of support.
 - i. **Website:** The website is almost ready to go live. A list of documents that can be uploaded to the website will be prepared.
7. **Review of the Science Workshops Report:** Laura Mason documented the changes to the report and will prepare a revised document. Six knowledge gaps were identified as priorities for the 2009/10 work plan.
 8. **Presentation – Fisheries Branch (MB Water Stewardship):** The PowerPoint Presentation will be distributed to Board members. The Fisheries Branch will create a draft document that will be reviewed by the fisheries sub-committee in the fall of 2009.
 9. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday June 17, 2009 at the FFMC plant located at 1199 Plessis Rd. in Winnipeg. The meeting will run from 10:00AM – 3:00PM.
- 5) **Meeting adjourned: 3:35PM**