

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

Minutes 8 December 2008

Meeting Location: Winnipeg Manitoba, Canad Inn, Polo Park

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

Regrets: Randy Helgason

Guests: Ron Kaatz (Manitoba Water Stewardship), Dave Olson (Lake Manitoba Commercial Fisherman's Association), Wanda McFayden (Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba, FSAM), Darryl Chudobiak (DFO), Don Sexton (Ducks Unlimited)

Technical Secretariat: Laura Manson

- 1) **Approval of Agenda:** Addition of presentation from Darryl Chudobiak (DFO) and Lake St. Martin Commercial Fishery (13a). Agenda approved with above additions.
- 2) **Approval of Draft Minutes (Nov. 3, 2008):** Change \$473,000 to a significant sum of money (item 13). Minutes approved, with above amendment.
- 3) **Presentation:** Ron Kaatz of Manitoba Water Stewardship, Project Manager of the Shoal Lake Study. Presentations will be distributed to all Board members.
- 4) **Presentation:** Darryl Chudobiak of DFO. The presentation will be distributed to all Board members.
- 5) **Presentation:** Dave Olson of the Lake Manitoba Commercial Fisherman's Association (LMCFA). The presentation will be distributed to all of the Board members.
- 6) **Presentation:** Wanda McFayden of the Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba (FSAM) provided a handout on the FSAM and its successes. The FSAM has been very successful in assisting farmers throughout Manitoba complete environmental farm plans. The environmental farm plan program was funded jointly by the provincial and federal governments. It offered farmers funding if they pursued beneficial management practices. This program ended in June of 2008. The environmental farm plan program is to be replaced by "Growing Forward" in April 2009; however funding has not yet been secured. The LMSB will send letters to the Provincial and Federal Ministers of Agriculture and Environment/Water Stewardship supporting and encouraging continuation of FSAM or similar programs. Action: Finney, Trimble-Olson, Smith and Fleming to prepare letters for the chair's signature

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- 7) **Report from the Chair**
 - a. **The operation of the Fairford Dam.** The Board is to be consulted prior to operations of the Fairford Dam.
 - b. **Carp and under utilized fish.** The MMF has agreed to fund \$9,000 required for shipping carp for a Chinese market evaluation.
 - c. **MCDA Convention.** The Board was informed about David Brook's presentation on the soft path for water, which focuses on more efficient use of water as opposed to the hard path which looks for new sources of water. Minister Melnick announced four \$25,000.00 grants to the Alonsa CD, the Assiniboine CD, the West Interlake CD and the Swan Lake CD towards their Integrated Water Management Plans (IWMP). As the Alonsa and East Interlake CD drain into Lake Manitoba, the Board felt it should be participating in the two CD's IWMP.
Action: Harrison agreed to determine the best way for the LMSB to become involved in the IWMP process for the Alonsa and West Interlake CDs.
 - d. **Water Council Meeting.** KPMG is in the process of completing their report of water related gaps and duplications. A number of recommendations/observations have been made and a final report will be drafted and given to Minister Melnick. One of KPMG's observations is that there is no formal communication between the LMSB, the LWSB and the Conservation Districts during the development of the IWMPs.
 - e. **Meeting with Minister Melnick.** On November 21, Goldsborough met with Minister Melnick. The Minister was reminded her about the LMSB Annual Report. Minister Melnick was also informed of the LMSB's belief that a Stewardship Board should be formed for Lake Dauphin and Lake Winnipegosis.
- 8) **Hydrological Update.** Conditions have changed very little since the last meeting, except Lake St. Martin has dropped by one eighth of a foot, due to reduced outflow from Lake Manitoba.
- 9) **Lost Net Clean-up Project.** MMF is to apply for funding for the lost net clean-up project. The LMSB will write a letter of support for the lost net clean-up project which will be submitted with the funding proposal.
- 10) **Website.** A working prototype of the website may be ready by Dec. 12/08.
- 11) **Fairford Working Group November meeting update.** Funding has been secured for the safety harness, hoist, etc., needed to clean the Fairford Dam fishway. The equipment will be available for the spring of 2009. It was noted that there has been a noticeable improvement in the Lake Manitoba fishery this year from having one outside bay of the Fairford Dam open. The fishermen will be recommending that 2 or 3 bays be opened next spring for fish movement.

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- The modelling of the Clarence Fishway by the University of Manitoba indicates that velocities are too high. Modifications to the fishway are being proposed to reduce velocities. A consultant is being hired to list the past two years finding by the Working Group.
- 12) **Development Survey Project Update.** The LMSB received three proposals in response to the Request for Proposals. The proposals will be reviewed by the subgroup this week. Board members will be notified by email of the selected proposal along with the justification. If no response is promptly received from the email, it will be assumed that the member concurs with the decision.
- 13) **Communication Strategy.** There is a need for a communications strategy so that the Board will effectively reach its target audience. Manson to contact provincial communications about a member attending the January meeting to discuss the need and approach for developing a communications strategy.
- 14) **Public meetings.** The dates of the public meeting will be chosen in accordance with the availability of space and catering. The advertisements of the open houses will be placed in local newspapers with the assistance of the provincial communications department. There is an urgent need to start developing poster boards about topics relevant to the LMSB's terms of reference. A document will be prepared as a result of the public meetings; it will include comments from the public. Action: Goldsborough to check if he has pictures of the story boards that were used at the LMRRAC public meetings.
- 15) **LMSB Workplan for 2009/2010 fiscal year.** The Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board has developed an annual workplan which is presented to Minister Melnick. It was agreed the LMSB should develop a similar work plan that relates Board activities to its terms of reference. At the January meeting Board members will share their thoughts about the workplan and a first draft will be compiled. Plans are to finalize a work plan by the end of March 2009 that will be presented to Minister Melnick.
- 16) **Other Business**
- a. **Lake St. Martin Commercial fishery.** Traverse approached the Minister and Joe O'Connor regarding a November 1 start to the Lake St. Martin fishery so that whitefish could be harvested before they migrate back to Lake Manitoba. Changing the start date of the commercial fishery was to be a one year experiment. The proposal was not approved because of concerns raised by communities adjacent to the lake. Fishermen lost out on an extra 14 potential days of fishing.
- 17) **Next Meeting.** Monday, January 19th in Lundar at 10:00AM.
19. **Meeting Adjourned:** 3:38PM.