

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

**Minutes for Monday, December 14, 2009**  
**at Canad Inn Polo Park, Winnipeg Manitoba**  
**10:15 am to 4:00pm**

**Present:** Dave Milani, Gary Morlock, Gordon Goldsborough, Randy Helgason, Rae Trimble-Olson, Donald Smith, Linda Schroedter, Dan Coyle, Bob Harrison

**Regrets:** Bill Finney, Harold Fleming, Norman Traverse, Allan Gaudry, Tracy Filion

**Technical Secretariat:** Colleen Andreychuk and Laura Manson

**Guest Presenter:** Cal Cuthbert, Ducks Unlimited

**Guest:** John Paurento from Lake Winnipegosis

10:16AM – meeting called to order.

- 1) **Approval of agenda:** Agenda approved with the following additions:
  - a. 12a) update on Manitoba Conservation Districts Association meeting (Dan);
  - b. 12b) Shoal Lake Water Management update (Bob);
  - c. 12c) Education sub-committee update (Linda).
  
- 2) **Approval of Minutes (November 2009):** Randy moved to approve the minutes and Dave seconded. Carried.
  
- 3) **Presentation by Cal Cuthbert, Ducks Unlimited:** Cal delivered a presentation on the Ducks Unlimited (Canada) projects around Lake Manitoba, both the North and South basins. He noted that caveats are registered with landowners on these lands for 20-30 years to conduct these projects. Ducks Unlimited objectives for these Lake Manitoba projects include:
  - a. Carp exclusion
  - b. Lake Manitoba regulation mitigation
  - c. Wind tide attenuation
  - d. Drawdown management
  - e. Drought proofing
  - f. Farmland protection

<b>Ducks Unlimited projects on Lake Manitoba</b>			
<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Under agreement	16	14,490	2.48
Operated	6	4,134	0.71
Projects with	6	3,727	0.64
Total Lake Manitoba wetlands (based on Lake Manitoba Regulation Review Advisory Committee 2003 report)		584,877	100

4) **Report from Chair.**

- a. **Delta Marsh Field Station:** The station has been closed by the University of Manitoba and is scheduled to reopen in May 2010. The Caretaker will be kept on throughout the winter. Given the closure, the mail address and contact information for the LMSB will be rerouted to 160-123 Main St. Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5. The phone number will also be changed to Colleen's office at (204) 945-5790.

**Action:** Colleen to update the LMSB contact information on their website.

- b. **Manitoba Water Chair:** The University of Manitoba and the Government of Manitoba are looking to hire a position titled "Manitoba Water Chair". The Water Chair will bridge the gap between water research and what is being done on the landscape. The Water Chair will act as a liaison between those working on the landscape, scientists, government staff, etc. to provide a watershed perspective. They will be hired on a five year term. The selection process has narrowed it down to two candidates.
- c. **Israel:** Gord will be traveling to Israel in two weeks to take part in the Second Manitoba-Israeli Water Symposium. He will provide a report on the symposium at the next meeting.
- d. **Manitoba Water Council:** There will be eight public consultations on the Manitoba Wetland Policy held in various communities throughout the province. The consultants hired to carry out the public consultations have had a change in staffing. The LMSB is a stakeholder that will be consulted in the consultations. The Board is preparing a written submission. The Water Council annual report has been finalized. The Manitoba Water Council is in the process of setting up a different website.
- e. **Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board Website:** The website will remain as is for the time being. When the Board knows what direction it will go, they will decide what to do with the website. The contract can be broken with a letter. In the meantime, Instrisix will be contacted to update the website information as per 4a.
- f. **Red River Basin Commission:** The annual conference will be at the Alerus Centre in Grand Forks on January 19 – 21, 2010. Bob may be going and may represent the Board.
- g. **Continuation of the LMSB:** The terms of the Board members are up February 7, 2010. No further information has been received on renewals at this time.
- h. **Lake Manitoba Fishers Meeting:** Gord met with Amanda Stevenson, Frank Kenyon and Robert Gaudry (commercial fishers) and Dwight Williamson (Manitoba Water Stewardship). This meeting was held to discuss the wishes of Lake Manitoba fishers to develop markets for non-quota fish – primarily carp and mullet – and concerns about their relationship with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC). Gord was unable to speak with John Wood, CEO of the FFMC, but was able to speak with David Northcott the vice-president who said that the FFMC does not explore new markets; they only expand existing ones.

## Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

- 5) **Hydrological Update:** Lake Manitoba is currently at a level of 811.65 feet, with a change of -0.7 feet from November 9, 2009. Lake St. Martin is currently at a level of 799.72 feet, with a change of -0.38 feet from November 9, 2009. The Fairford River is currently at a flow of 3,950 cubic feet per second (cfs), with a change of -750 cfs since November 9, 2009. Lake Winnipegosis is currently at a level of 830.7 feet, with a change of -0.15 feet since November 9, 2009. The Waterhen River is currently at a flow of 2,700 cfs, with a change of -1,185 cfs. These hydrologic conditions were distributed to all of the Board members. Bob will find out how long one of the bays at the Fairford Dam has been left open to allow fish passage.
- 6) **Census Report:** Census Division 19 was not included, and an explanation will be added; for example mention of Meadow Portage and Peonan Point. A few other changes were pointed out. The graphs will be changed to show the percentage of the population in each age group instead of the actual population. The total population of the place (municipality, First Nation, towns and cities) will be included in the caption below the graphs.

**Motion:** Linda moved to approve the Census Report, pending the noted changes and Don seconded. Carried.

- 7) **Annual Report:** The Board went through a draft of the annual report. Comments and suggestions were made. The annual report will be finalized and submitted to the minister.

The workplan is to be revised to remove / modify:

- “conduct literature review on methods for monitoring fish passage through the Fairford Fishway”; and
- “encourage municipalities and other groups to investigate ways of building fish hatchery ponds”.

**Motion:** Dan moved to approve the Annual Report, pending the noted changes and Dave seconded. Carried.

**Action:** Colleen to see if the Minister is available to meet with Gord to present the LMSB Annual Report prior to December 24<sup>th</sup>.

- 8) **Deighton Beach:** Tabled until next meeting.
- 9) **Westlake Integrated Watershed Management Plan (WIWMP):** Dave noted a report by Suzanne Smith (Manitoba Water Stewardship) on the consultation survey. At the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the list of WIWMP stakeholders was finalized. The next technical meeting will be held in February where all the technical and science based information on the watershed will be presented.
- 10) **Fisheries Management Plan Framework:** No meeting has been scheduled. Dave will draft comments, on behalf of the Board, which will go back to Joe O’Connor,

## Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

Director of Fisheries Branch, Manitoba Water Stewardship. The draft comments will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Board.

**Action:** Dave will draft comments on the Fisheries Management Plan Framework.

**11) Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Conference:** Dan reported on the conference which was held in early December and he attended on behalf of the Board. He noted that the presentation by Dr. Ron Stewart on climate change and stability predicted western Canada will have big droughts, but heavy precipitation. The presentation on Innovations by the Conservation Districts Program staff showed how watersheds fit together and are interconnected like pieces of a puzzle.

**12) Shoal Lake Water Management Study Update:** Bob updated the members on the report being done by KGS Group. The technical advisory committee has requested KGS expand the study on environmental issues to look at non-engineered solutions. The draft report is not expected to be available until late February, 2010.

**13) Education Sub-Committee Report:** Linda reported that they had discussed a variety of options of contacting residents in the watershed and had contacted the Moosehorn School principal to discuss best methods of contact.

**Action:** Linda to draft a letter to go to municipal and town offices, as well as schools. The committee will discuss which, if any, literature will be included with the letter or which websites will be noted for teachers to use as resources. Colleen will finalize the letter and handle the mail out; according to the addresses provided by the committee. Seasonal locations and organizations (such as campgrounds, cottage associations) will be contacted at a more appropriate time of year.

**14) Next meeting:** Colleen to check for the availability of the Narrows Lodge for the next meeting, hopefully February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**15) Meeting Adjourned at 4pm.**