

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board

Minutes

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board Meeting

3 November 2008

Meeting Location: Dauphin, Manitoba

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

Regrets: Harold Fleming, Tracy Filion

Guests: John Parenteau (Northwest Region, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Dauphin), Jessica Rawluk (Dauphin Herald), Dwayne Davies (Intermountain Conservation District), Sid Prowes (Intermountain Conservation District), James Welbourne (Intermountain Conservation District) and Bobby Bennet (Turtle River Conservation District)

Technical Secretariat: Laura Manson

- 1) **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved with the addition of Shoal Lake Update under Other Business.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes:** Northwest Interlake Conservation District changed to West Interlake Conservation District. Piona Point changed to Peonan Point. Minutes approved with above amendments.
- 3) **Presentation by James Wellbourne of Intermountain Conservation District:**

Intermountain Conservation District (CD) is located north of Riding Mountain National Park and East of Duck Mountain Provincial Park, its eastern boundary is along Lake Winnipegosis.

The northern half of the CD is currently working on an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP). In 2011, the southern half of the CD will begin the IWMP process. The Intermountain CD is currently monitoring drinking water quality: *E. coli* counts and nitrate levels are monitored. The CD will follow up with additional monitoring in 6 months to a year to document any change in drinking water quality. Intermountain CD initiated a Conservation Corridor program in the RM of Gilbert Plains.

Intermountain CD informed the Board that normal issues that they deal with pertain to fisheries and drainage. The CD also deals with stream bank stabilizations and beaver controls. The CD held the first Mountain View Water Festival last year. The CD would like to make this an annual event. It is a two day festival in which children can attend to learn about water issues. The CD would like the LMSB to participate next year. The CD notified the Board the two most common issues expressed in public consultation are flooding and beaver control, followed closely by drinking water and land use (agriculture, timber). The CD expressed an interest in having Lake Winnipegosis incorporated into LMSB Terms of Reference along with Dauphin Lake.

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Based on this presentation, the LMSB is in favor in principal of a separate Board to represent Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Dauphin. Motion: Schroedter, seconded by Helgason.

Action: Chair to forward a letter to Minister Melnick advising that Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Dauphin have their own issues and that Stewardship Board be considered for the two Lakes.

4) Report from the Chair.

- a. **West Interlake Conservation District meeting.** The Chair attended a meeting with the West Interlake CD (WICD). The WICD asked for a seat on the LMSB. The Chair explained to them that they are not unique in not having a seat on the Board. Individuals who have different backgrounds and interests are appointed by to the LMSB. Alan Gaudry who sits on the WICD's Shoal Lake subcommittee can provide feedback to the WICD.
- b. **East Interlake Conservation District.** The Chair will be attending a tour around the southern tip of Lake Winnipeg held by the East Interlake CD.
- c. **MCDA Convention.** The Chair will attend the MCDA Convention where he will be speaking about Delta Marsh.
- d. **Manitoba Drainage Survey.** The Chair contacted Margaret Keast of DFO regarding the drainage survey. Margaret Keast and Darryl Chudobiak may attend the December Winnipeg LMSB meeting.
- e. **LMSB and LWSB joint meeting.** There was consensus that the two Stewardship Boards should have a joint meeting to discuss common issues and learn from each other's experiences. The meeting should be considered for March with at a central location such as Arborg.
- f. **Operation of Fairford Dam.** –The outflow from Fairford Dam was reduced on October 14, 2008 to minimize the risk of the formation of frazil ice on the Dauphin River. The LMSB was not informed about the operation. Members expressed concern as the Board's role to provide advice on such operations. Action: Goldsborough to inform Dwight Williamson that the Board was not consulted about the October 14, 2008 operation and the LMSB would like to be consulted about future flow changes.
- g. **Delegation visiting Minister Melnick.** A presentation has been made to Minister Melnick by the Lake Manitoba Commercial Fisheries Association (LMCFA) lobbying for a fall (September, October) fishery on Lake Manitoba. Joe O'Connor of Manitoba Water Stewardship Fisheries Branch recommended that Minister Melnick consult the LMSB on this issue.
Action: Alan Gaudry to provide the Secretariat with the background document on the presentation. The Secretariat to distribute the presentation document to the LMSB prior to their December meeting.
Action: Gaudry, Goldsborough and Secretariat to arrange for Dave Olson of the LMCFA to attend the LMSB December meeting in Winnipeg and give the Board the same presentation he gave the Minister.
- h. **LMSB Public Meetings.** The LMSB agreed to hold four public meeting around Lake Manitoba in March 2009 to identify issues. The meetings will be held in

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- Eddystone, Ashern, Portage la Prairie and St. Laurent. There will be two meetings a week over a two or three week period. The LMSB will accept both presentations and written documents that voice concerns around the lakes. The public meeting dates and locations will be advertised in local newspaper 1.5 to 2 weeks prior to the meetings. The meeting will be held from 2PM – 5PM and 7PM – 9PM to accommodate the public.
- 5) **Hydrological Update.** The water level in Lake Manitoba has dropped about 1/3 of a foot since the September meeting. Lake St. Martin is about the same level as this time last year. Fairford Dam logs are to be replaced around the end of March depending on downstream conditions. Lake Winnipegosis has dropped about 1.5 feet since this time last year as its watershed has been drier than last year. Waterhen River outflow is about 2000 cfs lower than last year. A Hydrologic Conditions sheet was distributed to all Board Members.
 - 6) **Lost Net Clean-up Project.** This summer and fall, sixteen nets were retrieved from the Twin Lakes Beach area. Cottagers marked the nets with GPS. The estimated cost of clean-up is about \$300.00 dollars a day. Funding is still the issue. LMSB will write a letter of support for an application for additional funding for the project under the Water Stewardship Fund.
 - 7) **FSAM Update.** The province has not yet decided if the FSAM project is going to continue. A LMSB sub-committee was formed to approach the Agriculture Minister about the province's stance about FSAM. Farm Stewardship Sub-committee: Lead by Bill Finney, with Rae Trimble-Olson, Donald Smith and Harold Fleming.
 - 8) **Carp and under utilized fish control.** Gaudry requesting a letter from the Board to recommend that another fish processing plant be constructed in Manitoba. China wants 30,000 pounds of carp for a sample. Commercial fishermen will supply carp for free. Gaudry is in need of \$9,000.00 for freezing, processing and transport of carp. Gaudry to submit a proposal to MMF for funding and Food Development Center in Portage la Prairie. The fish will be caught this winter during the commercial fishing season. The Board supports the concept of marketing under utilized fish.
Action: Gaudry to draft a letter to Minister Melnick asking that the Province of Manitoba to play a larger role in the provincial fishery of under utilized species and to aid in developing a market and processing plant for under utilized fish species with Manitoba. Dave Milani to review the letter prior to forwarding it to Goldsborough for signing.
 - 9) **Website Update.** Some work has been done. The logo has been selected and development of the website nearing completion.
 - 10) **Census Report Update.** A rough draft will be distributed to the Board at the December meeting.

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- 11) **Development Survey Project Update.** A draft RFP has been prepared and it is currently being reviewed.
- 12) **Draft CD Workshop Report.** The LMSB endorses the findings of workshop in principle; however since the LMSB did not play a direct role in the workshop it does not want to co-author the report.
Action: Goldsborough to send a letter to the LWSB to inform them of the LMSB decision.
- 13) **Presentation by Don Stokotelney of Inter-Mountain Sport Fish Enhancement Group and Sticky's Bait and Tackle.** The Inter-Mountain Sport Fishing Enhancement Group is primarily interested in sport angling. The sport angling aspect of Lake Manitoba, Lake Dauphin and Winnipegosis represents a huge economic benefit to towns surrounding the lakes and the province. The Group has over 550 members and they rear 250,000 walleye annually. The group creates angling opportunities for kids. Over the past two years sport angling on Lake Manitoba, Lake Winnipegosis and the Waterhen River has been the best in the past twenty years. Don Stokotelney informed the Board that Inter-Mountain Sport Fish Enhancement Group was left out of the Dauphin Lake Management Plan, which is between the Province and Western Tribal (7 treaty communities). The Plan spent a significant amount of money on creating awareness about the dwindling fishery in Dauphin Lake. The Inter-Mountain Sport Fish Enhancement Group has been educating the public and creating awareness of what people can do to support the fishery.
- 14) **Presentation by Bobby Bennet of Turtle River Watershed Conservation District.** Turtle River Watershed Conservation District was formed in 1975. It is located east of Riding Mountain National Park and west of the Alonsa CD just south of Dauphin Lake. The CD does a lot of drainage maintenance, fish stocking in local ponds and erosion control. The main concern is erosion off Riding Mountain that can impede local drainage. The CD used to carry out water quality monitoring but funding has been allocated to other projects. Please note that subsequent to this meeting, Laura Manson contacted the Water Quality Management Section who indicated that the Section has two long-term water quality monitoring stations in this CD with water quality data going back about 20 years.
- 15) **Other Business.**
 - a. **Shoal Lake Update.** Ron Kaatz from Water Stewardship has agreed to attend the LMSB December meeting to fill the LMSB in on the Shoal Lake Project.
 - b. **November 1 start to Lake St. Martin Fishery.** Fishermen on Lake St. Martin are asking for a November 1 start. This is so the fishermen can take advantage of the whitefish that spawn in Lake St. Martin before the fish head back into Lake Manitoba. The fishermen want this because the ice freeze up occurs much later than it did years ago resulting in a shorter winter fishery.
 - c. **Fairford Working Group:** Five individuals have been trained on cleaning of Fairford Dam Fishway. However, equipment, consisting of 5 harnesses and a hoist are needed at a cost of \$13,000.00. The safety training was paid for by MIT

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but the equipment has not been acquired. Gaudry to give a report on the November meeting of the Fairford Working Group at the December LMSB meeting.

16) **Next Meeting.** Monday December 8, 2008 in Winnipeg at the Canad Inn Polo Park at 10:00am. January Meeting: Tentatively January 19, 2008 in Lundar.

17) **Meeting adjourned.** 2:33PM