

POLICY & LOBBYING

LOBBYING HIGHLIGHTS - SUBMISSIONS

EACH YEAR THE AMM MONITORS ISSUES THAT IMPACT MUNICIPALITIES. THIS YEAR'S LEGISLATIVE SESSION WAS SLOW DUE TO THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION. HOWEVER, THE AMM MADE SUBMISSIONS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES.

THE WATER PROTECTION ACT – NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REGULATION

The AMM made a submission to the Provincial Government on January 22, 2007 regarding the proposed Nutrient Management Regulation.

A number of public forums were held where Manitobans were able to express their views on the proposed regulation. The AMM participated in this process and made a submission following the publication of the final draft. The AMM Board supported the general concept of the proposed regulation, however there were issues that needed to be addressed in order for it to be viable for municipalities in Manitoba.

The AMM continues to raise concerns regarding communication on the overall long-term provincial water protection plan. Seeing the plan only in small pieces makes it more difficult to understand both the benefits and the hazards of the regulations.

HOG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW

The AMM made an initial submission to the Clean Environment Commission (CEC) on February 2, 2007. On April 25, 2007 the AMM presented a more thorough position to the CEC.

The Province of Manitoba required the CEC to investigate current environmental protection measures in place relating to hog production

in Manitoba to determine their effectiveness for managing hog production in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The AMM indicated the role of municipalities is to address local concerns regarding land use. The Provincial Government is responsible for environmental perspectives. Concern with the impact on municipal planning and the public process associated with both environmental assessments and the technical review committee were also raised.

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safety inspections, repairs and upgrades. The Grade Crossing Regulation under the Act requires increased municipal responsibility and resources from municipalities. The AMM expressed concern with the increased offloading to municipalities from other orders of government. The AMM indicated that railway crossings are the responsibility of the Federal Government and should not be offloaded to municipalities.

THE RAIL SAFETY ACT REVIEW

On May 10, 2007 the AMM submitted comments to the Railway Safety Act Review Secretariat. The Rail Safety Act specifies the requirements for railway crossing

REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (RHA) REVIEW

The AMM made a submission to the RHA Review Committee on August 15, 2007 to address a number of issues.

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Communication between RHAs and communities needs to improve in order for RHAs to adequately address local concerns. This includes the requirement for municipalities to contribute to health capital projects without input on what the funding will be used for. Health care services are the responsibility of the Provincial Government and offloading of this responsibility is not acceptable.

Increased accountability was also addressed, as there is a lack of public accountability through the RHA Boards.

The AMM brought to the attention of the Committee that the AMM membership has had resolutions about the training, recruitment and retention of medical professionals for a number of consecutive years. This indicates the need for increased provincial attention in this area.

TIRE RECYCLING SUBMISSION AND PACKAGING AND PRINTED PAPER SUBMISSION

On February 26, 2007 the AMM commented on the proposed Stewardship Regulation Guidelines for Product Stewards in relation to the Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation to address the issues of program coverage area, timelines, consultations and complexity.

As well, the AMM made a submission on August 2, 2007 regarding the Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM) Scrap Tire Program Plan to raise some issues concerning continued consultation, province-wide implementation and tire stockpiles.

NATIONAL MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER EFFLUENT STRATEGY SUBMISSION

Following a consultation session for the development of a national Municipal Wastewater Effluent Strategy held by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment and Manitoba Conservation, the AMM made a submission on March 1, 2007 to address a number of municipal concerns. This included concerns related to infrastructure funding, testing requirements and frequency, priority lists for implementation, timelines for implementation, harmonization of legislation, enforcement and jurisdictional requirements.

PARK DISTRICT SERVICE FEE REVIEW

On March 16, 2007 the AMM made a submission to Manitoba Conservation regarding the review of the Park District Service Fee. The AMM monitors this issue as it relates to the services provided by municipalities to residents living within provincial parks.

PRESIDENT BELL IS INTERVIEWED BY LOCAL MEDIA FOLLOWING THE AMM'S PRESENTATION TO THE CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION ON APRIL 25, 2007.

