



# Conservation Districts Program:

## Framework for the Future Consensus Document

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### Overview for Municipal Officials Seminar

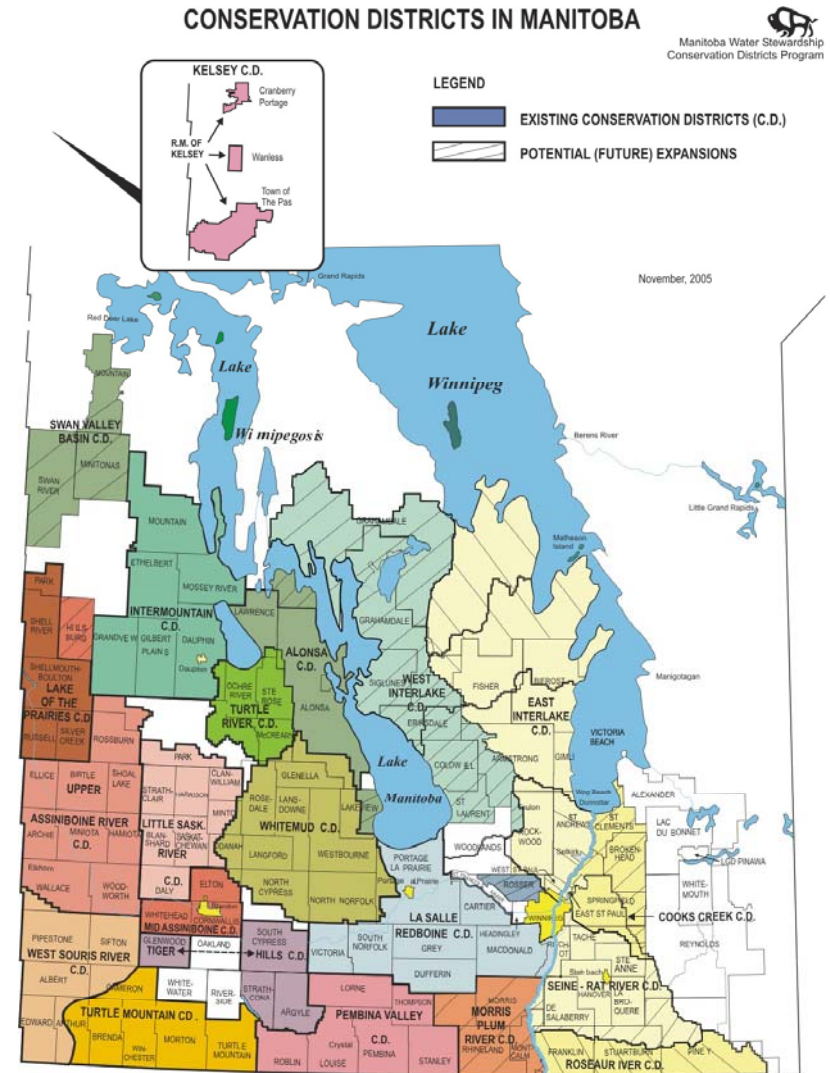
Wayne Hildebrand, P.Ag. Manager  
Watershed Planning and Programs  
Manitoba Water Stewardship

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# Question?

What is the game plan for the future of the Conservation Districts Program?



# Looking Back.....

- CD program started in 1970's
- Watershed approach
- Local Boards
- Municipal appointment only
- Prov/Municipal cost-share
- Resource scheme (plan)
- Incentive approach
- Issues: Coordinated drainage, flooding, soil erosion

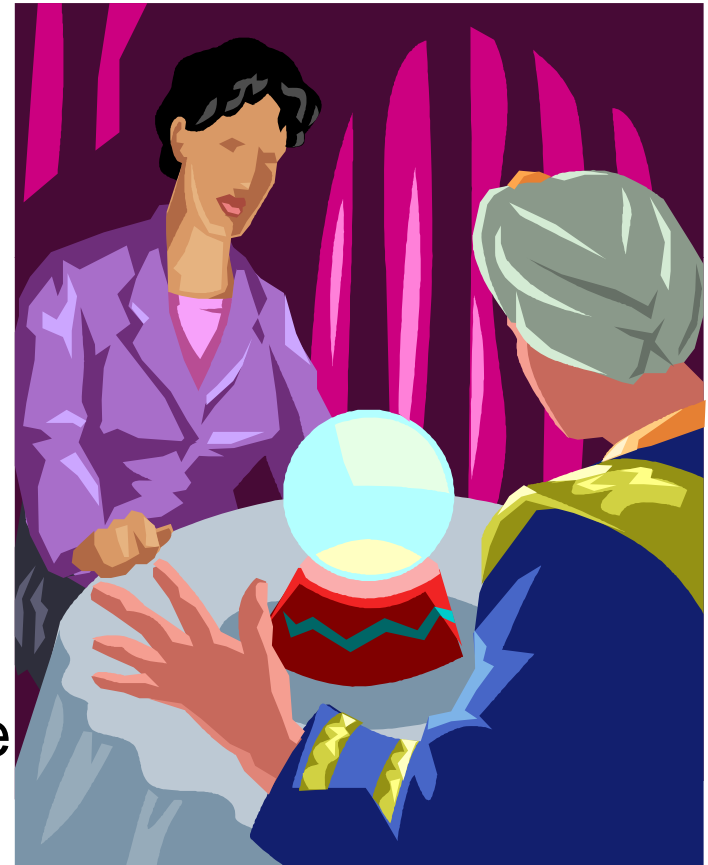


## 40 years later...today.

- 18 CD's.....\$100 million spent
- 4 CD's managing ex-prov waterways & crossing infrastructure
- Only 5 of 18 CD's formed on watersheds
- 152 municipal members. 80% area MB
- \$8 million/year...\$5.0 million provincial
- Most successful and largest conservation partnership program in MB

# The Future Vision ?

- Expansion: 110% since 1990
- New interest – urban municipalities
- Emerging issues/stresses
- New public awareness of water
- What will be the emerging land and water issues and needs over next 15-20 years?
- GOAL: To define a clear vision for the CD program i.e.....



**A NEW FRAMEWORK.**

# 40 years ago.... Who would have thought?

## Red River Floodway

- 1 in 100 to 1 in 700 year protection



# 40 years ago... Who would have thought?

- Lake Winnipeg: The most eutrophic of worlds largest 10 lakes.



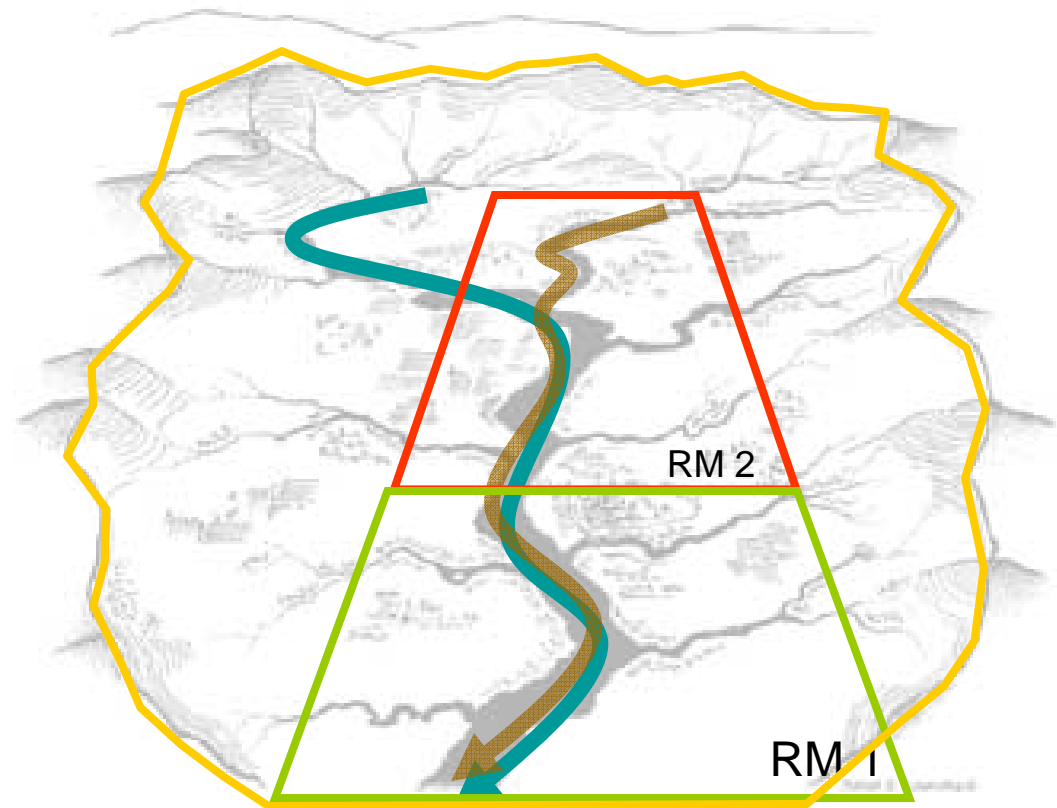
# What framework is necessary for the CD program to best address the issues of today and those of the future?

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities, the Manitoba Conservation Districts Association and Manitoba Water Stewardship, through consensus, are proposing the following future vision, mandate, principles, goals and objectives for the CD program.



# The Defining Role:

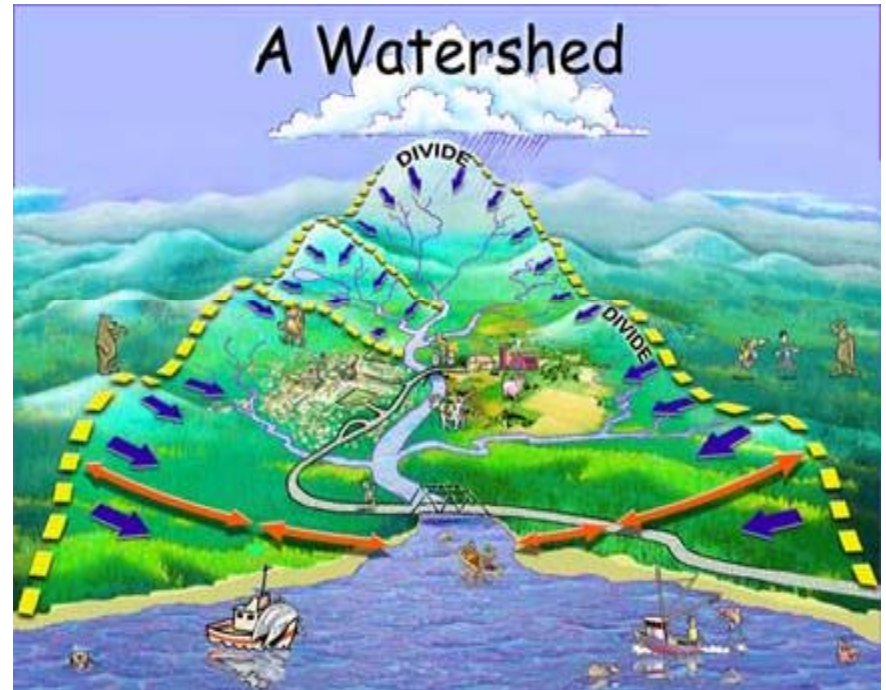
CD's are the water management and water planning coordinators within their watersheds.



# Organizational Goals

## 1. *Formed on watershed boundaries*

- New CDs formed on true watersheds
- CDs will work to realign to true watersheds
- Municipal participation is voluntary

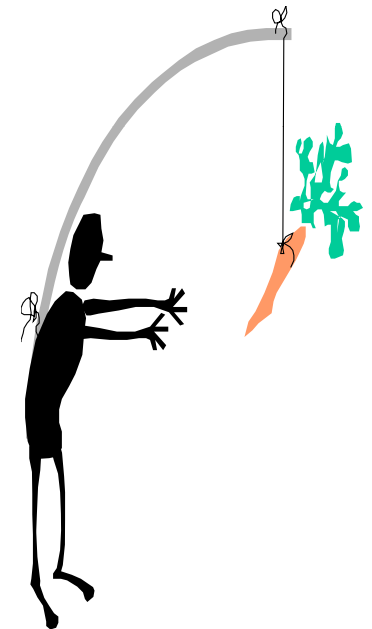


## 2. *Governed by local boards*

- Encourage citizen consultation & participation
- Draft new appointment policy – ACTION

# Operational Goals

1. **CDs will complete an integrated watershed management plan.**
  - IWMP and Strategic plan to be completed within 2 years of formation
  - Funding will be connected to a plan
  
2. **CDs will support sustainable land use and water management through incentives.**
  - Work with private landowners to support public benefits – reduce flooding, enhance fisheries, improve water quality
  - Program focus is prevention

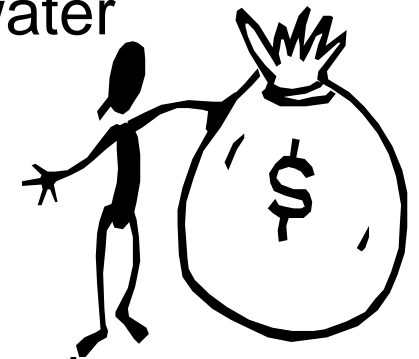


# Outcome Based Goals

- 1. Drinking Water Protection is a priority**
  - Protect drinking water through targeted land use programs
  - Funding is linked to identified priority zones
  
- 2. CD Programming will improve and protect water**
  - Programs target LAND USE impacts affecting the health of water through IWMPs
  
- 3. Demonstrate Definite Improvement**
  - Funding connected to beneficial outcomes
  - Practical evaluation strategies required

# Funding

- Reliance on public funding will challenge the CD program. Encourage new funding sources
- Maintain 75% prov – 25% municipal cost share
- Move from demand driven to fair and equitable
- Separate drain/crossings funding from land/water conservation program funding

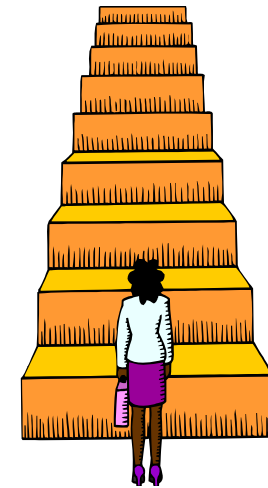


## ***ACTION:***

- Consensus committee draft new funding allocation formula by fall 2010
  - includes reward innovation, establishing an assured base, carryover, large urban

# CD Framework: Next Steps

- AMM & MCDA member review & comment
- Consensus committee finalize document
- Submit to CD Commission
- CD Commission submit to Minister
- Ministerial approval
- Concurrently, consensus committee will work on funding allocation formula and CD appointment policy
- MWS request MCDA to work cooperatively on a preferred watershed boundaries map for MB



# Summary



## ***Affirms 5 program fundamentals***

- Partnership program
- Prov–Municipal 75-25 base cost share
- Incentive based – non regulatory
- Local Board decision making
- Focus on watershed based land and water planning and programming

## ***Challenges & Actions***

- Fair and equitable funding formula
- Board appointment: who represents the watershed?
- Realign to true watersheds
- Planning is central to programs and budgets
- Results oriented: demonstrating measurable improvement is critical to the programs future

# Final Thoughts

- The CD program is as important today as it was 40 years ago.
- Together the program partners need to create common goals on the future direction of the CD program to map a course to ensure its continued growth and success.



**Where to find CD Framework document ?**  
**Google: Manitoba Water Stewardship – on main page.**

Thank you 😊