

**Provincial Government
Announces
Clean Up Program**

On April 6th, the Provincial Government announced a new clean up program intended to help cattle producers with the removal of dead stock.

Rothsay Rendering will provide the pickup service across the province at no charge to producers.

The first priority of the Province is to ensure carcasses are disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner and this program will provide producers with an affordable and responsible disposal option for material that has been stored over the winter months.

For pick-up, producers are asked to contact Rothsay at **1-888-768-4729** or 1-888-Rothsay or call their local agriculture office for details.

AMM Continues to Meet with Provincial Ministers

On April 14th, the AMM met with Rosann Wowchuk, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives as part of its round of annual Minister meetings.

The meeting began with a discussion of the dead stock, offal and butcher waste meetings hosted by the AMM at the beginning of March. The AMM expressed appreciation for the presentation given by the department at these meetings and appreciation for the recently announced collection program (see adjacent story). The AMM also urged the Province to continue to play a leading role in the development of regional sites for the disposal of this material and reiterated the need for assistance, both technical and financial, to those municipalities that wish to explore this option further.

The Minister indicated the need for continued work in finding a solution to the disposal problem.

The AMM again raised the issue of BSE and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Provincial Government to provide assistance to producers impacted by BSE and asked for an update on any new developments.

The Minister indicated that the comment period for the proposed US rule change has ended and expressed hope that the border will soon be open to live Canadian cattle. The Minister also stressed the need for a long-term solution to this problem and acknowledged the lack of slaughter capacity in Manitoba.

The AMM also discussed the proposed amendments to the Planning Act with the Minister. The AMM sought clarification on a couple of aspects of the proposed amendments and urged the Provincial Government to devote the necessary staff and resources to support the environmental enforcement and monitoring of livestock operations. The AMM will be sending out a separate update to municipalities outlining recent discussions on this issue in greater detail.

As with all Ministers this year, the AMM raised the need to remove education funding from property taxes and the need for a new deal for municipalities. The AMM will be following up shortly with the Minister on these issues. Copies of the position paper presented to the Minister is available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca/provministermeetings.

AMM Makes Submission to The Workers Compensation Act Review Committee

On April 14th, the AMM made a presentation to the Workers Compensation Act Review Committee to highlight municipal concerns with the Workers Compensation Act.

Currently, the AMM has two standing resolutions related to the Workers Compensation Act and these comprised the core of the AMM presentation. The AMM expressed the need to allow volunteer emergency service workers to access top-ups, such as municipal insurance programs, beyond the Workers Compensation Board's 90 per cent, which only acts as a disincentive to volunteer.

(continued...)

The AMM also expressed the need to provide equal workers compensation benefits for volunteer firefighters afflicted with occupational diseases. The Provincial Government has acknowledged the association between certain diseases and full-time firefighters and was the first province to pass legislation to make firefighters automatically eligible for compensation for certain job-related diseases. The AMM believes these benefits should be extended to volunteer firefighters.

Public consultations will continue until June 21. The four person committee is mandated to conduct a complete review of the Workers Compensation Act with input from all stakeholder groups. The review committee, after hearing all points of view expressed by the people of Manitoba, will submit a report to the Government of Manitoba.

A copy of the AMM's presentation is available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca/legpresentations

From the AMM Office ...

Notices

Survey Monument Program Changes

There have been some changes to the Survey Monument Program. Municipalities are encouraged to contact Gary Fraser, Examiner of Surveys before paying for any survey work invoiced to the municipalities. Questions about the program changes can also be directed to Gary.

Gary Fraser, Examiner of Surveys
Ph: 204.945.2281
Fax: 204.948.2823
Email: gfraser@gov.mb.ca

National Land and Water Information Service (NLWIS) Stakeholder Meeting

A stakeholder meeting for the NLWIS will be held April 22nd in Winnipeg. The NLWIS will make available to land-use decision makers decision tools and environmental information to support and inform local and regional land-use planning and management. Please contact Ron Lewis, NLMIS Provincial Working Group Chair, (lewistr@agr.gc.ca or 204-983-4833) for more information or to confirm attendance.

Deadline

June 9th Deadline for June Districts Resolutions

The AMM would like to inform municipalities that the resolutions deadline for this year's June District Meetings is Wednesday, June 9th, 2004. Please submit resolutions to AMM Director of Policy and Communications Tyler MacAfee at the AMM office prior to this date.

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Portage la Prairie, MB
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Fax: 204-856-2370
Email: tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

Announcements

A Welcome ...

The AMM is pleased to welcome Rachel Philippe as the new Property Services Policy Analyst.

Rachel will be assisting in the planning, coordinating and developing the AMM's lobbying activities. She can be contacted at 204.856.2369.

... and a Farewell

The AMM staff and board would like to wish Communications Coordinator Cindy Miller the best of luck in her new job in the Premier's Secretariat.

The AMM appreciates all the work Cindy has done and the contribution she has made to the organization.

We'll miss you, Cindy!

Events

Manitoba Municipal Administrators' Association Annual Conference

The Manitoba Municipal Administrators' Association Annual Convention is being held this week in Winnipeg, April 18th to April 21st. The AMM wishes the MMAA all the best this week.

The AMM Board of Directors would like to thank outgoing MMAA President Wally Melynk for his invaluable work as part of the AMM Board of Directors. Wally's input will be missed.