

## AMM Makes Presentation on Bill 22: The Water Protection Act

On September 13, 2004, the AMM appeared before the Standing Committee on Legislative Affairs to state our position on Bill 22: The Water Protection Act.

President Briese began the presentation by noting the many positive attributes in Bill 22. The AMM is encouraged in the focus on watershed based planning, the creation of a Water Council, and the development of watershed quality management zones. The AMM is also pleased to see that Bill 22 includes a clause guaranteeing that there will be consultation in the development of the regulations for this act.

The AMM has made several presentations before the Standing Committee this year. You can view them at:

[www.amm.mb.ca/  
legpresentations.htm](http://www.amm.mb.ca/legpresentations.htm)

While this bill does have many excellent attributes, the AMM does have some concerns. This legislation is visibly vague and grants unprecedented powers to the Minister of Water Stewardship. One such power is the unilateral ability of the Minister to declare a serious water shortage in part or all of Manitoba if he or she considers that extraordinary measures are needed to ensure a reasonable water supply. The AMM feels that local input and consultations with the water management authorities should take place before taking such drastic measures.

One of the greatest concerns the AMM has with this bill is in its implementation. Again, the bill is vague about how all of these newly legislated ideas and requirements will be implemented. It is clear that municipalities will have a major role to play in the implementation of the concepts laid out in the bill, but how great a role this will be is not clear. It is imperative that how these new requirements are

met and who will be responsible for ensuring they are met be shared with key stakeholders prior to the act being passed. It is crucial that local people are involved in the process.

This bill is also vague on the issue of who will be financing the implementation of this legislation. Without adequate funding, none of the key attributes of the bill can occur. Without Provincial financial assistance for this bill, the financial responsibility will be simply downloaded to municipalities or will be financed by all Manitobans through user fees. Bill 22 will not work without a clear commitment from the Provincial Government to adequately fund the requirements of this legislation.

President Briese closed the presentation by reiterating that, while there are definite positive attributes to this bill, the AMM is concerned that this bill is vague, and early consultation in the development of the regulations is needed. ■

## PARM Reacts to Federal BSE Strategy

The Prairie Association of Rural Municipalities (PARM) is appreciative of the federal aid strategy that was outlined for the Canadian cattle industry on September 10th. PARM had presented federal agriculture minister Andy Mitchell with a proposal that will assist our beef industry in Canada. Many of the initiatives discussed were put into place with this federal strategy.

"In our initial proposal we had asked the federal government to consider implementing a cash advance, increase slaughter capacity, set up a cattle set-aside program and consider revising interprovincial trade regulations to allow more domestic trade," says Neal Hardy, president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. "They are all touched on in this strategy."

Jack Hayden, president of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C) says, "Increasing processing capacity and implementing a set-aside program are positive advances for the industry as it will start to stabilize the Canadian cattle market along with prices."

Stuart Briese, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) president, was happy to see initiatives announced to help explore new international markets and supports further steps to increase trade in beef and beef products between the provinces. "The Canadian industry can supply the market in Canada, and by doing that we can reduce beef imports and the oversupply of Canadian cattle."

PARM will continue to urge the provincial and federal governments to take further action to mitigate the effects of BSE with a sound cash advance program for producers in conjunction with further improvement of access to our own domestic markets. ■

**"The  
Canadian  
Industry can  
supply the  
market in  
Canada..."**

**AMM President  
Stuart Briese**

## Reminders

### Honourary Life Membership Award Nominations

The AMM is requesting nominations for the 2004 Honourary Life Membership Awards. If your municipality would like to nominate someone for this award, please submit a complete outline of the nominee's services and accomplishments with your letter of nomination. The outline should include a complete history of accomplishments. Nominations must be received by:

**September 20, 2004**

To find out the **criteria** for nominating someone for an Honourary Life Membership Award, or to forward your nomination, please contact:

*Linda Hargest, AMM Director of Administration & Marketing*  
Phone: 204-856-2361  
Fax: 204-856-2370  
Email: lhargest@amm.mb.ca

### Don't forget to register for this AMM Education Seminar:



**"What's on First Base"**

**Priority Setting in Local Government**

Presented by

Gordon A. McIntosh

Canad Inns Portage la Prairie

Friday, October 1, 2004

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Pre-Registration is required by:

**September 27, 2004**

**Don't delay—register today!**

For more information, contact:

*Donna Belbin*  
AMM Events Coordinator  
Phone: 204-856-2374  
Email: dbelbin@amm.mb.ca

## Coming Events

### Operation CleanFarm Manitoba—Phase 2

**October 5th, 6th, & 7th, 2004**

Operation CleanFarm Manitoba Phase 2 is scheduled for October 5th, 6th and 7th (8:30 am—4:30 pm). There will be 27 collection sites at retail outlets along the Trans-Canada Highway and north ready to receive obsolete or unwanted pesticides from farmers and operators on golf courses, greenhouses, nurseries and market gardens. All product must be labelled as Agricultural/Commercial only (with the exception of surplus adjuvants/surfactants and treated seed).

For more information please contact:

*Shelley Turnbull*  
CropLife Canada—Manitoba Council  
Phone: 204-275-6379  
Fax: 204-269-9702

### Cooperatives Work II

A one-day seminar on co-op development in Western Canada and Quebec

**Tuesday, October 5, 2004**

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, 800 Portage Ave.

Including presentations on co-op development in Western Canada and Manitoba, and the Quebec experience, including regional development co-ops and factors driving co-op development.

Open to MCC members, co-op developers and community economic development practitioners.

The \$25 fee includes lunch.  
Seating is limited!

To register, call:  
Manitoba Cooperative Council  
204-989-5930  
Email: rudycomo@mts.net

## Coming Events

### Composting Matters! Regional Composting Conference

Manitoba Conservation, together with the Composting Council of Canada, is hosting a two-day conference for all those interested in organics recycling and composting.

Updates will be presented on regulatory developments, diversion initiatives, and marketing programs. On-site tours will be offered as well.

**Wednesday, October 20th and Thursday, October 21, 2004**

The Royal Oak Inn & Suites  
Brandon, Manitoba

**Registration Fee: \$100.00**

For more information, please contact:

*Danielle Buklis*  
Phone: 1-877-571-4769  
Email: ccc@compost.org

### Waste Reduction Week is October 18-24, 2004

Waste Reduction Week is a national campaign to encourage Canadians to save resources and reduce waste. For municipalities, it's a great opportunity to promote recycling and composting programs.

A sample proclamation and other ideas for WRW in Manitoba are available from the non-profit organization Resource Conservation Manitoba.

For more information, contact:

*Stephanie Fulford*  
Phone: (204) 925-3775  
Email: wrr@resourceconservation.mb.ca.

Or, check the  
Manitoba WRW website at  
[www.resourceconservation.mb.ca](http://www.resourceconservation.mb.ca).



### Contact the Association of Manitoba Municipalities

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[www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca)