

PARM meets in Neepawa

New Deal for Municipalities, BSE Crisis top the agenda

The Prairie Association of Rural Municipalities (PARM) met on June 30, 2004 in Neepawa to discuss a number of issues facing municipalities in the Prairie Provinces. PARM is made up of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C). The organization meets several times each year to discuss issues of importance and identify actions to be taken.

Stuart Briese, President of the AMM, chaired the meeting. Also in attendance were Neal Hardy, President of SARM, Jack Hayden, President of the AAMD&C, and a number of vice-presidents and directors from each organization.

Two items topped the agenda - the federal New Deal for municipalities, and the BSE crisis. The need for improved infrastructure for roads, water and sewer was discussed. Concern was also expressed about

how federal New Deal funding will be distributed. It was agreed that each association will engage in further dialogue on New Deal issues with their respective provincial governments.

On the BSE crisis, it was agreed that the most important action at this time would be to request a meeting with the new federal Agriculture Minister, once appointed. PARM recognizes that even after the border does open, it will take some time for the markets to stabilize. PARM will be writing to Prime Minister Martin to encourage his government to establish BSE as a priority issue, and to ensure that everything necessary is being done to have the border re-opened.

Also discussed at the meeting was economic development, education taxes on property, federal water funding, and roles and responsibilities of municipal governments.

The next PARM meeting will take place in February, 2005. ■

AMM and MTS meet

President Stuart Briese, Vice-President Gary Wasylowski, Vice-President Ron Bell, and Executive Director Joe Masi met with the MTS executive on June 22, 2004. A number of items were discussed.

Cellular Service: MTS noted that by the end of 2004 there will be 97% digital overlay coverage in Manitoba. MTS is making plans for 2005 but will be looking at traffic flows as well as population in terms of additional cellular coverage.

Broadband expansion: MTS has spent \$300 million on broadband expansion which will see 151 communities covered by 2005, with 85% of homes being covered when the initiative is completed.

Special billing for non-profit agencies: MTS advised that CRTC regulations prevents this as it is viewed as preferential treatment. The same applies to installation fees for *emergency operations centres*, although having pre-paid cellular service for these centres is an option MTS will explore. AMM and MTS will also inquire as to why EMO requires 8 lines for emergency operations centres.

Municipal access guidelines: Both the AMM and MTS felt that these are working well and a review will take place shortly.

Allstream acquisition: MTS noted that the acquisition of *Allstream* will make MTS Canada's third largest telecommunications company, next to Bell and Telus. The headquarters will remain in Winnipeg and will now employ 7,000 people. ■

June District Meetings concluded

Another successful series of June District Meetings has concluded with seven meetings taking place between June 14 and 24, 2004. A total of 73 resolutions were brought forward at the meetings, with 56 being carried, 12 being defeated and 5 being withdrawn. Those carried will be brought forth for debate at our Annual Convention in November.

AMM members enjoyed several presentations on current issues affecting their municipalities this year. Our thanks goes to presenters Art Elias of HED Insurance, Lorimer Thompson of the Department of Water Stewardship, Ed Sawatzky of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade, and Dennis Nikkel of Workplace Safety and Health. Copies of these presentations are available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca/presentations.htm. ■

The AMM would like to thank the following communities for hosting our 2004 June District Meetings: RM of Rhineland and Town of Altona, RM of Pipestone, RM and Town of Hamiota, Town and RM of Swan River, City of Thompson, RM of Reynolds, and the Town of Winnipeg Beach.

Notices

Are Your Municipal Employees Members of the MWWA?

The Manitoba Water and Wastewater Association is dedicated to the stewardship of the environment and public health by providing its members with educational opportunities and the promotion of operators across the Province.

The Association is the primary trainer of Water and Wastewater operators in the province. MWWA plays an integral role in the Manitoba Operator Training Program Consortium, made up of representatives from the AMM, The Manitoba Departments of Health and Conservation, Red River College and Assiniboine Community College. The consortium develops and delivers the highest quality training opportunities for all operators in all regions of the province.

To help provide this essential service, we are also dedicated to providing qualified professionals to educate your staff in the newest technologies.

Our annual seminar serves as a wonderful opportunity for your staff to access training in all related fields and a comprehensive trade show with the newest products and services.

The MWWA is currently developing a province wide strategy for the deliverance of 1 or 2 day Workshops on specific topics. If your town or city is interested in hosting a training session please contacting:

Iva Last, Executive Director
mwwa@mts.net

Toll Free: 1-866-396-3549

Always remember: there is no better insurance than a well trained, certified operator in your municipality!

Prairie Grain Roads Program Manitoba (PGRP)

AMM members were recently mailed a fact sheet and application form for your use in applying for federal funding of Municipal Grain Road projects under the Prairie Grain Roads Program. Federal funding of \$2.7 million is available for the September 15, 2004 round of municipal grain roads applications, where projects are to be cost shared 50/50 between Canada and successful applicants. Therefore, the total amount of cost shared municipal grain roads construction for the third round of applications is expected to be \$5.4 million.

The application form may be obtained in digital format by accessing the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada PFRA website at www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/program_e.htm. However, applications are to be submitted in hard copy format only, as electronic proposals will not be considered.

Applications are to be received at PFRA Winnipeg no later than 4:00 pm, Wednesday, September 15, 2004. Please contact the PGRP Manitoba Program Manager, Tony Kettler, at 983-2243 if you have any questions or comments on the PGRP.

Announcements

Farewell...

The AMM is sorry to say farewell to Stacy Roteliuk, Events Coordinator. Stacy has accepted a position as an Event Coordinator at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The AMM appreciates all of the hard work Stacy has done for the association over the past five years and wishes her much success in her new position. We will miss you, Stacy!

Job Postings

Supervisor, Building Inspection City of Whitehorse

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Coordinating the enforcement and administration of minimum standards for construction and occupancy of buildings
- Inspecting building projects for code compliance, specifying remedial action, preparing reports and investigating violations
- Reviewing and approving building plans and specifications and issuing permits
- Administering the development, maintenance and implementation of the Building/Plumbing Bylaws and encouraging uniform code interpretation, and
- Supervising a total of 5 Building Inspection and support staff.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Superior communication skills, both verbal and written
- Computer literacy and excellent interpersonal skills are also essential
- a level of training, knowledge & experience demonstrated by the attainment of a journeyman
- Certificate in the construction trade, Level 2 Building Official certification and at least 10 years related experience, including 3 years at a supervisory level.

An equivalent combination of training and/or experience may be considered.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Sunday , July 11, 2004, 4:30 pm

we invite you to apply and quote job posting number 28-PLA/BLD-04 to:

Human Resources Department
City of Whitehorse
2121 Second Avenue
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1C2
Phone: (867) 668-8636
Fax: (867) 668-8635
E-mail: human.resources@city.whitehorse.yk.ca



Contact the AMM

1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1
Tel: 204-856-2366 Fax: 204-856-2370
Email: amm@amm.mb.ca

Visit our website at www.amm.mb.ca