

PARM Meets in Regina

A meeting of the Prairie Association of Rural Municipalities took place in Regina on April 22, 2005. Attending were representatives from the AMM, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C), and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM). Several items were discussed:

Inter-Provincial Trade on Meat Products- For the meat processing industry to expand barriers between provinces need to be reviewed. There are currently varying standards for plants that sell within the province, plants that sell to other provinces and plants that sell outside the country. If smaller plants were able to sell to other provinces, it would help grow the industry. The association agreed to prepare a policy paper on the issue of inter-provincial trade on meat products.

New Deal for Cities and Communities (AMM)- Each association provided an updates on the New Deal. The group decided to send a letter to the Prime Minister, leaders of the opposition parties and three premiers, requesting that the gas tax deal be signed before a federal election.

Diesel Fuel Tax- Since diesel fuel is not taken into consideration under the new deal, there is a need for a national highways strategy. The diesel fuel tax would go a long way towards that. Ron Bell will talk to chair of FCM's transportation committee to start the process.

Other items discussed included municipal/aboriginal relations, and the agriculture crisis. ■

Province Improves Municipal Access to Water-Bombers and FleetNet Radios

The AMM is pleased with the Province's decision to improve municipal access to water-bombers and FleetNet radios. The announcement was made on April 29 by Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade Minister Scott Smith and AMM President Ron Bell. Smith also announced that nine new FleetNet radios purchased by the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) will be made available for short-term use to municipalities for emergency situations.

The AMM has lobbied for a resolution to this issue in the past. It was raised with the Minister of Labour and Immigration, the Honourable Nancy Allan, as well as with the Provincial Cabinet as a whole. AMM resolution #37-2004 resolved that *the AMM request the Province of Manitoba to absorb the costs associated with water bombers at times of need by municipalities.* "The province and municipalities continue to work in partnership to increase our emergency preparedness capabilities," said Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) president Ron Bell. "This is something the AMM has lobbied for and we are pleased the province has responded by providing municipalities access to the water-bomber fleet and the FleetNet radios in certain emergency situations." ■

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AMM President Ron Bell



The Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board has recently released an interim report titled "**Our Collective Responsibility: Reducing Nutrient Loading to Lake Winnipeg**".

Because water quality is an important issue to our members, the AMM recently sent a letter to the Chair of the Board raising two major concerns with the report.

The first concern is a proposal to expand the storage capacity of municipal sewage lagoons to 400 days. This 400-day proposal is a substantial increase from Manitoba's current requirements of 220 days and the additional costs this will bring to municipalities are considerable.

A second concern is with the funding of the recommendations. For example, the nutrient removal requirements outlined in the report will be extremely expensive for municipalities and the costs of such requirements must be considered. This responsibility needs to be addressed in the final report.

There is an opportunity to provide input prior to the report being finalized. If your municipality has concerns with the recommendations in the report, we encourage you to submit your comments by May 31, 2005 to:

Mr. Bill Barlow
Chair – Lake Winnipeg
Stewardship Board
P.O. Box 305
Gimli, Manitoba ROC 1B0

June District Meetings

Election - AMM Board of Directors

The AMM will conduct elections for the Board of Directors at June District Meetings this year. All elected officials and the CAOs of any Member of the District is entitled to vote at the annual District meeting. Nominations will be made from the floor. The term of office is two years. For more information, please contact:

Joe Masi, AMM Executive Director
Ph: (204) 856-2360
Email: jmasi@amm.mb.ca

June District Resolutions

Please submit all duly passed resolutions for consideration at the June District Meetings by **June 9, 2005** to:

Tyler MacAfee, AMM Director of Policy & Communications
Ph: (204) 856-2362
Email: tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

For June District Meeting dates and locations, visit

WWW.AMM.MB.CA/EVENTS.HTM

Notices

St. Francois Xavier 125th Anniversary

Plan to attend the 125th Anniversary of the RM of St. Francois Xavier. The celebration will be held *July 1 - 3, 2005*. A detailed schedule of events can be viewed at www.sfx125.ca For more information please contact the RM office at 864-2092.

Truck Weight Limit Map and Information Guide 2005

Manitoba Transportation and Government Services has revised the **Truck Weight Limit Map and Information Guide**. A free, revised copy of the map is available at: Weigh Stations, Compliance Services, Permit Services, Regional and Sub-Regional Offices, Manitoba Transportation and Government Services Website:

www.gov.mb.ca/tgs/transreg/compreg

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Coming Events

Starting the Dialogue: Watershed Planning in Winnipeg and the Surrounding Area

A public forum sponsored by:
Winnipeg's Civic Environment Committee,
Manitoba Eco-Network, Manitoba Wildlands.

7:00 pm—Tuesday, May 31st, 2005

*Keynote address: Stu Grubb, Emmons
& Olivier Resources Watershed Plan-
ning and Management—the Minnesota
Experience*

Panelists:

Cheryl Heming—City of Winnipeg, Serge
LaRochelle—Save Our Seine, Lori Thompson—
Manitoba Water Stewardship,
Patrick Watson—Seine/Rat River Conservation
District

Location: Children's Museum at the
Forks (right behind Johnson Terminal)

For more information: 947-3082

Climate Change Conference & Workshop: Community Climate Change Solutions

Tuesday, May 31, 2005

*Radisson Hotel Winnipeg Downtown
288 Portage Avenue Winnipeg*

The Manitoba C4/One-Tonne Challenge joint initiative is proud to support this one-day conference featuring: tools, funding and other resources, panel discussions, and expert advice on how Manitoba communities can respond to climate change and actively participate in solutions in their own communities.

To register, please contact Marie Storey at
204-945-4299 or mstorey@gov.mb.ca

Job Postings

RM of Strathclair Economic Development Officer

Deadline extended to June 7, 2005

Responsible for promoting the sustainable development of the local economy within the RM of Strathclair by attracting investment into the Municipality. The position will require consulting the business community, advising Council and working with the R.M. of Strathclair C.D.C. Other responsibilities include organizing employment and training schemes to enhance work force skills and identifying and promoting funding opportunities.

Please forward applications by June 7, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. to:

Shelley Glenn, CAO
R.M. of Strathclair
127 Minnedosa St., P.O. Box 160
Strathclair, MB R0J 2C0

Town of Virden Manager of Works and Utilities

The Manager of Works and Utilities undertakes full management authority for planning, directing and supervising all activities of the public works, waste management and utility departments.

Requires a working knowledge of surveying, drafting and engineering design requirements. Highly developed verbal and written communication skills and an ability to get along with the public, Council and staff is critical. Knowledge of road construction and municipal infrastructure is required. An ability to work in a computerized environment and effectively direct and supervise staff is essential.

Please forward resumes by June 3, 2005 to:

Ms. Rhonda Stewart, CAO
Town of Virden
236 Wellington Street West, Box 310
Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0
Ph: (204)748-2440
Fax: (204)748-2501

For complete job postings visit:

www.amm.mb.ca/jobposting.htm