

AMM reports on flooded municipalities

The AMM recently wrapped up a series of regional meetings aimed at finding out how municipalities have been affected by the flooding and wet conditions in Manitoba this year. The well-attended meetings took place between August 12 and 22 in five communities – Hamiota, Deloraine, Lockport, Elie, and Letellier.

“We’re still preparing the final report,” states President Ron Bell, “but I can say that when agriculture is in a disaster situation, as it is this year, communities take a serious hit also – it’s intertwined.” The AMM heard

repeatedly that a program similar to the Jobs and Economic Recovery Initiative (JERI) that was implemented in 1997 is needed to provide relief. “This type of program would help to alleviate some of the resulting economic down-turn in Manitoba communities,” Bell stressed.

Bell also noted many problems with drainage, lake levels, and shoreline erosion, highlighting the need for a provincial water management plan. “A recurring theme is definitely prevention – municipal officials want to know why the clean-up effort doesn’t include a contingency so that future damages of the same magnitude can be prevented.”

Another issue raised is that the federal government pays only 16% recovery on municipal equipment used to do flood repair work, and 100% for contract work, making it more feasible for municipalities to hire out the work. “However, if contractors are not available, the municipality is forced to do the work

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themselves and can’t recover their actual costs,” noted Bell. “This is an issue the AMM has been advocating for some time and it’s one our members obviously continue to feel strongly about, as it was mentioned at every meeting.”

Bell did note that overall satisfaction with the provincial Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) is high, with good people doing good work. “However, it appears there aren’t enough inspectors during difficult years, so the wait for someone to assess damages can be lengthy,” he added.

The AMM expects to complete the final report, including recommendations, by mid-September. It will be posted on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca. ■



Water Quality Management Zones

Water Stewardship Minister Steve Ashton released a discussion paper recently that identifies four water quality management zones throughout the province. These zones will identify areas in which water systems are protected from the excessive run-off of nitrogen and phosphorus and will assist in preventing the over-application of nutrients to the landscape. They are also an integral part of the Water Protection Act that was passed in the Manitoba Legislature on June 16. Within the discussion paper, maps have been prepared showing the proposed zones in each of Manitoba’s municipalities and are contained in the consultation document. Buffer set-back distances from water have also been identified where application of nutrients will need to be limited. (Studies have shown that nutrients have increased by about 10 per cent in Lake Winnipeg since the early 1970s.)

The detailed consultation document can be obtained by contacting:

Manitoba Water Stewardship, 123 Main Street, Suite 160, Winnipeg MB R3C 1A5
Phone: 945-7100 or toll-free at 1-800-282-8069, ext. 7100

The consultation document can also be downloaded from Manitoba Water Stewardship’s website at www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship

The AMM is meeting with various stakeholders and will be submitting a response to the consultation document by September 30, 2005.

First Overall Snapshot on MB’s Performance Provides Information and Asks for Feedback

Finance Minister Greg Selinger recently released the “Reporting to Manitobans on Performance 2005 Discussion Document”, a compilation of information looking at overall performance in the areas of the economy, people, community and the environment. The full document is online at www.gov.mb.ca/finance/mbperformance and Manitobans are invited to send comments by November 1/05 to mbperformanced@gov.mb.ca or by calling 1-866-626-4862.

AMM Convention



Resolutions Deadline

The deadline for resolutions to be accepted for the 2005 AMM Convention will be Monday, September 19th, 2005 at 4:00 pm. Resolutions must be passed by Council to be considered by the AMM Convention Resolutions Committee.

Any resolutions received after the September 19th deadline will be considered late resolutions. Late resolutions will be reviewed by the Convention Resolutions Committee and will only be considered if they deal with an emerging issue.

Please submit your resolutions to the information below. Please clearly indicate that the resolution is for consideration at the Convention.

Tyler MacAfee,
Director of Policy & Communications
AMM
1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1
Telephone: (204) 856-2362
Fax: (204) 856-2370
Email: tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

Coming soon—
a NEW and
IMPROVED
AMM website.



Watch for it
in mid-
September,
2005!

Announcements

Waterfront Safety Guidelines

The Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters (MCSW) has produced a new resource for owners and operators of waterfront properties with public access. The *Waterfront Safety Guidelines* offers practical, research-based information on ways improve safety at supervised and unsupervised waterfronts. It discusses legal liability, risk management plans, waterfront operations, and waterfront safety signs.

These Guidelines are available at no charge. For a CD-rom, contact:

MCSW c/o IMPACT, NA335
700 McDermot Ave.
Winnipeg MB, R3E 0T2
Telephone: 787-1873
e-mail:

cheppenstall@exchange.hsc.mb.ca.

The Guidelines are also available on-line at www.hsc.mb.ca/impact

Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters (MCSW) is an interagency group that coordinates the water and ice safety activities in the province with the overall goal of reducing the toll of drownings and near drownings. IMPACT acts as Secretariat to the Coalition.

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Province of Manitoba

PROCLAMATION

*September 11—17, 2005 has
been proclaimed by Premier
Gary Doer as*

Emergency Responders Week

in Manitoba.

Job Postings

The Town of Altona Chief Administrative Officer

Reporting to the Council of the Town of Altona, the Chief Administrative Officer recommends corporate goals, objectives and programs to Council, coordinates the development of long term strategic planning for the Town, supervises all departmental activities and directs the development of budget and financial controls. The Chief Administrative Officer provides advice to the Council and its committees on all matters pertaining to the Town and will work in cooperation with existing Committees and Boards in the promotion and furtherance of economic and population growth within the area.

Candidates are expected to have strong leadership, interpersonal and communication skills. Successful experience in business would be an asset.

For further information, call:

Jim Spencer, CAO
1-204-324-6468

Direct applications by **Friday,
September 26, 2005** to:

Melvin Klassen, Mayor,
Town of Altona
Box 1630
Altona, MB R0G 0B0