



NEWS BULLETIN



DECEMBER 14, 2006

Meeting with Minister Melnick

The AMM met with the Minister of Water Stewardship, the Honourable Christine Melnick, on October 30th.

The AMM began the meeting with a review of our issues paper with the Minister. The AMM stressed the need to improve communications, particularly in terms of the costs associated with the implementation of the proposed Water Stewardship initiatives.

The Minister indicated that she has always had a good working relationship with the AMM and expects this to continue in the new portfolio. She indicated that the water quality management zones are a priority for her department and that they would be moving forward quickly.

President Bell stressed the importance of working with the AMM on proposed regulations and letting the AMM know in advance what the Province is planning.

UPDATE:

*On November 8/06, the Provincial Government released a new regulation dealing with water protection issues, for public review, along with a **Report on Public Consultations** from the regional meetings where the water quality management zone maps were discussed. Both documents are available from the Province of Manitoba Water Stewardship website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship>.*

AMM Board Update

The AMM Board of Directors met on November 2, 2006. A review of the municipal election results and the impact this will have on the AMM took place. Several committee appointments were assigned, with a number of other appointments deferred until the next meeting.

The highlight of the meeting was a review of the AMM action plan for the next provincial election. The Board agreed to send letters to each party leader outlining the current issues affecting the AMM before the Throne Speech of November 15th.

The Board also reviewed the current aggregate fee structure and community enhancement levy. The Board agreed that AMM pursue an increase in the aggregate fee immediately and pursue the community enhancement levy later on.

Also discussed was the AMM Convention and the board's 2007 Strategic Planning Session, which will take place in early January.

The next meeting of the AMM Board will take place on December 20.

RCMP Meeting

The AMM met with the RCMP "D" Division on November 17, 2006. The first topic discussed was the "D" Division Report and Client Enhancement Project, which is rolling out and will be seeking pilot project communities.

The escalating cost of policing was also raised, as this is a major concern for municipalities and the RCMP alike. The RCMP suggested some ways to address this issue, particularly in the area of paperwork. These included having more paperwork performed by clerical workers, and having officers perform some of the paperwork in their vehicles where possible. The amount of time officers spend responding to minor motor vehicle accidents was also noted as a cost concern.

Youth crime was also discussed. While the RCMP indicated that much of the onus for prevention falls on the community, they are working on some on-line resources for communities.

Province to Pay for Ambulance Transfers Health

Minister Theresa Oswald announced on November 14th that the Province will begin funding the full patient cost of inter-facility transports. These transports happen when a patient is being transferred between health-care facilities for diagnostic tests or treatment, or from a more specialized level of care to a facility closer to home for rehabilitation or recovery.

"Inter-facility patient transfer has been an issue for the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) since our members first passed a resolution on this matter back in 1999," said President Bell. "We are very pleased that the Province of Manitoba is going to cover these costs. It really will bring more fairness to the health system in rural Manitoba."

Notices

AMM Board of Directors

Elections took place to fill several vacancies on the AMM Board of Directors at the 8th Annual Convention. By-elections for these positions were held after Convention adjournment on November 30. Successful candidates are:

Central Urban Director

Mayor
Melvin Klassen,
Town of Altona



Central Rural Director

Councillor
Ralph Groening,
RM of Morris



Western Urban Director

Councillor
Maxine Chacun,
Town of Virden



An election for **Midwestern Urban Director** will be held at a later date.

The AMM congratulates the successful candidates and looks forward to working with them in the coming months!

Notices

Community Places Grant Applications Now Available

Grant applications are now available for the 2007 Community Places Program. The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 15 and approvals will be announced in the spring.

The Community Places Program provides funding and planning assistance to non-profit community organizations for facility construction, upgrading, expansion or acquisition projects.

To receive a grant application or for more information visit the Community Places website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/grants> or call toll-free 1-800-894-3777 or e-mail mcpp@gov.mb.ca.

Coming Events

New Council Seminars

Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, Municipal Finance and Advisory Services, in cooperation with the AMM, will be presenting the **New Council Seminars** in 2007. These seminars will be presented in nine different communities across the province. All council members and municipal staff are welcome to attend. For dates, locations, and registration information, visit the AMM website at:

www.amm.mb.ca

Coming Events

Crystal Meth Training

Manitoba has provided crystal meth training to approximately 600 front line workers across Manitoba. The interactive program provides training on the characteristics of crystal meth including symptoms and effects of use, methods of production, how to detect crystal meth labs, how to recognize the hazards associated with crystal meth and how to protect oneself when dealing with this deadly drug.

The Province is offering this training to one or two front line workers from each municipality who would then be in a position to be an informational source to others in the area. Front line workers could include: police, fire fighters, ambulance personnel, building inspectors or others that might come into contact with individuals producing crystal meth.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this provincially funded training offer, please provide names, e-mail addresses, and job functions of one or two front line workers to Mr. **Keith McCaskill**, Co-chair of the Manitoba Meth Task Force, prior to December 31, 2006. Mr. McCaskill can be reached at (204) 945-5619 or by emailing kmccaskill@gov.mb.ca.

Just added to the AMM website:

- **Complete 8th Annual Convention Recap**—including photos, presentations, & more—www.amm.mb.ca/events_convention06Wrap.htm
- **AMM 2006 Annual Report**—www.amm.mb.ca/about_reports_2006.html
- **For Sale**—One Fort Garry Industries Tailgate Sanding Unit—www.amm.mb.ca/member_ads.html



Have a safe and happy holiday season!

From the AMM Board and Staff