



# Member Advisory

**WATER ISSUES UPDATE – MAY 1, 2006**

---

**O**n April 18, 2006, the AMM met with the Minister of Water Stewardship, the Honourable Steve Ashton. Water quality and protection is one of the most important issues for all Manitobans, and it is critical that all levels of government, and all stakeholders, work together to ensure Manitoba's water is protected.

One of the main issues raised during the meeting with Minister Ashton was the issue of Water Quality Management Zones (WQMZ). The AMM presented the concerns heard from members over the last few months to the Minister, and stressed that these concerns must be addressed.

The AMM also identified a number of issues that must be addressed in regard to the implementation of the Water Protection Act, including:

- **The need for meaningful stakeholder input:** For these plans to have stakeholder buy-in, they must be developed in consultation with all key stakeholders, especially municipalities and conservation districts (CDs).
- **The need for a long-term plan:** It is paramount that a long-term plan for water protection is developed. While the Province has introduced and passed the Water Protection Act, a comprehensive, coherent, workable, province-wide water protection plan is still needed.
- **Financial cost of water initiatives:** Financial costs must be a serious consideration during the development of the provincial plan and all aspects should include a careful cost analysis.
- **Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMP):** Many municipalities fall within multiple CDs and multiple watersheds. With early estimates showing that these plans can cost upwards of \$250,000 it may be cost prohibitive for some municipalities to develop multiple plans. While there is a commitment of some funding for the development of these plans, the \$25,000 provincial commitment falls far short of the actual costs of developing these plans.
- **The antiquated Conservation Districts Act:** This Act was written in the 1970s, a time when CDs had very few responsibilities. The responsibilities of CDs have grown substantially since this Act was proclaimed and it is time to update the Act to reflect this new reality.
- **The need for realistic timelines:** Timeframes must be realistic and allow enough time to ensure the best measures are being implemented.

---

**The AMM presented a *Water Issues Paper* to Minister Ashton, in which the issues above are discussed at length. Municipalities must be active partners throughout the Province's water protection initiatives, and the AMM will work diligently with the Province over the coming months to ensure that water protection initiatives meet the needs of all municipalities.**



***To view the Water Issues Paper,  
visit the AMM website at***

**[http://www.amm.mb.ca/pol\\_provincial.html](http://www.amm.mb.ca/pol_provincial.html)**