



DECEMBER 23, 2008

## AMM BOARD MEETS

The last AMM board meeting of 2008 took place on December 18 at the AMM office in Portage la Prairie.

The first item on the agenda was a delegation from the Municipal Employee Benefits Board, regarding MEBP fund status. The board agreed to work with MEBP on resolving issues with respect to the fund.

The 2009 Municipal Officials Seminar was discussed and a draft agenda reviewed. The board also reviewed the proposed agenda for the 2009 Strategic Planning Session and a report submitted regarding the status of PSAB.

Policy issues discussed included the Public Utilities Board, training of municipal public works staff, Interlake flooding, a proposed medical first responder MOU, category 2 resolutions, former LGD's, community enhancement levy and aggregate hauling rate, and water issues. The board was also informed that all 2008 resolutions have been sent to the applicable Provincial/Federal Departments for government response.

The board also received a legislative update from staff and a report on a meeting President Dobrowolski and Executive Director Masi attended regarding the Building Canada Fund.

The Board also welcomed the new Midwestern Rural Director, Reeve Randy Lints of the RM of Hamiota.

The next meeting of the AMM Board of Directors is on January 22, 2009. ■

## Meeting with Minister Baird

One of AMM President Doug Dobrowolski's first official meetings was with Federal Infrastructure Minister John Baird on December 15, 2008. Minister Baird invited all prairie municipal associations and provincial infrastructure ministers to discuss the Building Canada Fund. Minister Baird was looking for input into ways of streamlining the funding process to get infrastructure dollars flowing to provinces and municipalities.

President Dobrowolski made a number of points in his address to Minister Baird. These included:

- A one size fits all approach is undesirable. There should be a flexible approval in each jurisdiction.

- The AMM should continue to have representation on any selection committees, as we did with previous programs such as MRIF (Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund).
- There is a need to streamline the federal environmental approval process including changes that are required under the Navigable Waters Act and the Fisheries Act.

Minister Baird expressed his appreciation for the feedback from the AMM, and indicated he will consider our input as part of the deliberation for the upcoming Federal Budget in January. ■



L to R: SARM President Dave Marit; AAMDC President Don Johnson; AMM President Doug Dobrowolski; The Honourable John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities; The Honourable Rob Merrifield, Minister of State (Transport); SUMA President Allan Earle; AUMA President Lloyd Bertschi; and City of Winnipeg Councillor Gord Steeves.



## FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES

*Joe Masi  
Linda Hargest  
Tyler MacAfee*

*Rachel Philippe  
Lynne Bereza  
Erika Rempel*

*Donna Belbin  
Patti De Baets  
Julia Green*

## Thank You



The sounds and images you experience during AMM Conventions are the brilliant work of the staging and production specialists at Benmarks Audio Visual.

The Brandon, Manitoba based company has been around for over 35 years and has been the A/V company of choice for all ten of the AMM Conventions and Municipal Officials Seminars.

Brad Danielson, owner-operator of Benmarks, has worked with and guided the AMM to continually develop the look and feel of our Conventions. His company's expertise truly reflects the AMM's vision and allows us to create first-class events.

The AMM would like to acknowledge the Benmarks team for not only their attention to detail and dedication they bring to

each event, but thank them for the generous contribution of sponsorship to each Convention. Benmarks is truly a partner with AMM during our events.



## Coming Events

### Small Systems Nutrient Removal Seminar

January 15 & 16, 2009

Canad Inns, Polo Park  
1405 St. Matthews Ave., Winnipeg, MB

**Registration limited  
to the first 100**

**Cost:** Members \$300.00, non-members \$400.00, students \$50.00 (plus GST)

**To register:** Western Canada Water  
Box 1708, 126 3rd Avenue West  
Cochrane, Alberta T4C 1B6

Ph: 403.709.0064 or 1.877.283.2003  
Fax: 403.709.0068 or 1.877.283.2007

**E-Mail:** [member@wcwwa.ca](mailto:member@wcwwa.ca)  
**Web:** [www.wcwwa.ca](http://www.wcwwa.ca)

## Coming Events



### ICLEI World Congress 2009

**Connecting Leaders  
Advancing Local Action for  
Sustainability**

14-18 June 2009  
Edmonton, Alberta

Join municipal leaders from around the world to share and exchange ideas on strategies for advancing urban sustainability through presentations, reports, debates, workshops, networking site visits and an exhibition.

For more information, email:

[world.congress@iclei.org](mailto:world.congress@iclei.org)

Or visit our website at:

[www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009](http://www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009)

### Biodiesel Workshop

The Canadian Canola Growers, and its Biofleet partners, will be putting on a biodiesel workshop for Manitoba municipalities in early to mid February. The workshop will focus on practical information provided by municipal employees involved with biodiesel use, technical information on fuel standards and testing, general information for fleet managers, and information on provincial government policy and support.

We would like to gauge interest and receive feedback regarding when the best time for the workshop would be. If you are interested in participating in the workshop please contact:

Brendan Boyd  
Energy Development Initiative  
Science, Technology, Energy and  
Mines  
Province of Manitoba  
Phone: 204-945-4535  
Email: [brendan.boyd@gov.mb.ca](mailto:brendan.boyd@gov.mb.ca)

For more information about the Biofleet program go to: [www.biofleet.net](http://www.biofleet.net).

## Notices



the Stephen Lewis  
FOUNDATION

### Challenge to Communities

Those AMM delegates who attended the 10th Annual Convention and heard keynote speaker Stephen Lewis were moved and motivated by his captivating message.

The RM of Ste. Anne has since passed a resolution issuing a challenge to other municipalities to make a donation to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to assist in the great needs in Africa. The resolution reads as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED that the AMM Board of Directors be requested to initiate a challenge to all municipalities in response to the Stephen Lewis address for the welfare of Sub-Sahara, Africa;**

**FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that the RM of Ste. Anne challenge other jurisdictions to join at a minimum pledge of \$.50 cents per capita.**

If your municipality would like to accept this challenge, you can donate by visiting the Stephen Lewis Foundation website at:

[http://  
www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/you\\_donate.htm](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/you_donate.htm)

Please notify the AMM office at 204-856-2366 or by emailing [amm@amm.mb.ca](mailto:amm@amm.mb.ca) if you accept this challenge!

We will keep track and update our members with the results.