



JUNE 26, 2008

MINISTER MEETING UPDATE

The AMM met with the Honourable Ron Lemieux, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, on June 18, 2008.

The AMM opened the meeting by highlighting the need to develop a strategy to provide long-term sustainable funding for infrastructure. The Minister agreed that this is a huge issue that is finally on the public radar, noting that Provincial and municipal governments will have to make tough decisions about allocating infrastructure funding since not all projects can be pursued. The AMM indicated that municipalities are already making these choices.

The Minister agreed that something must be done to address deteriorating infrastructure, but questioned how this could be accomplished, since it would be difficult to get all orders of government to agree on funding structures that would raise new revenue for infrastructure.

Regarding the Building Canada Fund (BCF), the AMM stressed that municipalities are anxious for the agreement to be signed and for funding to flow. The Minister indicated that Manitoba, Alberta, Québec and Ontario have still not signed and discussed the issue of funding for the Floodway. They are still working to reach a mutually agreeable solution. He noted that once the framework agreement is signed, the funding will not flow immediately.

Regarding drainage, the AMM noted that a coordinated plan and improved communication is required for drainage. The Minister indicated that the Province will be formalizing a long-term capital plan for drainage to demonstrate the overall vision of drainage for Manitoba and give municipalities more context for local drainage projects.

The AMM also suggested that more funding is required for grant-in-aid and the Province should support the reinstatement of the Prairie Grain Roads Program. The Minister indicated that he has heard concerns about fixing Highway 5 from the US border as it is a key tourism route.

The issues of rail line abandonment, the Community Places Program and boil water advisories were also discussed with Minister Lemieux. ■

June District Recap

Another successful series of June District Meetings has concluded with seven meetings taking place between June 9 and 17, 2008. In total, 164 municipalities, or 83%, were represented at this year's meetings!

Stats:

- 85 resolutions in total
- 1 had no seconder, therefore not voted
- 5 defeated
- 79 carried

AMM members enjoyed several presentations on current issues affecting their municipalities. Our thanks goes to presenters *Art Elias* and *Ken Fingler* of HED Insurance, *Claudette Toupin* and *Bob Grodzik* of Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, and *Mel Holley* and *Corinne Caron* of Ombudsman Manitoba.

Thank you also to our hosts: *RM of Eriksdale*, *RM of Portage la Prairie* and *City of Portage la Prairie*, *RM of Wallace* and *Town of Virden*, *RM of Birtle* and *Town of Birtle*, *Town of Swan River*, *City of Thompson*, and *LGD of Pinawa*. You all did an excellent job!

For photos, resolutions, and stats visit our June District Meeting recap at http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_june2008.htm



President Bell and The Honourable Rosann Wowchuk, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, at the Parkland District Meeting in Swan River

Coming Events

PSAB GAAP for Manitoba Municipalities

2008 Training Schedule

MRE, Environmental Liabilities & Landfills

BRANDON

Tuesday, June 24 – Victoria Inn
Wednesday, June 25 – Victoria Inn
Thursday, July 17 – Keystone Centre
Tuesday, July 29 – Keystone Centre
Thursday, August 14 – Keystone Centre
Wednesday, September 3 – Keystone Centre
Thursday, September 11 – Keystone Center

WINNIPEG – Clarion Inn & Suites

Tuesday, July 8
Wednesday, July 9
Thursday, July 24
Tuesday, August 12
Wednesday, August 20
Thursday, August 28
Thursday, September 4
Wednesday, September 10

DAUPHIN - Super 8

Tuesday, July 22
Thursday, August 21

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE – Canad Inns

Wednesday, August 27

THOMPSON – Thompson City Hall

Wednesday, August 27

RUSSELL – FILLED

Russell Inn & Conference Centre -
Friday, September 5

Register at:

http://www.amm.mb.ca/training_sessions_2008.cfm

Announcements

Northern Director

At the Northern District Meeting in Thompson on June 16, delegates elected Karen



MacKinnon, Councillor for the City of Flin Flon, to serve the AMM Board as Northern Director. Welcome Karen!

At the same meeting, Oswald Sawh, Councillor for the City of Thompson, was acclaimed to the second Northern Director position.

Congratulations to both Oswald and Karen.

10th Anniversary

Congratulations to the winners of AMM jackets at the recent June District meetings!



Interlake District

Don Vigfusson, RM of Bifrost

Jonna Peltz, RM of Rockwood
Jack Douglas, RM of Rockwood
Carol Lavallee, RM of Armstrong
Pat Pruden, City of Selkirk

Central District

Roland Rasmussen, RM of Cartier
Robert Poirier, Village of St. Francis Xavier
Ken Buchanan, RM of Louise
Cynthia Bisson, RM of MacDonald
Ted Tkachyk, RM of Grey

10th Anniversary

Western District

Bill Dekeyser, RM of Brenda
Earl Malyon, RM of South Cypress
Denis Bauldic, RM of Glenwood
Beryl Williams, Town of Oak Lake
Steward Olmstead, Town of Carberry

Midwestern District

Bob English, RM of Hamiota
Barb Cumming, RM of Hamiota
Peggy Bradshaw, Village of Binscarth
Doug Popkes, RM of Landsdowne
Don Boxall, Village of Glenella

Parkland District

Carolyn Gordon, Town of Minitonas
Joe Senderewich, RM of Shell River
Steve Gazdewich, RM of Swan River
Phyl Friesen, Town of Swan River
Jack Lenderbeck, RM of Shell River

Northern District

Ashley Johnson, City of Flin Flon
Linda McFadyen, IGA
Ron Skokun, Town of The Pas
Oswald Sawh, City of Thompson
Bert Lagimodiere, Town of The Pas

Eastern District

Luc Lahaie, RM of De Salaberry
Bill Sawka, IGA
Ed Gunning, RM of St. Clements
Robert Dobush, RM of Reynolds
Art Rempel, City of Steinbach

http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_10thanniversary.html

Congratulations to AMM Director of Policy & Communications, Tyler MacAfee, and his wife Erin on the birth of their daughter, Kate Elizabeth, on June 15, 2008.



Kate weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Welcome Kate!