



NEWS BULLETIN



JUNE 5, 2009

AMM WRAPS UP MINISTER MEETINGS

The AMM met with the Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Water Stewardship on May 28, 2009, wrapping up their annual series of minister meetings.

The AMM opened the meeting by raising water protection and land use planning, reiterating the need for greater coordination as new legislation and policies are implemented.

On the topic of conservation district (CD) funding, a concern is how funding will work when large urban centres such as Winnipeg and Brandon come on side. The Minister noted additional funding might be available through the private sector and this is something she encourages CDs to explore, although there are concerns with the impact this may have on CD board representation.

The AMM also stressed there is a need for funding for water and wastewater operator training, as well as for the National Water Supply Expansion Program. The Minister indicated that the Province is working on the operator issue and is hopeful improvements will be coming shortly.

The next issue raised with Minister Melnick was the Provincial Flood Proofing Program. There are concerns with abandoning of rail lines since many rail beds act as dykes that protect communities against high water levels. The Department indicated the decommissioning plan takes this into consideration.

Drainage issues were also discussed with Minister Melnick, as was the issue of alternate revenues and municipal infrastructure.

A meeting also took place with the Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation on May 28. The intent of this meeting was to discuss the results of the public consultation regarding the proposed Onsite Wastewater Management Regulation. The Minister indicated that he extended the deadline at the request of AMM and was pleased with the feedback he received. The Minister indicated he heard support for moving forward in sensitive areas, but incentives may be required for rural residents to get rid of ejectors.



L to R: AMM Rural Vice-President Roger Wilson, President Doug Dobrowolski, Leader of the Official Opposition Hugh McFadyen, and Urban Vice-President Shirley Kalyniuk

Regarding the impact the change will have on municipal wastewater treatment facilities, the Minister indicated that the majority of sites with ejectors would move to septic fields, resulting in no impact. There are a small number of sites in the province that would require holding tanks and there would be a minimal impact in these cases.

Regarding land values the Minister indicated that while there are certainly costs associated with switching from an ejector to a septic field, it will in-

crease the value of the property. The department indicated that the cost for a field is between \$6000 and \$15000 but could reach \$20,000 in some cases.

The AMM also expressed concern with the lack of science behind the change. Minister Struthers indicated that there are both environmental and human health concerns with ejectors.

The Minister indicated that the next step is for him to take this issue forward to Cabinet.

Finally, the AMM met with the Leader of the Opposition, Hugh McFadyen on May 28. The first topic raised with the Leader was the need for alternate revenues for municipalities. Mr. McFadyen indicated that he was pleased the resolution was passed at the convention and with the debate around the issue. The Party still supports giving municipalities ½ a cent of the PST unconditionally.

Mr. McFadyen indicated concern for unfunded mandates that are being given to municipalities and indicated that his government would not provide regulations without also providing financial support. He also expressed some skepticism on the financial benefits of amalgamations.

CD funding was also discussed with Mr. McFadyen, with the Leader indicating that the same centralization trend can be found with this issue. He committed to raising the issue with government. The proposed Onsite Wastewater Systems Management Regulation was also discussed. ■

Coming Events



AMM Board of Directors Elections

Please be reminded this year at the June District meetings we will be electing all of the Director positions on the AMM Board of Directors.

It is important to remember the following points if you are considering letting your name stand for Director on the AMM Board of Directors:

- You must be an elected official from a member municipality to be eligible to run for the AMM Board of Directors.
- Each of the 7 Districts shall have 2 representatives on the board, one from an urban municipality and one from a rural municipality, except the Northern District.
- For the Northern District, representation on the Board shall be comprised of one representative from one of the following municipalities: *The Pas, Kelsey, Flin Flon, Snow Lake or Grand Rapids.*
- The other representative shall be from one of the following municipalities: *Thompson, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Churchill, Gillam or Mystery Lake.*
- The term of office for the Directors shall be 2 years until June of 2011.
- In order to be elected, a candidate must receive 50% plus one of the total votes cast.
- All elected officials and Chief Administrative Officers of a member municipality for a particular district may vote at the June District meeting.

If you have any questions about the election for the AMM Board of Directors, please feel free to contact:

Joe Masi, Executive Director
204-856-2360 or jmasi@amm.mb.ca

June District Meetings

All meetings will begin at 9:30 am

Visit http://www.amm.mb.ca/events_june_form.html to register!

Coming Events

PSAB Implementation 2009 Training Sessions PSAB Reporting Model

On-line registration for the 2009 Training Sessions is available on the AMM website at:

www.amm.mb.ca/PSAB.html

Notices

Attention Trail Builders



The National Trails Coalition and the Federal Government have announced a program for trail construction for the fiscal year of 2009/2010. The Province of Manitoba has been allocated \$1.3 million dollars or \$433,333.33 for each discipline (Self propelled, Snowmobile and ATV). Details, updates and applications forms can be found at www.ntc-canada.ca.

Program highlights

- \$25 millions dollars announced for trail construction across Canada,
- Program is a 50/50 split - federal dollars to matching (Non federal) dollars,
- Manitoba has been allotted \$1.3 million dollars,
- Funds to be used for snowmobile, ATV and self-propelled trails,
- Funds must be use between May 27th 2009 and March 31st 2010,
- Application deadline is June 26th, 2009
- Projects should be shovel ready

If you have a project you want to and can complete this year and you may have private, local or provincial funds to match, please review the program criteria and download an application form from www.ntc-canada.ca

Questions? Please contact:

Martin Landy, Executive Director
Manitoba Recreational Trails Association
Ph: (204) 786-2688
Fax (204) 945-1365
www.mrta.mb.ca

Job Postings

Senior Policy Analyst

The AMM currently has an opening for a Senior Policy Analyst. Reporting to the Director of Policy and Communications, the Senior Policy Analyst assists in the planning of lobbying activities, policy development and AMM resolution process. This is a one-year term position.

Qualifications

- Degree in a related field
- The successful candidate will also have:
- Working knowledge of government-related and provincial legislative issues
 - Strong written communication skills
 - Knowledge of the federal and provincial systems an asset
 - Computer proficiency and knowledge of various office software packages

Please apply by Friday, June 19th to:

Association of Manitoba Municipalities
1910 Saskatchewan Avenue West
Portage La Prairie, MB R1N 0P1
Fax: 204-856-2370
Email: tmacafee@amm.mb.ca

Administrative Assistant Town of Rossburn

The Town of Rossburn invites applications for the position of Administrative Assistant. The successful applicant should possess the following:

- Strong interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of computerized accounting
- Excellent oral/written communications skills

The position includes an excellent benefits package and the salary range is negotiable depending on qualifications and/or experience. Applications containing full resume along with three references must be submitted to the undersigned by 4:00 pm Friday, June 19, 2009 to:

L. A. Mackedenski
P.O. Box 70, Rossburn, MB R0J 1V0
Ph: 204-859-2762 Fax: 204-859-2022
Email: town.rsb@mts.net



FOR COMPLETE JOB POSTINGS VISIT:

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