



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

Meeting with the Honourable Cathy Cox
Minister of Sustainable Development

2017

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Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Cathy Cox and representatives of the Department of Sustainable Development.
- The AMM encourages the Province of Manitoba to consider municipal concerns as well as the effects of funding decisions on local communities throughout the budget process.
- This document outlines the AMM's position and recommendations on a number of important municipal issues relevant to the Sustainable Development portfolio.

Priority Issues

1) Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide an update on the review of the Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation; and*
- ❖ *Allow licensed applicators to use federally-approved pesticides.*
 - Due to significant cost implications and effectiveness concerns, the AMM continues to oppose the cosmetic pesticide ban, as it negatively affects weed control services in local communities.
 - In order to achieve comparable weed control outcomes, multiple applications of products and additional municipal staff time are required, costing municipalities tens of thousands of dollars while complying with these regulations.
 - For instance, the City of Steinbach has estimated that the costs associated with their weed control program have risen tenfold while using alternative products.
 - Similarly, estimates from other AMM members indicate municipalities will need to spend 15 to 20 times more to maintain their current weed control programs with alternative products such as Fiesta.
 - In addition, the AMM has confidence in current federal regulations regarding the approval of pesticides, as the review process undertaken by Health Canada is rigorous and encompasses public safety review mechanisms.
 - Banning cosmetic pesticides approved by federal government agencies not only reduces the ability of municipalities to effectively manage weed control programs, but also results in unnecessary financial constraints on municipal budgets.
 - As the AMM is committed to public safety, an alternative to a complete cosmetic pesticide ban is to limit the use of cosmetic pesticides to licensed applicators to ensure these types of products are applied properly and safely.
 - The AMM would appreciate an update on the Province of Manitoba's review of the *Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation*.

2) Support for ALUS

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Implement a province-wide program based on the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) model to help reduce flooding and improve water management; and*
- ❖ *Continue funding the collection of LiDAR data.*
 - As water management affects all municipalities, AMM members overwhelmingly support improvements to water quality in Manitoba's lakes and waterways.
 - Ecological goods and services initiatives such as Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) not only help to improve water quality, they also provide other environmental benefits such as wetland and riparian area protection.
 - ALUS is an incentive-based model that recognizes the role of farmers in environmental management, and it has proven very successful in Nova Scotia, where it is a provincial policy, as well as Ontario and Alberta.
 - In Manitoba, however, effective watershed management and retention of wetland benefits demand financial support and incentives from the Province of Manitoba so that any new processes can be properly implemented and fully observed in practice.
 - Regulations should not be implemented without accompanying provincial funding.
 - Therefore, the AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to consult with individual and affected municipalities on watershed-based planning and drainage initiatives and continue the dialogue with our organization throughout the development of any subsequent regulations that affect water management in Manitoba.
 - In addition, the AMM encourages the provincial government to continue funding the collection of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data as it provides valuable information to both municipalities and the Province of Manitoba for infrastructure, land use and drainage planning.

3) Climate Change Adaptation

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Consult with municipalities and the AMM during the development of a made-in-Manitoba climate action plan.***
 - Municipalities are frontline stewards of the environment and many local communities are innovating to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while investing in sustainable infrastructure and flood mitigation.
 - Moreover, local Councils throughout Manitoba are ready to partner and work together to meet the challenges of climate change and ensure local communities are resilient for generations to come.
 - Working in partnership with the municipal sector requires a relationship based on trust forged through consensus, consultation and collaboration.
 - In regard to carbon pricing, the AMM encourages the Province of Manitoba to consult with municipalities on the development of a revenue sharing model as jobs and economic growth in local communities should not be adversely affected.
 - The AMM welcomes the Province of Manitoba's commitment to develop a made-in-Manitoba climate action plan, and municipalities stand ready to partner to respond to climate-related challenges facing Manitoba and beyond.
 - It is essential that proactive consultations occur with Manitoba municipalities and AMM if initiatives are to be successfully implemented and benefit all Manitobans.

4) Dutch Elm Disease Management

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Restore the Dutch elm disease (DED) management program to its former state, or provide 100 per cent funding to municipalities for the removal of diseased elms.***
- DED can have devastating effects on communities and as a result, the AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to ensure DED is managed in a consistent manner across the province.
- As many communities have considerable elm tree populations, the appearance of these communities will be drastically altered if they are unable to keep the disease contained.
- Currently, the provincial government allocates only \$1.05 million to 40 communities to safely remove more than 5,600 diseased trees across the province.
- Under the new DED management scheme, participating communities receive a \$2,000 administrative grant plus \$181.32 per tree for every diseased elm tree removed.
- Prior to this new administrative scheme, the Province of Manitoba not only marked diseased trees but also took care of removal operations.
- Removal costs can also vary substantially based on tree size, location, accessibility and risk factors, and some communities have incurred removal costs greater than \$1,000 per tree.
- Given the associated costs and restrictive guidelines of this program, 97 percent of participating communities are unsatisfied with the new administrative scheme.
- As Manitoba urban forests are home to the largest population of elm trees in North America, the Province of Manitoba should either restore the old administrative scheme, or provide 100 per cent compensatory funding to municipalities for the removal of diseased elms.

5) Waste Management Facilities Regulation

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide funding to offset the costs associated with the certification of waste facility operators; and*
 - ❖ *Continue to consult the AMM on the implementation of the Waste Management Facilities Regulation.*
- The AMM wishes to thank Manitoba Sustainable Development representatives for working with AMM staff to review the Waste Management Facilities Regulation and minimize the financial and administrative burdens resulting from these regulatory changes.
 - The AMM is pleased the existing landfill classification scheme will be maintained and appreciates the increased license thresholds and streamlined permitting process.
 - In addition, the AMM welcomes the exemption option for Class 3 operators as part of the phased-in certification requirements over a three-year period.
 - The AMM also appreciates the funding commitment from Green Manitoba to help offset the costs associated with the certification of waste facility operators.
 - As the AMM is committed to supporting waste minimization and environmental sustainability goals, we would appreciate ongoing briefings throughout the Province of Manitoba's implementation of the Waste Management Facilities Regulation.

6) Funding for Conservation Districts

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Increase operating funding for the Conservation District Program and consider reevaluating the funding formula.***

- The AMM has long advocated for increased provincial funding for Conservation Districts to support the implementation of water management plans due to the important and cost-effective watershed management initiatives they undertake.
- The AMM also believes there is significant value, both financial and environmental, in all the work done by CDs, and recognizes that every attempt must be made to maximize resources.
- However, many CDs already struggle to fulfill their current mandates and deliver programs with existing funding, particularly after funding cuts in the 2013 budget.
- As well, project-based funding does not necessarily recognize the extra demands on CD staff.
- While the AMM appreciates the new Small Water Retention Infrastructure Program, relying on application-based funding makes long-term planning and staff retention extremely difficult for CDs.
- The AMM feels it is essential to reinstate and, if possible, increase provincial operating funding for CDs, particularly if they are expected to fulfill new responsibilities as part of any ALUS-related initiative or *Surface Water Management Strategy*.

Appendix A – Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #28-2016

Topic: Crown Land

Sponsor(s): City of Flin Flon (Northern District), RM of Alexander (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS municipalities have often encountered delays, expenses and other complications in obtaining provincial Crown Lands located within municipalities, through subdivision or otherwise; and

WHEREAS any expense that is incurred by a municipality is ultimately payable by the same taxpayer;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to simplify the processes by which a municipality may obtain Crown Land, and to make such purchases more affordable.

AMM Resolution #29-2016

Topic: Recycling

Sponsor(s): RM of Yellowhead (Midwestern District), RM of Gimli (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS recycling has positive impacts on the environment and the lives of all Canadians; and

WHEREAS municipalities are stewards of the environment and should help promote and educate communities on healthy environmental practices, including the positive impact of recycling; and

WHEREAS through the offering of manageable recycling practices and incentives we can help promote recycling and reduce unnecessary dumping at our landfills sites, which will benefit local communities that manage these sites and their increasing budgets; and

WHEREAS other provinces offer refunds on certain recyclable materials which help promote the habit of recycling; and

WHEREAS municipalities in Manitoba handle glass and plastic containers as part of their recycling programs; and

WHEREAS no market exists for glass and the cost of handling plastic exceeds revenue received; and

WHEREAS nine other provinces in Canada have a bottle collection program that is successful in keeping containers off streets, roadsides, and landfills; and

WHEREAS these provinces have placed a levy on these containers, paid at the time of purchase, resulting in revenue that goes toward paying for items returned;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to review other provincial recycling practices and programs and to consider offering refunds on recyclable materials to help promote recycling in Manitoba which will help ensure a better environment for all Manitobans and future generations; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to join the rest of Canada by creating a return program and regional return sites for glass and plastic containers.

AMM Resolution #30-2016

Topic: Participation in Conservation Districts

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Two Borders (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS municipalities require accurate and up-to-date information to plan projects pertaining to water movement and retention; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Conservation Districts have the capability to offer culvert inventories for surface water management; and

WHEREAS inter-municipal construction is stalled by the failure of neighbouring municipalities to participate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to encourage applicable municipalities to participate in Inter-Municipal Conservation Projects.

AMM Resolution #31-2016

Topic: Saskatchewan Drainage Issues

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Russell-Binscarth (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS Manitoba municipalities located along the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border have faced significant financial hardship and substantial infrastructure damage due to water drainage practices in Saskatchewan; and

WHEREAS the drainage policies of Saskatchewan have allowed for significant modification to drainage patterns impacting the volume and speed of water flow experienced in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the current situation has created wealth through improved farmland for Saskatchewan, at the same time increasing Manitoba costs on infrastructure and reducing farmland assessment due to flooding and land being taken out of production; and

WHEREAS discussions on a local level have resulted in an agreement and partnership to co-fund some infrastructure repairs and improvements, but the scope and scale of the issues are beyond the limits of local resources; and

WHEREAS the issue of water crossing provincial boundaries needs to be addressed by the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS impacted municipalities understand that initiatives are in place that are looking at long-term solutions to the problem, but the need for support is immediate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to negotiate an agreement with the Province of Saskatchewan to address impacts from enhanced draining that is negatively affecting infrastructure within municipalities in Manitoba; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a compensation fund be established by the Province of Manitoba for municipalities impacted by drainage from Saskatchewan to help offset infrastructure repair costs and assessment losses.

AMM Resolution #32-2016

Topic: Consultation on Waterway Projects

Sponsor(s): RM of Yellowhead (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development, Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS municipalities must obtain a license from Manitoba Sustainable Development for culvert replacement, runway cleaning or drainage projects; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure is not required to go through this process for waterway projects on provincial highways and provincial trunk roads; and

WHEREAS on occasion Manitoba Infrastructure projects have resulted in damage to downstream municipal infrastructure as a result of increased water flows;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to make it mandatory for Manitoba Infrastructure to consult with Manitoba Sustainable Development when working on waterway projects.

AMM Resolution #33-2016

Topic: Funding for Impacted Waterways

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Two Borders (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS many Manitoba municipalities have experienced unprecedented flooding in recent years; and

WHEREAS prolonged and significant flood events result in widescale destruction of trees and bushes in river and creek riparian areas; and

WHEREAS debris inevitably causes damage and blockages at provincial and municipal bridges and culverts resulting in further flooding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide funding to affected municipalities or Conservation Districts for the purpose of removing flood-related debris in impacted waterways.

AMM Resolution #34-2016

Topic: Public Hunting on Agricultural Lands

Sponsor(s): RM of Lac du Bonnet (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS agricultural producers lease Crown Land for agricultural purposes from the Province of Manitoba and assume all risk of liability; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Sustainable Development continues to permit public hunting and other activities on agricultural leased land putting the producers at unwarranted risk of economic liability, soil contaminants from foreign off-road vehicles, and creating a safety hazard during times of fall harvest and field work where producers are unaware of hunting activity on the

leased land;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop a policy to direct Manitoba Sustainable Development to obtain permission from the leasee prior to permitting public hunting on agricultural leased lands to protect agricultural practices, soil integrity and agricultural producers from harm.

AMM Resolution #10-2015

Topic: Waste Management Facilities Regulation

Sponsor(s): RM of Piney (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship is proposing a new Waste Management Facilities (WMF) Regulation;

AND WHEREAS municipalities will carry the weight of increased costs associated with the new classification scheme;

AND WHEREAS many municipalities will struggle to manage these costs due to limited financial resources;

AND WHEREAS the proposed regulation will also result in increased administrative burdens for municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to significantly reduce the financial and administrative impact of the newly proposed Waste Management Facilities Regulation.

AMM Resolution #11-2015

Topic: Water Control Work Permits

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Gilbert Plains (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS The Water Rights Act provides the authorization for water control works to be issued in perpetuity so minor works can be maintained as desired as long as they comply with license conditions;

AND WHEREAS existing permits allow for annual maintenance without monitoring or further permission which may result in moving vast amounts of soil and creating significant change to the landscape over time;

AND WHEREAS drainage works authorized on private property directly impact municipal infrastructure;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend provincial policy to ensure ongoing maintenance done under the authority of water control works permits do NOT exceed the original parameters of said permits;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT water works permits can be subject to review to ensure compliance.

AMM Resolution #12-2015

Topic: Funding for Retention/Drought Proofing Works

Sponsor(s): RM of Springfield (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS there is a need to give serious consideration to sustainable funding to Conservation Districts responsible for drainage;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to develop a process to identify the need for retention/drought proofing works;

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop a process and criteria for 50/50 funding for qualifying retention/drought proofing works.

AMM Resolution #14-2015

Topic: Amend The High-Level Radioactive Waste Act

Sponsor(s): Town of Lynn Lake (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada have both expressed a desire for the development of northern Manitoba and northern Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has received a mandate from the Government of Canada to create a facility for the long-term safe storage and management of used high-level nuclear fuel in a suitable geologic structure within a municipality of Canada with an informed and willing host community;

AND WHEREAS federal legislation prohibits the import of used nuclear fuel into Canada from any other country;

AND WHEREAS Canada has among the most stringent regulations and requirements in the world regarding high-level used nuclear fuel;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Nuclear Industry has a need and requirement to invest between \$40-\$60 billion or more in the development and establishment of a facility to host high-level used nuclear fuel and research additional long-term solutions at a world-class nuclear research facility;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba enacted the High-Level Radioactive Waste Act in 1987 before a safe and effective plan was developed by the Canadian Nuclear Industry;

AND WHEREAS the NWMO may reopen the Expressions of Interest Phase to other municipalities if it feels it needs to;

AND WHEREAS the current format of the Manitoba High-Level Radioactive Waste Act is a prohibitive impediment to any Manitoba municipality which may wish to be considered as a viable location to host such a facility for the long-term management of used high-level nuclear fuel;

AND WHEREAS the vast majority of North-West Manitoba is sparsely populated and in desperate need of economic development and stability to re-grow struggling communities;

AND WHEREAS the economic development and investment that such projects could bring involve great benefits to northern Manitoba and the rest of the Province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend the High-Level Radioactive Waste Act to allow for the development of a long-term radioactive waste storage and research facility in Manitoba within willing and informed municipalities.

AMM Resolution #15-2015

Topic: Composting

Sponsor(s): Town of Stonewall (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the Town of Stonewall has an agreement with a local farmer who receives all yard waste for composting;

AND WHEREAS the compost is directly applied to the fields;

AND WHEREAS Green Manitoba has advised the farmer that only the material that undergoes the composting process, which is considered as the biological decomposition of organic material carried out under controlled aerobic conditions and undergoes a thermophilic phase that produces compost will be eligible for the Manitoba Composts Support Payment (MCSP);

AND WHEREAS Green Manitoba states that direct application of organic material to land is not considered composting and currently does not meet the program goals and criteria;

AND WHEREAS this direct composting has resulted in reduced waste at the landfill;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to consider all types of composting including direct composting as eligible to receive Manitoba Composts Support Payments.

AMM Resolution #16-2015

Topic: Night Hunting Ban

Sponsor(s): Municipality of North Norfolk (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the practice of Spot Lighting (night hunting) is extremely dangerous and has the potential to negatively impact all Manitobans, livestock and property;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Wildlife Federation is lobbying for the Province to ban all night hunting in Manitoba;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM support the Manitoba Wildlife Federation in their effort to have the Province of Manitoba amend the Wildlife Act to have a ban on night hunting for ALL hunters in Manitoba.

AMM Resolution #28-2015

Topic: Water and Wastewater Fund

Sponsor(s): City of Morden (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development, Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations, Infrastructure Canada

WHEREAS the continuing legislative changes to waste water and water infrastructure have continued to place high burdens onto the rate payers of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS there is no dedicated mechanism apart from burdening both the current and future rate payers by borrowing funds to undertake required infrastructure to meet ever changing legislative regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the provincial and federal governments to establish a water and wastewater fund that provides for an as-of-right 66% of the infrastructure costs for projects that are necessary because of legislative and regulatory requirements of the provincial and federal governments.

AMM Resolution #45-2015

Topic: Invasive Species

Sponsor(s): Village of Dunnottar (Interlake District)

Department(s): Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS zebra mussels, an invasive species, have taken hold in Lake Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS zebra mussels will create a significant cost related to maintaining infrastructure for municipalities, decrease property values, and impact fisheries;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the federal and provincial governments to institute and enforce legislation to halt the spread of invasive species, such as zebra mussels, from entering into other waterbodies, putting all lakes and waterways at risk in Manitoba.

AMM Resolution #11-2014

Topic: Dutch Elm Disease Tree Removal

Sponsor(s): RM of Gimli; Town of Stonewall (Interlake District); RM of East St. Paul (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba currently has a Dutch Elm Disease Management Program that provides for the identification and removal of dead and dying elms at no cost to the homeowner/municipality, Cost Sharing Agreements with communities to perform basal spraying and injection of public elms, tree pruning and tree replacement and assistance to property owners who require information about identifying elms, Dutch elm disease symptoms, and prevention and management methods;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is considering changes to the Community Cost Sharing Agreements that would shift additional responsibilities for the removal of the trees identified as having Dutch elm disease to the communities;

AND WHEREAS the said changes to the Community Cost Sharing Agreements could prove to be an additional and significant expense for the participating communities;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba Sustainable Development has advised effective 2015 that some municipalities will be responsible for their own tree removal service with reimbursement from the Province in the amount of \$180.32 per tree;

AND WHEREAS the average cost to remove diseased elm trees is \$700.00 to \$1,000.00 per tree and will have a considerable impact on municipal budgets in 2015;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to maintain the removal of the diseased elm trees as a provincial responsibility under the Community Cost Sharing Agreements or provide funding of the Dutch Elm Disease Management Program to allow for the removal of the diseased elm trees by the communities at 100% cost recovery.

AMM Resolution #12-2014

Topic: Nature Conservancy of Canada Land Purchases

Sponsor(s): RM of Stuartburn (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the lands within some municipalities are prime habitat areas for wildlife, endangered species and tall grass prairie;

AND WHEREAS the Nature Conservancy of Canada has been actively acquiring substantial tracts of property for aforesaid purposes;

AND WHEREAS some municipalities contain numerous quarter sections of unoccupied and leased Crown Lands, most suitable and conducive for wildlife, thereby making further land acquisition by the Nature Conservancy of Canada counterproductive and unnecessary;

AND WHEREAS the Nature Conservancy of Canada retains all of its property in natural state without any improvements resulting in low assessments and low property taxes;

AND WHEREAS such practices by the Nature Conservancy of Canada have proven detrimental to the well-being of some municipalities, in that residents must compete with the Nature Conservancy of Canada for the acquisition of aforesaid lands required for agriculture purposes;

AND WHEREAS some municipalities are alarmed at the rate of the lost productive agricultural lands here and elsewhere in the province;

AND WHEREAS it is the most beneficial for municipalities to have families reside on and farm these lands as families normally make improvements to the land and erect buildings including housing and other structures, thus generating essential tax revenue, and families contribute to the general well-being of their community by virtue of stabilizing school enrolments; ensuring the existence of health care facilities in their communities and maintaining the vitality within the local business community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to implement a moratorium on the purchasing of land by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and impose a recreational tax on existing Nature Conservancy of Canada properties;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of Manitoba conduct a study on the effects the Nature Conservancy of Canada held lands have on municipalities throughout the province.

AMM Resolution #13-2014

Topic: Weed Control Districts – Chemical Exemption

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Andrews (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has introduced restrictions on the use of certain chemicals for weed control on lawns;

AND WHEREAS many municipalities are part of Weed Control Districts and are responsible for the control of invasive weed species;

AND WHEREAS the restriction of certain chemicals will have a large financial burden on these Districts to find alternative products and control methods;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to exempt Weed Control Districts from using these alternative chemicals and allow the same exemption as provided to golf courses.

AMM Resolution #14-2014

Topic: Mosquito Buffer Zones

Sponsor(s): City of Brandon (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS Manitoba Sustainable Development is responsible for the issuance of Pesticide Use Permits for municipalities in the Province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba Sustainable Development currently requires that municipalities compile a list of residents who register their objections to mosquito adulticiding;

AND WHEREAS municipalities must turn off adulticiding equipment 90 meters on either side of the objectors' property in the front street, side street and rear land as a condition when said permits are issued;

AND WHEREAS the current 90 meter buffer zone is deemed an imposition on municipalities applying an effective mosquito abatement program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to allow individual municipalities to determine the appropriate size of buffer zones that will protect residents' rights and still ensure an effective mosquito abatement program within the municipality.

AMM Resolution #16-2014

Topic: Amend the Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation

Sponsor(s): RM of Cornwallis (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation - 83/2003 states;
6(3) No person shall construct, install, site or locate a disposal field unless the parcel of land on which the disposal field is to be situated:

(a) is at least 0.8 ha (2 acres) in area;

(b) has a frontage of at least 60 m (198 feet);

AND WHEREAS there are many communities which do not have a waste collection system;

AND WHEREAS there are many parcels of land within these communities with aging waste disposal fields;

AND WHEREAS many of these parcels of land are under 2 acres in area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend the Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation 83/2003 to grandfather existing parcels of land with less than 2 acres of land to allow for the waste disposal field to be moved or replaced.

AMM Resolution #17-2014

Topic: Tile Drainage Policy

Sponsor(s): RM of Portage la Prairie (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS municipalities in Manitoba are seeing an increase in applications to install tile drainage systems on farmland;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba regulates drainage licensing in Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the Province does not have a policy on the installation of tile drainage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to adopt policies in conjunction with municipalities on the installation of tile drainage systems to ensure proper protection is provided to downstream landowners.

AMM Resolution #18-2014

Topic: Drainage Upgrades and Solutions

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Andrews (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development, Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba takes no responsibility over local drainage issues and has transferred the responsibility to the Conservation Districts that are financed mostly by municipalities;

AND WHEREAS across the Province there seems to be a consensus that a coordinated approach to drainage should be handled by both the Province and the local authority;

AND WHEREAS a Land Drainage Review which was conducted by the Province identified that the top 5 issues provincially were;

1. Maintenance of the existing system;
2. Defined responsibility;
3. Downstream impacts;
4. Local involvement;
5. The watershed approach;

AND WHEREAS none of these issues outlined the need for better drainage systems, upgrading, and drainage maintenance, that make good economic sense;

AND WHEREAS we should all share in the responsibility of land drainage and development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to fund and develop drainage upgrades and solutions in collaboration with the local municipalities.

AMM Resolution #11-2013

Topic: Park Services in Underserved Areas

Sponsor(s): City of Thompson (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is developing a new parks strategy that will shape investment in Manitoba parks to 2020;

AND WHEREAS provincial parks play an integral role in enhancing the quality of life to residents of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS quality of life contributes to the sustainability of communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to enhance quality of life opportunities in Manitoba where the demand for park services exceeds the supply, by extending park season and expanding cottage and camping opportunities for all Manitobans, especially in areas that are underserved.

AMM Resolution #12-2013

Topic: Land Lease and Tax Rates for Provincial Park Residents

Sponsor(s): RM of Lac du Bonnet (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS those who lease property in the Province of Manitoba provincial parks have enjoyed a more than ten year freeze on fees;

AND WHEREAS municipal residents, property owners residing outside of the provincial parks, have increasingly paid for the many valued services they count on;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are getting considerable pressure to reduce property taxes;

AND WHEREAS the imbalances caused by education taxes being levied on property outside of the provincial parks need to be addressed, and those living inside the provincial parks should be paying their fair share;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to implement fair market rate land lease rates and comparable property tax rates for all properties located in the provincial parks in Manitoba.

AMM Resolution #13-2013

Topic: Grant-in-Lieu for Crown Land

Sponsor(s): RM of Mountain (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development; Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

WHEREAS the rural municipal tax base is primarily agricultural based;

AND WHEREAS Crown grazing and crop leases constitute a significant share of the rural

municipal tax base;

AND WHEREAS government and non-government organizations historically and currently place reservations on Crown land restricting or prohibiting agricultural use;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to pay a Grant-in-Lieu of tax to municipalities on Crown land with a code or reservation that restricts or prevents the lands from being leased for agricultural purposes.

AMM Resolution #41-2013

Topic: Increase Funding to Conservation Districts

Sponsor(s): RM of Westbourne (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has been a large supporter of municipalities belonging to conservation districts in Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has indicated that any future funding of major drainage works would only be provided through conservation districts;

AND WHEREAS in the 2013 provincial budget, funding for conservation districts was reduced dramatically;

AND WHEREAS the funding reduction has forced conservation districts to either reduce services and/or programs provided by the conservation district in the past;

AND WHEREAS this reduces the validity of conservation districts in Manitoba;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase the funding level to conservation districts to a minimum of the funding received prior to the 2013 provincial budget cuts.

AMM Resolution #17-2012

Topic: Drainage on Crown Lands

Sponsor(s): RM of Kelsey (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS some municipalities have large amounts of Crown lands in their jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS drainage of all agricultural land is important to some municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has decided not to allow any drainage works, minor or otherwise, on Crown land;

AND WHEREAS drainage improvement is essential for the improvement of land and potential sale;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to reverse its decision and allow drainage works to continue on Crown land under the same rules as all other lands in the province.

AMM Resolution #19-2012

Topic: Improve Water Quality of Manitoba Waterways

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Clements. RM of Alexander (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS water issues have been at the forefront facing municipalities of today;

AND WHEREAS we understand the issues associated with nutrient loading of phosphates and nitrates within our streams, rivers and lakes, within Canada and the world;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba's streams, rivers and lakes of Manitoba are under continuous pressure from nutrient loading;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba municipalities have an opportunity to lead the way in procurement, purchasing and practices for preserving our fresh waters;

AND WHEREAS municipalities, through a solution strategy, agree to work on a continuous improvement of our watersheds, where the practices will maximize social, economic and environmental benefits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to have municipalities adopt and support lake friendly practices which will reduce nutrients and improve water quality in Lake Winnipeg and in all of Manitoba's waterways.

AMM Resolution #21-2012

Topic: Support for LiDAR Coverage

Sponsor(s): Village of Dunnottar (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation; Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS municipalities are increasingly acquiring LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) coverage to assist with infrastructure and drainage planning;

AND WHEREAS provincial government agencies wish to acquire LiDAR coverage for similar reasons;

AND WHEREAS it is acknowledged that there will be significant savings to public agencies with such information;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide the necessary resources for a partnership arrangement with local governments to achieve LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) coverage.

AMM Resolution #11-2011

Topic: Funding Formula for Recycling

Sponsor(s): RM of Armstrong (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba Inc. (MMSM) was established as a result of the Packing and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation #195/2008;

AND WHEREAS all municipal recycling claims are now submitted to MMSM for payment;

AND WHEREAS MMSM has included in the new contract with municipalities dated January 1, 2011, that the methodology for funding payments is based on the median three year rolling average net cost for each population group;

AND WHEREAS the payment methodology includes all municipalities within a population group and each municipality is paid for the operation of a recycling program regardless of how much they recycle;

AND WHEREAS the methodology does encourage municipalities to have a recycling program, it does not encourage a successful recycling program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to re-evaluate the funding formula to reflect the amount of recycling a municipality's program produces.

AMM Resolution #13-2011

Topic: Cosmetic Pesticide Use Ban

Sponsor(s): Town of Altona (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development recommends that the Province of Manitoba establish a full ban on the sale and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes to include non-essential, cosmetic use of chemical insecticides, herbicides and fungicides for residential, institutional, and recreational facilities, near water and all urban and rural areas;

AND WHEREAS the regulatory body for pesticides (chemical and non-chemical) in Canada is Health Canada's Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency which puts all pesticides through a rigorous scientific assessment process to ensure their safety for Canadians of all ages;

AND WHEREAS a pesticide can only be registered or remain registered in Canada if there is a reasonable certainty that the associated risks pose no harm to human health, future generations or the environment when used as directed;

AND WHEREAS the study most often quoted with regards to human health and cancer is the Ontario College of Family Physicians report of April 23, 2004 which has been debated by some in the scientific community;

AND WHEREAS a cosmetic pesticide ban would adversely affect municipalities in Manitoba by increasing the cost of noxious weed control required under The Noxious Weeds Act since weeds in urban areas act as a wealthy seed bank for surrounding agricultural and other natural areas and sports fields and parks;

AND WHEREAS municipal nuisance mosquito control programs using chemical pesticides could be affected which would result in the loss of nuisance mosquito programs in some communities and would affect the enjoyment of residents during the summer;

AND WHEREAS a cosmetic pesticide ban would also adversely affect producers as their costs would increase from additional weed infestations from these urban areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to not implement a ban of cosmetic use pesticides in Manitoba.

AMM Resolution #09-2010

Topic: Sewage Ejectors for New Construction

Sponsor(s): RM of Hamiota (No District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has approved Regulation No. MR 60/2010 to amend the Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation;

AND WHEREAS the amended regulation does not allow consideration for the installation of a sewage ejection system for new construction;

AND WHEREAS there are soil conditions throughout Manitoba that are better suited for sewage ejectors than septic fields;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to consider allowing the use of sewage ejector systems for new construction where appropriate soil conditions exist.

AMM Resolution #12-2010

Topic: Amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Levy

Sponsor(s): Town of The Pas (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS in July 2009, Manitoba introduced the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) Levy of \$10 per tonne on waste disposed at Manitoba landfills;

AND WHEREAS the levy was intended to help discourage waste generation and encourage increased recycling and waste diversion activities province-wide;

AND WHEREAS 80% of the revenue collected for the levy is to be rebated to municipalities to further promote recycling in Manitoba with the remainder of the funding to be used to support e-waste and household hazardous waste management programs;

AND WHEREAS Class 1 landfills are required to purchase a scale to measure waste by weight in order to calculate the WRARS levy;

AND WHEREAS the rebate under the WRARS program is based on the total eligible recycling tonnage reported by the municipality;

AND WHEREAS in some cases the rebate will not cover the costs for the implementation and operation requirements under the WRARS program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to rework the rebate calculation to enable municipalities to recoup costs associated with the implementation of the program.