



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

**Meeting with the Honourable Rochelle Squires
Minister of Sustainable Development**

2018

Introduction 1

Priority Issues 2

 1) Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan 2

 2) Water Management 4

 3) Cosmetic Pesticide Ban 6

 4) Dutch Elm Disease Management 7

 5) Waste Management Facilities Regulation 8

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions..... 9

Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Rochelle Squires and representatives of Manitoba 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) Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Consult with municipalities and the AMM during the development of a Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan;***
 - ❖ ***Reinvest carbon pricing revenues in municipal climate-resilient infrastructure; and***
 - ❖ ***Continuing funding the collection of LiDAR data.***
- Municipalities are frontline stewards of the environment and many local communities are innovating to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while investing in climate-resilient infrastructure.
 - Local Councils throughout Manitoba are ready to partner and work together to meet the challenges of climate change and ensure local communities are safe and sustainable for generations to come.
 - According to a Probe Research poll, 67 per cent of Manitobans believe municipalities should receive between one-half and all of carbon tax revenues.
 - Therefore, the AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to partner with municipalities to invest carbon pricing revenues in municipal climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly water management, flood mitigation, and public transit.
 - Offsetting potential Manitoba Hydro rate increases with carbon pricing revenues should also be considered, particularly for municipal recreation infrastructure.
 - In addition, the AMM welcomes the provincial government's willingness to work in partnership with municipalities to ensure a sustained dedicated new funding stream for identified green infrastructure project priorities.
 - The AMM also appreciates the provincial commitment in the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan to continue investing in the collection of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data throughout Manitoba.

- Lastly, Manitoba will be receiving \$67 million in funding under the federal government's Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund under the auspices of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.
- Leveraging federal funding to support climate adaptation projects in municipalities would help transition Manitoba to a lower carbon economy and build more sustainable local communities.

2) Water Management

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Continue to consult with the AMM when implementing GROW based on the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) model to help reduce flooding and improve water management;***
- ❖ ***Streamline and reduce red tape in the drainage licensing and approval process; and***
- ❖ ***Increase operating funding for Conservation Districts.***

- 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 ALUS not only help to improve water quality, they also provide other environmental benefits such as wetland and riparian area protection.
- The AMM welcomes the introduction of Bill 7: *The Sustainable Watersheds Act*, which provides the framework for delivering the *Growing Outcomes in Watersheds* (GROW) program based on the ALUS model.
- The AMM also appreciates being a member of the Drainage Regulation Steering Committee, which includes representatives from various provincial government departments and stakeholder organizations.
- 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, while reporting requirements should be streamlined as much as possible to reduce red tape.
- The AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to continue to consult with our organization throughout the development of Manitoba's new watershed-based policy framework.
- In addition, 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 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.
- While the AMM appreciates the 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 when delivering GROW.

3) Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Provide an update on the provincial review of the Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation.***

- 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.
- The AMM would appreciate an update on the Province of Manitoba's review of the *Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation*.

4) Dutch Elm Disease Management

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Continue to address municipal concerns related to the Dutch elm disease (DED) management program in consultation with the AMM.***

- 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 participating communities to safely remove more than 5,600 diseased trees across the province.
- Tree 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.
- As 97 per cent of participating communities are unsatisfied with the current administrative scheme, the AMM appreciates the willingness of Manitoba Sustainable Development to make changes to the DED program while closely consulting with our organization.
- Modifying reimbursement rates to be based on tree size rather than tree quantity and extending the removal season should help drive down removal costs.
- The AMM encourages the department to continue working with municipalities to resolve outstanding concerns, including those that wish to move ahead with a cooperative contract approach to generate greater program efficiencies and reduced red tape.

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.***

- The AMM wishes to thank Manitoba Sustainable Development representatives for working with AMM staff to review the implementation of 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 department funding commitment to help offset the costs associated with the training and certification of waste facility operators.
- Going forward, it is essential that this funding be maintained, or potentially increased, to support municipalities with mandatory provincial training requirements.

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #20-2017

Topic: Carbon Tax Offset for Manitoba Hydro Rates

Sponsor(s): LGD of Pinawa (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the federal government has announced that a national "floor price" on carbon that would require all provinces to have some form of carbon pricing by 2018; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has not yet developed a position on a "carbon tax"; and

WHEREAS a carbon tax instituted by the Province of Manitoba versus that of the Government of Canada would be preferable since the tax revenue would remain in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Chair of the Manitoba Hydro Electric Board said on February 3, 2017 that double-digit annual increases would be required for at least five years in order to reestablish Manitoba Hydro on a proper financial footing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba so that should Manitobans have to pay a carbon tax that this tax be utilized to help offset any substantial increase of Manitoba Hydro rates.

AMM Resolution #21-2017

Topic: Comprehensive Provincial Water Management Strategy

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Rhineland (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS 20 million dollars has been allocated for water management in the recent provincial budget; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has initiated recent watershed management strategies for the Morris and Boyne River Basins; and

WHEREAS municipalities across the province have a keen interest in the maintenance and redesign of municipal and provincial drains; and

WHEREAS watershed management reduces soil erosion, promotes better drainage and generally improves the quality of water runoff;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop and implement a comprehensive provincial water management strategy and increase staff resources to work in conjunction with all municipalities and Conservation Districts throughout Manitoba to develop this strategy.

AMM Resolution #22-2017

Topic: Creating a Sustainable Surface Water Management Strategy

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

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS property assessment [and therefore municipal tax revenue] are based on land use and market value; and

WHEREAS poor drainage and localized flooding take arable acres out of production, degrading land use, market value, and therefore property assessment and municipal revenue; and

WHEREAS poor drainage and localized flooding can be attributed, in large part to:

- provincial and federal introduction of beavers to Manitoba at the locations and times as attached hereto in Schedule 'A';
- largely unchecked and explosive population growth of the beaver population, especially on lands beyond municipal jurisdiction, creating surface water management problems well beyond the point of origin and onto adjacent productive lands;
- underfunded and neglected provincial drain system in need of maintenance and restoration;
- annual cuts, elimination or threatened elimination to problem wildlife management programs targeting problem wildlife and drainage issues; and
- multi-jurisdictional challenges requiring coordination beyond the scope of municipalities [Crown Lands, wildlife management, agriculture, provincial drains and natural waterways, Conservation Districts, Department of Fisheries and Oceans];

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to jointly create a sustainable Surface Water Management Strategy with municipalities that:

- reduces red tape and allocates resources efficiently by consolidating and coordinating efforts of various federal and provincial departments and agencies, Conservation Districts, and municipalities; and
- identifies priorities and best practices while targeting resources to address those priorities in a systematic, multi-year implementation plan utilizing existing watershed management.

AMM Resolution #23-2017

Topic: Watershed Resiliency

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

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS weather patterns are becoming more erratic and severe weather events, including precipitation and consequent runoff, are becoming more common; and

WHEREAS existing high order drains accepting runoff from watersheds are a provincial responsibility; and

WHEREAS these drains and their bridge crossings are not being maintained or upgraded on a scheduled basis; and

WHEREAS these drains are demonstrating they either do not have the capacity to accept runoff arising from increasingly severe weather events, and/or lack the maintenance required to function at a level that would enable them to accommodate this increased runoff; and

WHEREAS this lack of capacity places bridge and bank infrastructure within watersheds at higher risk, thereby placing private and public investments at peril;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to make suitable additional funds available to ensure runoff within watersheds up to a 100-year flood event magnitude can be handled without damage or loss, by a combination of retention and drainage, by 2030.

AMM Resolution #24-2017

Topic: Certification of Water Treatment Plant Operators

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Ste. Rose (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS the present stipulations for certification and recertification of Water Treatment Plant Operators pose a hardship on small communities; and

WHEREAS small communities have limited resources, financially as well as in the number of available qualified personnel to meet the existing requirements for certification and recertification;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to implement a better method for the certification and recertification of Water Treatment Plant Operators for small communities.

AMM Resolution #46-2017 *Standing Policy

Topic: Water Rights Act Compliance

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

Department(s): *Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure has constructed part of a drain upstream of the outlet and had no plans to upgrade the downstream end; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure did not consult or gain approval from Manitoba Sustainable Development, the affected municipality, or affected land owners before commencing; and

WHEREAS this is contrary to the *Water Rights Act* in our opinion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to set policy that when any provincial government department performs drainage works they must consult and gain approval from Manitoba Sustainable Development, affected municipalities, and property owners prior to commencement of the works to ensure compliance with the *Water Rights Act*.

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 #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 #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 #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 #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 #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 #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.