



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

**Meeting with the Honourable Ralph Eichler
Minister of Agriculture**

2019

Introduction 1

Priority Issues 2

 1) Livestock Operations & The Planning Amendment Act 2

 2) Funding for Veterinary Services 3

 3) Farmland Beaver Damage Control Program..... 4

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions..... 5

Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Ralph Eichler and representatives of Manitoba Agriculture.
- 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 Agriculture portfolio.

Priority Issues

1) Livestock Operations & The Planning Amendment Act

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Provide assistance to interested municipalities seeking to review their animal-unit threshold for livestock operations; and***
- ❖ ***Repeal the livestock operation appeal provisions under The Planning Amendment Act.***
 - Under *The Planning Amendment Act*, the AMM supported the amendment to no longer require large-scale livestock operations to be designated as a conditional use in a zoning by-law; municipalities can determine this based on local conditions and the needs of their communities.
 - Several municipalities around Manitoba are currently interested in expanding hog barn operations and the removal of the 300-animal unit threshold should provide local Councils more flexibility and greater ability to capitalize on growth and economic development opportunities.
 - If requested, the Province of Manitoba should provide timely assistance to interested municipalities during the review of their animal unit threshold.
 - *The Planning Amendment Act* also allows applicants to appeal a rejection of a conditional use application or the imposition of conditions on an approval directly to the Municipal Board.
 - However, while these appeal provisions for large-scale livestock operations have not yet been proclaimed, the AMM believes these provisions should be repealed entirely since the potential option to directly appeal to the Municipal Board undermines the decisions of local Councils who know their communities best.

2) Funding for Veterinary Services

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Review the funding of rural veterinary boards with consideration of rising operating and capital costs.***

- The AMM has consistently urged the Province of Manitoba to increase operating grants for Veterinary Service Districts (VSD), reinstate provincial infrastructure grants to veterinary clinics, and re-evaluate the funding formula for rural veterinary boards.
- As VSDs were created for the purpose of attracting veterinarians to rural Manitoba, the AMM hopes the provincial government will address the stagnant level of funding to help attract and retain veterinarians in local communities.
- Moreover, the discontinuation of Veterinary Technical Enhancement Grants in 2012 has exacerbated these trends.
- Therefore, it is essential that the provincial government does not download any additional responsibilities or financial costs onto VSDs and municipalities.
- The VSD funding formula should also be reviewed as 20 out of 27 VSDs meet or exceed the \$19,000 maximum threshold for matching provincial funding on municipal contributions. Some clinics regularly incur costs of upwards of \$45,000 on an annual basis.
- The AMM hopes its recommendations will help leverage additional funding to support veterinary services throughout Manitoba.

3) Farmland Beaver Damage Control Program

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Continue to provide funding to municipalities to manage nuisance beavers.***

- The potential damage to local infrastructure and associated repair costs due to beaver activity as well as the potential risks of changes in water flow are well understood by municipalities and the Province of Manitoba.
- On an annual basis, nuisance beaver management can cost a municipality tens of thousands of dollars while damages may create additional issues such as access for producers, school buses and emergency services.
- The *Farmland Beaver Damage Control Program* was previously funded under *Growing Forward 2*, however this joint federal-provincial initiative to advance the agriculture industry expired in March 2018.
- As the new, five-year Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) has been finalized, the AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to ensure funding will continue to be provided to municipalities to manage nuisance beavers.
- It is essential that funding for beaver management continue to be available to municipalities under the auspices of the Government of Canada-Province of Manitoba CAP bilateral agreement.

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #05-2018

Topic: Livestock Operations

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture, Manitoba Municipal Relations

WHEREAS The Planning Act states the following: 116(3) No conditions may be imposed respecting the storage, application, transport or use of manure from a livestock operation that is the subject of an application under this Division other than a condition permitted under clause (2)(c); and

WHEREAS municipalities involved in large-scale conditional use livestock operations are on the front line to receive complaints from taxpayers in regards to manure applications; and

WHEREAS there is not enough actual on-site auditing by the Province of Manitoba of large-scale livestock operations in regards to manure storage, application, and transportation; and

WHEREAS when taxpayers are directed to the correct provincial department by the municipality, however do not receive a prompt response (within 24 hours);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase the on-site policing/auditing in proportion to the proposed increase of large-scale livestock operations in the province in order to protect local municipalities as well as develop a better contact system for concerned taxpayers when they have concerns that need to be addressed.

AMM Resolution #44-2015 *Standing Policy

Topic: Funding for Problem Beavers

Sponsor(s): Rossburn Municipality (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture

WHEREAS Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship is responsible for the control of deer, moose, bear, birds, fish, coyotes, wolves, etc. and was previously responsible for problem beavers, before downloading responsibility on municipalities and providing minimal compensation for beaver control;

AND WHEREAS the control of beaver activity places a substantial strain on a municipality's human and financial resources and can cause serious damages to infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba Conservation in part manages beaver populations by requiring trapping licenses and permits;

AND WHEREAS ongoing costs associated with trapping beavers and removal of dams are beyond the resources of some municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to cost share 50/50 the expenses for removal of beaver dams and cleanout of blocked culverts on municipal property;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Manitoba assumes all costs associated with the removal of problem beavers and dams on Crown Lands;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to take back responsibility for the control of problem beavers.

AMM Resolution #32-2013

Topic: Modernize Education Funding

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

Department(s): *Manitoba Education and Training, Manitoba Agriculture

WHEREAS farmers in rural Manitoba have lobbied and fought for fairness when it comes to the education tax system;

AND WHEREAS the 2013 Budget would see the rebate capped at \$5,000, which would unfairly discriminate against producers with a larger land base, causing greater hardship;

AND WHEREAS the current education tax system is clearly dysfunctional and antiquated, in need of restructuring so that the cost of education is funded fairly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to repeal the \$5,000 cap on the Farmland School Tax Rebate immediately;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Manitoba work to create a new, modernized model for how education funding is achieved.

AMM Resolution #39-2013 *Standing Policy

Topic: Infrastructure Grants for Veterinary Clinics

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has ceased providing infrastructure grants to provincially funded veterinary clinics;

AND WHEREAS provincially funded veterinary clinics provide basic care to protect the health of food producing herds in rural Manitoba;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to continue to provide infrastructure grants to provincially funded veterinary clinics.

AMM Resolution #09-2011

Topic: Rural Veterinary Board Funding

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture

WHEREAS funding from the Province of Manitoba for rural veterinary boards has remained the same since at least 1989;

AND WHEREAS the cost of living and the cost of providing these services has increased substantially;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to re-evaluate the funding formula for rural veterinary boards annually or bi-annually to better reflect the actual cost of delivering service.

AMM Resolution #12-2007

Topic: Increase to Operating Grants for Veterinary Services

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture

WHEREAS Veterinary Service Districts in Manitoba may receive an operating grant of \$19,000 from the Province of Manitoba on a yearly basis;

AND WHEREAS the cost of maintaining a Veterinary District is ever increasing with municipal levies surpassing the provincial contribution;

AND WHEREAS the cost of operating veterinary clinics has increased significantly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for an increase in operating grants to Veterinary Service Districts in the amount equal to municipal levies