

ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POSITION PAPER

MINISTER OF CONSERVATION & CLIMATE | SARAH GUILLEMARD | FEBRUARY 10,
2021



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Sarah Guillemard and representatives of Manitoba Conservation and Climate.

The AMM encourages the Province 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 Conservation and Climate portfolio.

PRIORITY ITEMS:

**DRAINAGE
LICENSING &
APPROVALS**

**MADE IN MANITOBA
CLIMATE & GREEN
PLAN**

**WASTE DIVERSION &
RECYCLING
INITIATIVES**

**EFFICIENCY MANITOBA
& SUPPORT FOR
RECREATION FACILITIES**

**COSMETIC PESTICIDE
BAN**

PARTNERS IN GROWTH

The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.

Priority Item #1

Drainage Licensing and Approvals

The AMM recommends the government:

- ✓ ***Continue to streamline processes and reduce provincial red tape to expedite drainage licensing approvals.***

- As municipal frustrations with the provincial drainage licensing process are well-documented, reducing red tape for low-risk, low impact drainage projects is long overdue.
- The AMM appreciated the opportunity to participate on the Drainage Regulation Steering Committee to provide input on establishing an efficient drainage registration and licensing process with minimal red tape.
- While we commend the Province for launching a new Water Licensing Portal to help expedite routine projects and reduce the significant backlog of drainage project applications, we were disappointed to hear concerns regarding increased costs, administrative time and red tape from our members that used the new portal system.
- Therefore, we appreciate the department working collaboratively with our organization to develop the 'living' FAQ document to help municipalities better understand the *Water Rights Regulation*.
- Additionally, we were pleased to see the department host a webinar with AMM members to explain the regulatory changes more clearly and outline how to use the portal more effectively.
- The AMM has long advocated for the department to formally commit to establishing a customer service standard for approving license projects using the new portal system. Thus, we welcome the new 6-week turnaround time for licensable projects.
- Moving forward, we encourage the department to continue consulting with the AMM to streamline processes and expedite drainage approvals.

Priority Item #2:

Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

The AMM recommends the government:

- ✓ ***Consult with the AMM during the implementation of the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan and;***
- ✓ ***Support the AMM's call to exempt municipalities from the federal Carbon Tax.***

- Municipalities are frontline stewards of the environment and many local communities are innovating to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while investing in climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Several municipalities throughout Manitoba are working together to meet the challenges of climate change and ensure local communities are safe and sustainable.
- Thus, the AMM welcomes the provincial government's new Conservation and Climate fund that will provide up to \$600,000 this fiscal year for local green initiatives
- As municipalities hold the unique position to lead economic recovery, this funding will certainly help generate new municipal projects that build more sustainable communities.
- In addition, the AMM appreciates the Province's willingness to work in partnership with municipalities to ensure a sustained new funding stream for identified green infrastructure projects.
- Leveraging federal funding to support climate adaptation projects in municipalities would help transition Manitoba to a lower carbon economy.
- The AMM encourages the Province to continue consulting with our organization and municipalities during the implementation of this plan.
- Further, we also request the Province of Manitoba to support our call on the federal government to provide exemptions from the federal Carbon tax as one order of government should not tax another.

Priority Item #3:

Waste Diversion and Recycling Initiatives



The AMM recommends the government:

- ✓ ***Facilitate a joint stakeholder meeting involving the AMM, City of Winnipeg, MMSM, and News Media Canada to ensure municipalities are fully compensated for newspaper recycling.***

- Since 2017, more than \$2 million has been withheld from Manitoba municipalities due to newspaper publishers no longer making payments to Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) despite their regulatory obligations.
- While the Province of Manitoba terminated its agreement – which had been in effect since 1993 – with the newspaper group, this decision was undertaken with no municipal consultation.
- Meanwhile, municipalities continue to collect and process newspapers as part of their community recycling programs.
- As municipalities have remained on the frontlines of this pandemic delivering essential services, it is vital that municipalities immediately receive the outstanding payments owed to them and are not negatively impacted financially by any future agreement.
- While the AMM understands provincial reluctance to interfere in the negotiation process between involved parties, it is concerning to see no resolution nearly a year later.
- Therefore, the AMM strongly encourages the Minister of Conservation and Climate to immediately call a joint stakeholder meeting involving the AMM, City of Winnipeg, MMSM and NMC to seek a solution agreeable to all parties involved.
- As the AMM is committed to advancing practical solutions to address challenges in waste diversion and recycling, we welcome the provincial commitment to comprehensively review recycling and waste management in Manitoba.
- Moving forward, it is vital that the province actively consult with the AMM and municipalities during this review. As municipalities have their boots on the ground, municipal-provincial partnership is critical to explore opportunities for strengthening waste management systems.
- Additionally, the AMM would appreciate an update on the provincial plan to abide by the federal ban of single-use plastic products which is set to finalize by the end of 2021.

Priority Item #4:

Efficiency Manitoba and Support for Recreation Facilities

The AMM recommends the government:

✓ ***Ensure Efficiency Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro enhance and develop new energy saving programs that decrease operating costs for recreation facilities.***

- Public recreation facilities are important assets that not only contribute to quality of life and well-being but also play a vital role in attracting newcomers and retaining families in local communities.
- However, maintaining many of these public facilities throughout Manitoba is financially unsustainable due to ever-increasing operating costs, which include hydro and gas costs and increased insurance premiums.
- Before the pandemic, several recreational facilities were struggling to stay open as these facilities have limited capacity to raise additional revenue to offset increasing operating costs.
- This became particularly evident as provincial restrictions shuttered all recreation facilities for months. According to our most recent COVID-19 survey, 71 per cent of respondents noted that the single largest financial hit has been due to the closure of community recreation centres.
- Municipalities are trying to keep these buildings afloat while collecting next to no user fees due to the restrictions. Therefore the AMM continues to call on the Province to further enhance and develop new energy-saving programs that decrease operating costs for community-owned public recreation facilities.
- Meanwhile, additional Manitoba Hydro rate increases will continue to negatively impact municipalities, particularly in the operation of public recreation infrastructure.
- We encourage Efficiency Manitoba to focus on streamlined service delivery and leverage available funding and programming from other departments within the provincial or federal governments to support local communities with their energy saving plans and efficiency initiatives.

Priority Item #5:

Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

The AMM recommends the government:

✓ ***Reverse the ban on federally-approved weed control 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 to comply with these regulations.
- Municipalities are experiencing significant financial pressures due to the pandemic and cannot afford to spend tens of thousands of dollars to maintain their weed control programs with alternative products.
- For instance, the City of Steinbach's weed control program have risen tenfold while using alternative products.
- Similarly, estimates from other AMM members indicate municipalities are spending 15 to 20 times more to maintain weed control with substitute products such as Fiesta.
- The review process undertaken by Health Canada is rigorous and encompasses public safety review mechanisms, thus the AMM has great confidence in science-based federal regulations regarding the approval of pesticides.
- 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 and red tape.
- The AMM would appreciate an update on the provincial review of the *Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation* and government's position moving forward.

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #13-2020

Topic: Mattress Disposal

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS the disposal of mattresses at landfills creates problems with reduced landfill useful life, through the displacement of volume by mattress materials; and

WHEREAS compacting mattresses using standard landfill equipment causes equipment maintenance issues, especially with mattress springs getting caught in landfill machinery; and

WHEREAS mattress recycling services are available in southern Manitoba, which incur high storage and transportation costs for municipalities to use such services, disproportionate to the costs of landfilling mattresses; and

WHEREAS the pursuit of the principles of environmental sustainability require society to consider the impacts of actions on future generations and municipal sustainability, including landfill operations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to establish a product stewardship environmental levy on the sale of mattresses, which such levy being able to defray the costs borne by municipalities and recyclers of mattresses.

AMM Resolution #16-2020

Topic: Subsidize Waste Management Facilities

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS new provincial regulations related to cell construction for Waste Management Facilities require a substantial increase to the capital cost from previous years; and

WHEREAS municipalities will be required to institute increased security and anti-dumping policies well over-and-above current standards; and

WHEREAS the increase in costs required to operate and maintain Waste Management Facilities in Manitoba represents an undue financial hardship to all municipalities with facilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to review these new requirements and subsidize the Waste Management Facilities to ensure it is feasible for municipalities to cover the new inflated operating costs.

AMM Resolution #22-2020

Topic: Solar Incentive Program

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS the cost of energy affects all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Hydro offered a Solar Incentive Program, which ended in 2018, that paid \$0.07649 per KwHR for excess energy exported to the grid; and

WHEREAS over 155- entities in all parts of Manitoba participated in the Solar Incentive Program with a payback commonly of less than 10 years; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Hydro now pay \$0.02949 for excess energy exported to the grid from self-generated electricity installations; and

WHEREAS this price paid on exported energy makes it uneconomic for a Manitoba entity to own their own self-generated electricity installation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop additional economical energy efficiency programs, including but not limited to solar or wind, to benefit local communities and foster growth of businesses in municipalities.

AMM Resolution #22-2020

Topic: Level 3 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is home to some of the most abundant, reliable, low-cost hydroelectric resources in Canada; and

WHEREAS the electrical vehicle market represents the fastest growing market globally; and

WHEREAS the Province's 2017 Made-In-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan report identifies electrification of the transportation network as one of Manitoba's greatest opportunities for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, which would represented one of the fastest methods of reaching the greenhouse gas reduction goals of the Made-In-Manitoba Climate and green plan; and

WHEREAS the major minerals used for electrical vehicle battery and associated technologies are produced in great quantity by the mining industry in Manitoba, and the growth of electrical vehicle infrastructure in Manitoba would support the attraction of high technology industries, and new mining operations, positioning Manitoba to further develop its natural mineral resources, which supports the overall growth of the Provincial economy; and

WHEREAS the growth of electrical vehicle adoption and use market in Manitoba would support the financial stability, and long-term sustainability of Manitoba hydro, offsetting projected losses and reducing the need for major hydroelectric rate increases; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba electrical Vehicle Association has demonstrated that the installation of a minimum of 22 new level 3 quick charge stations at strategic locations throughout the Province will ensure greater than 90% of Manitobans will have easy access to level 3 electrical vehicle charging infrastructure;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to support and expand the Provincial network of level 3 quick charge Electric Vehicle charging stations, through the use of both public infrastructure, and public-private partnerships along all of the major provincial travel corridors; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to direct Manitoba Hydro to support public and private efforts to expand the vehicle electrification network for personal, commercial, agricultural and industrial vehicles throughout the Province.

AMM Resolution #26-2019

Topic: Lake Winnipeg Water Quality

Sponsor(s): RM of Victoria Beach (Eastern District), RM of Alexander (Eastern District), RM of Whitemouth (Eastern District), Town of Powerview-Pine Falls (Eastern District), RM of Lac du Bonnet (Eastern District), RM of East St. Paul (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate; Environment and Climate Change Canada; AMM

WHEREAS the raw water quality of Lake Winnipeg has deteriorated significantly over the past several decades and continues to deteriorate at an exponential rate that will inevitably result in the 'death of the lake' with dire consequences for all stakeholders unless there is timely intervention from all three levels of government; and

WHEREAS the high levels of phosphorus in Lake Winnipeg are a significant contributing factor to the increased frequency and severity of algae blooms developing along many beaches during the summer season; and

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is discharging sewage that contains high levels of phosphorus that do not meet its provincial operating license increasing the nutrient load and further exacerbating the deterioration of the raw Lake Winnipeg water quality; and

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg's decision to reject the Lake Winnipeg Foundation and International Institute for Sustainable Development's proposal to use ferric chloride to reduce the substantial amount of phosphorus being dumped into Lake Winnipeg by up to 70% will result in the continued discharge of high levels of phosphorus by the City into Lake Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS Lake Winnipeg is of vital importance to all stakeholders including indigenous peoples, fishers, cottagers, residents, as well as communities that use the lake as a source of economic growth or stability, and many other user groups who are presently negatively impacted by the unacceptable and unsustainable condition of the lake;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM to strongly urge the City of Winnipeg to immediately reconsider the Lake Winnipeg Foundation and International Institute for Sustainable Development's proposal to use ferric chloride to substantially reduce the amount of phosphorus being discharged into Lake Winnipeg; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the provincial government to declare a State of Aquatic Emergency on Lake Winnipeg as a result of the increasing issue with blue-green algae and take action to deal with this issue; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the province and federal governments to devise a plan of action to immediately mitigate the discharge of high phosphorus levels contributing to the deteriorating condition of Lake Winnipeg and seek and obtain the City of Winnipeg's cooperation and compliance with its operating license issued pursuant to The Environment Act.

AMM Resolution #27-2019

Topic: Drainage Licensing

Sponsor(s): RM of Pipestone (Western District), RM of Whitehead (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS the ability of municipalities to serve the needs of ratepayers depends on the ability to work effectively with other levels of government; and

WHEREAS drainage licensing is critically important to taxpayers and municipal budgeting and planning; and

WHEREAS wait times for drainage licensing have caused projects to get pushed back further and further to the point that the safety of residents is compromised;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to guarantee that all municipal drainage applications be returned in 30 days for the purpose of municipal budgeting.

AMM Resolution #28-2019

Topic: Single-Use Plastic Bags

Sponsor(s): RM of Taché (Eastern District), RM of Ritchot (Eastern District), Town of Niverville (Eastern District), Town of Altona (Central District),

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS municipalities recognize the importance of eliminating solid waste from entering our Solid Waste Landfill Sites; and

WHEREAS nearly 3 billion single-use plastic bags are used in Canada each year; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that only 1% of single-use plastic bags are recycled; and

WHEREAS single-use plastic bags either end up in up in our landfills or pollute our road and waterways; and

WHEREAS there are alternatives to using single-use plastic shopping bags; and

WHEREAS communities across North America are successfully curbing the use of single-use plastic bags by passing resolutions or legislation that prohibit their use; and

WHEREAS the RM of Taché, RM of Ritchot, and Town of Niverville deem it prudent for the Province of Manitoba to pass legislation to ban the use of single-use plastic bags to be effective;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to pass legislation to ban the use of single-use plastic bags.

AMM Resolution #29-2019

Topic: Composting

Sponsor(s): RM of Taché (Eastern District), RM of Ritchot (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS municipalities recognize the importance of eliminating solid waste from entering our Solid Waste Landfill Sites; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that in Manitoba 40% of waste is organic waste; and

WHEREAS in 2012, it was estimated that the national average of organic waste diversion was 72 kilograms per person, but the Manitoba average of organic waste diversion was only 20 kilograms per person per year; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba recognized the importance of organic waste diversion and set a goal, increasing the diversion rate to 100,000 tonnes or approximately 82 kilograms per person per year; and

WHEREAS in 2015, the total of reported organics diversion for registered Manitoba Compost Support Program Facilities was only 48,000 tonne or only 48% of the provincial goal; and

WHEREAS communities across Manitoba recognize the importance of composting and would like to establish community composting programs, but due to red tape and the prohibitive costs associated with meeting environmental regulations is not attainable; and

WHEREAS the benefit of the reduction in red tape and the environmental requirements associated with

establishing community compost programs would assist the Province of Manitoba to meet its organic waste diversion rate goal and would allow municipalities the ability manage more effectively the organic material entering its Solid Waste Landfill Sites;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to review its process for licensing community composting sites and amending the process and requirements that would be financially and operationally attainable for municipalities.

AMM Resolution #20-2018

Topic: Waste Disposal Grounds

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba continues to amend legislation regarding waste disposal grounds, changing regulations which bans certain past practices; and

WHEREAS the changes to legislation requires municipalities to change their operations in order to abide by the new requirements; and

WHEREAS the change in operations comes at a financial cost to municipalities, while also resulting in reducing life expectancy of municipal waste disposal grounds; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has not provided the necessary corresponding funding to offset these requirements, thereby, downloading additional fiduciary responsibilities to municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide appropriate funding to municipalities to offset the downloaded responsibilities that ultimately result in a decrease to the life expectancy of municipal waste disposal grounds.

AMM Resolution #21-2018

Topic: Commercial Recycling

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has taken great strides in preventing and recycling waste towards extending the life of landfills, and fighting climate change by reducing gas emissions from our landfills; and

WHEREAS these waste management systems are at a cost to municipalities to implement and maintain, rebate programs are essential for municipalities' financial positions; and

WHEREAS commercial recycling is as important as residential recycling in this green initiative;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to review its waste reduction and recycling programs to include rebates on commercial recycling.

AMM Resolution #22-2017

Topic: Creating a Sustainable Surface Water Management Strategy

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate; Manitoba Agriculture and Resource 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 #24-2017

Topic: Certification of Water Treatment Plant Operators

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

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 Conservation and Climate; Manitoba Infrastructure

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 #48-2017 *Standing Policy

Topic: Municipal Drainage

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate; Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS there exists many provincial drains that were designed and constructed to convey agricultural and residential drainage to receiving waterways in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the funding for operation and maintenance of these drains has been declining for an extended length of time; and

WHEREAS this has resulted in significant local and regional drainage problems affecting residents, municipalities, and financial systems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby to the Province of Manitoba to adequately resource the operation and maintenance of these drains and those programs that effectively integrate with all municipalities.

AMM Resolution #28-2016

Topic: Crown Land

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate; Manitoba Agriculture and Resource 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 #32-2016

Topic: Consultation on Waterway Projects

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate; 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 #11-2015

Topic: Water Control Work Permits

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

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 #13-2014

Topic: Weed Control Districts – Chemical Exemption

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

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 Conservation and Climate

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 Conservation and Climate, Manitoba 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 Conservation and Climate

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 #41-2013

Topic: Increase Funding to Conservation Districts

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate; Manitoba Agriculture and Resource 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 Conservation and Climate, Manitoba Agriculture and Resource 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 #13-2011

Topic: Cosmetic Pesticide Use Ban

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

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.



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