

ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POSITION PAPER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT | BLAINE PEDERSEN |

MARCH 1, 2021



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Blaine Pedersen and representatives of Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development.

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 Agriculture and Resource Development portfolio.

PRIORITY ITEMS:

ARD/MASC OFFICE
CLOSURES &
CONSOLIDATION

QUARRY
REHABILITATION
PROGRAM

WATER MANAGEMENT

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

ARD/MASC Office Closures and Consolidation

The AMM recommends the government:

✓ ***Work with municipalities to mitigate service disruptions in local communities and enhance access to government services and programs.***

- While the AMM understands the needs and delivery methods for agricultural services continues to evolve, we believe any changes to rural service delivery, including the closure of offices, should be communicated to local municipalities well in advance of any government announcements.
- The AMM was concerned to hear that the planning for the provincial government's new rural service delivery model began in 2019, yet the 21 communities affected by the closure of offices were not notified until the government announcement in January 2021.
- While we appreciate that no job losses will occur due to these changes, now is not the time to close offices that local communities and residents rely on to access government services and programs.
- Moreover, as new service centres will be created and more services will become available online, our members have raised concerns about increased travel distances to offices, especially as Manitobans are encouraged to stay within their own communities.
- The current service delivery model lacks office representation in the western side of the province and assumes that all areas throughout the province have sufficient access to broadband Internet connectivity.
- Therefore, we strongly encourage the department to reconsider the placement of offices and ensure they are demographically placed throughout Manitoba.
- In addition, as Manitoba currently experiences some of the slowest Internet speeds in the country, it is vital that the department work with Manitoba Central Services to expedite the provincial broadband Internet strategy.
- If the motive for office closures is to provide modern and efficient services relevant to current client needs, it is imperative that all Manitobans have access to high-speed Internet so Manitobans can access programs and services via online platforms.

Priority Item #2:

Quarry Rehabilitation Program

The AMM recommends the government:

- ✓ ***Reconvene the Provincial Aggregate Advisory Committee (PAAC) to establish a new Quarry Rehabilitation Program in consultation with municipal and industry stakeholders.***

- In July 2018, Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development suspended the Quarry Rehabilitation Program.
- While the AMM understands that the program must ensure depleted quarries and pits are rehabilitated in an effective and responsible manner throughout the province, it is vital that the department expedite the review of the Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) 15 recommendations published on May 20, 2020 in consultation with municipal and industry stakeholders.
- The AMM urges the Province of Manitoba to immediately reconvene and consult with Provincial Aggregate Advisory Committee (PAAC) to discuss the OAG's recommendations and path forward.
- As PAAC was created to serve as a forum for discussing enhanced rehabilitation outcomes to benefit local communities, it is critical that this group be reconvened to ensure the new Quarry Rehabilitation Program is transparent and responsive to municipal needs.
- Lastly, while the Province of Manitoba launched an application-based Quarry Rehabilitation on Private Land Program for 2020, we would appreciate receiving an update on this new program.

Priority Item #3:

Water Management

The AMM recommends the government:

✓ ***Increase core operating funding to Watershed Districts***

- The AMM welcomed the passage of *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 appreciated the Province's \$52-million investment under the GROW Trust to support the protection of wetlands and watershed management since the AMM has long advocated for increased provincial funding for Watershed Districts (WDs) to support the implementation of water management plans.
- As municipalities are experiencing exacerbated fiscal pressures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we welcome the Province making up to \$8.6 million available for Manitoba-based groups to support conservation projects through the GROW trust.
- It is critical that every attempt is made to maximize resources as there is significant financial and environmental value in all the work completed by WDs, yet many WDs struggle to fulfill their current mandates and deliver programs with current funding.
- The AMM urges the Province to reinstate and if possible, increase core provincial operating funding for WDs, particularly if they are fulfilling new responsibilities when delivering GROW.
- Moving forward, the AMM also calls on the Province to continue to consult with our organization throughout the development of Manitoba's new watershed-based policy framework and forthcoming provincial water management strategy.

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #05-2020

Topic: Exempt Municipal Ditches

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Emerson-Franklin (Eastern District), RM of Stuartburn (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development

WHEREAS *The Municipal Act* Section 294.1(2) states “Subject to the rights vested in any other party under *The Water Resources Administration Act* or *The Water Rights Act*, a municipality has jurisdiction over every drain within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS the municipality has a duty to maintain those drains to an appropriate standard determined by the Municipality under Section 294.1(3) of *The Municipal Act*; and

WHEREAS beavers often impede drainage making it difficult for the municipality to maintain drainage to the appropriate standard; and

WHEREAS the Province has established regulations to protect beavers, their activities, structures and habitat; and

WHEREAS the protection at times conflict with the preservation of infrastructure, the safety of the public and increases the occurrence of flooding and generally does not have the public’s interest in mind;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to exempt municipal ditches and drains from the restrictions surrounding the humane removal of beavers and their associated structures.

AMM Resolution #06-2020

Topic: Quarry Rehabilitation Program

Sponsor(s): RM of Ste. Anne (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development

WHEREAS in 1992 Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development developed a program under *The Mines and Minerals Act* for site rehabilitation and remediation of depleted aggregate quarries and pits as an economic incentive to the aggregate industry to implement and encourage sustainable development; and

WHEREAS a reserve fund was established where an environmental levy was collected on aggregate production in order to facilitate this rehabilitation program; and

WHEREAS after financial irregularities regarding this program were discovered dating back to 2012, the Province of Manitoba launched a forensic investigation headed by the Auditor General and the rehabilitation program has since been put into review and is currently on hold, yet the associated fees continue to be levied; and

WHEREAS the rehabilitation of aggregate pits and quarries in the Province of Manitoba not only supports clean and safe surface and aquifer water, but also supports economic and recreational benefits to the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the status of the Manitoba Pit and Quarry Rehabilitation Program was kept in confidence within Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development, even after being repeatedly questioned by the Municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to re-establish Manitoba's Pit and Quarry Rehabilitation Program to its full previous operation and for all applicable environmental levies to be reported to the Department but retained by the Municipalities until the Program is fully functioning; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to establish new procedures to ensure open and transparent communication with stakeholders regarding program which directly affect municipalities.

AMM Resolution #07-2020

Topic: Crown Land

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development

WHEREAS Crown Land in a Municipality can contribute to the economic development objective of municipalities; and

WHEREAS the recent Crown Lands Amendment Act meant to improve management of community pastures and agricultural crown lands is not conducive in this objective as it increases risk and decreases potential for success by limiting the expansion of local farms and limits farmers relocating to the area to reside on their farms without making serious financial repercussions; and

WHEREAS a municipalities development relies highly on their local residents, local businesses and land enhancements; and

WHEREAS land enhancements require predictability which is essential to long-term planning related to livestock operations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to ensure the continued use and process of unit and family transfers; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a rental rate formula that is fair, easily understood, recognizes market conditions and does not place an undue financial burden on the producers be implemented.

AMM Resolution #14-2020

Topic: Municipal Cottaging Initiative

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development

WHEREAS the program to create 1,000 new cottage lots in the Province was considered to be a highly successful and popular government program when it was initiated; and

WHEREAS these lots were established largely on provincial crown land in unorganized or northern affairs territories and had no benefit from a property tax perspective to municipal governments; and

WHEREAS rural populations have been stagnant or in decline in too many areas of rural Manitoba for too long; and

WHEREAS the provincial government has staff with the technical expertise in areas such as surveying, environmental impact review, planning, water and wastewater treatment, hydro-electric development, infrastructure development and could be of great assistance to municipalities in establishing rural cottage developments in municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to establish a Municipal Cottaging Initiative in order to assist rural municipalities in developments of this nature with special emphasis on the challenges mentioned in the final whereas clause above; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the provincial government consider offering some form of capital assistance for the above in the form of straight up cost-sharing or a form of in-kind assistance by designated staff to aid in addressing the various challenges inherent in developments envisioned here; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the essence of this program be to stave off rural population declines as well as to stimulate economic growth and that it be rolled out in a timely manner to coincide with the 150th anniversary of our province.

AMM Resolution #14-2020

Topic: Zebra Mussels

Sponsor(s): City of Flin Flon (Northern District)

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

WHEREAS zebra mussels, an invasive species, have taken hold in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS there is poor public knowledge and understanding of the program; and

WHEREAS there are currently limited resources for the government to effectively execute preventative measures to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species, including Zebra Mussels from expanding in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS Aquatic Invasive Species, in particular zebra mussels, have significant ecological, social and economic impacts, including: increased maintenance costs of water supplies and associated infrastructure due to blockage of water resulting in changes in the aquatic ecosystem that can impact tourism in all areas of Manitoba;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to increase financial resources to effectively implement the Aquatic Invasive Species Legislation to prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels through public awareness, an expanded government prevention program, increased enforcement, and coordination between government departments and agencies.

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 Agriculture and Resource Development, Association of Manitoba Municipalities, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Manitoba Conservation and Climate

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;

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 to 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 provincial 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 #35-2019

Topic: Farmland School Tax Rebate

Sponsor(s): Town of Carberry (Western District), Municipality of North Cypress-Langford (Western District)
Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development, Manitoba Finance

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba capped the Manitoba Farmland School Tax Rebate at \$5,000.00 and also limited it to eligible owners who are also Manitoba residents (both moves took effect for the 2013 tax year); and

WHEREAS for the 2018 tax year, the maximum tax rebate is up to 80% of the paid farmland school taxes and is limited to \$5,000.00 per taxpayer, which includes all related persons of the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS the impact of this cap creates additional financial pressure on residents and farm operations, affecting the overall long-term vitality of economic growth in local communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba so that the Farmland School Tax Rebate be given back to local residents and farm operations at the 80% rebate, on a gradual basis at 60% for 2019, 70% for 2020 and 80% for 2021 to help foster greater economic growth in municipalities.

AMM Resolution #36-2019

Topic: Animal Control Registry

Sponsor(s): RM of Reynolds (Eastern District)
Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development

WHEREAS the administration and handling of animals deemed "dangerous" is a municipal responsibility and is not consistent from one jurisdiction to another; and

WHEREAS it is common occurrence for the owners of animals, after an attack, to flee across municipal boundaries in order to circumvent fines or destruction of the guilty animals; and

WHEREAS there is no provincial registry or notification process to municipalities if an animal deemed "dangerous" moves into their jurisdiction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to help establish a province-wide process for assigning the designation of a dangerous animal as well as a notification process to track dangerous animals that move across municipal boundaries.

AMM Resolution #05-2018

Topic: Livestock Operations

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain (Western District)
Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development; 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 #28-2018

Topic: Noxious Weeds

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development; Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the spread of noxious weeds is an area of shared concern between municipalities and the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS current AMM policy includes working with the Province of Manitoba to ensure noxious weeds are controlled in provincial drains and highway ditches as well as around waterways; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is responsible for the revegetation of crown land that is disturbed as a result of infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS current Province of Manitoba revegetation practices and compliance criteria are inconsistent with those known to produce desirable, enduring and competitive cover, often resulting in the establishment and spread of noxious weeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to revise its standard practices for revegetation on any infrastructure project to adopt site appropriate practices of native plant revegetation which are known to provide improved performance standards and better protection for adjacent lands from weed encroachment.

AMM Resolution #22-2017

Topic: Creating a Sustainable Surface Water Management Strategy

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development; Manitoba Conservation and Climate

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 #28-2016

Topic: Crown Land

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

Department(s): 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 #34-2016

Topic: Public Hunting on Agricultural Lands

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource 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 lease prior to permitting public hunting on agricultural leased lands to protect agricultural practices, soil integrity and agricultural producers from harm.

AMM Resolution #37-2016

Topic: Mines and Minerals Applications

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba issues quarry permits and quarry leases for mines and minerals; and

WHEREAS their process involves a circulation procedure for referral from other provincial departments but doesn't include Community Regional Planning or the affected municipality; and

WHEREAS per section 13 of The Planning Act states municipalities are "responsible for the adoption, administration and enforcement of the development plan by-law, zoning by-law and all other by-laws respecting land use and development for the municipality"; and

WHEREAS under The Mines and Minerals Act the current procedure for obtaining approval for mining and quarry operations on Crown Land does not allow for consultations with encompassing municipalities prior to authorization and permitting; and

WHEREAS a municipality has no method of opportunity to address potential conflicting land use until after the provincial licensing; and

WHEREAS mitigating issues prior to provincial licensing would benefit all stakeholders and reduce potential land use conflicts by enabling a municipal consultation process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop a circulation policy that ensures mining and quarry applications are sent out for review and comments to the appropriate municipalities including adjacent municipalities prior to issuing approval; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to include municipalities in the circulation process when considering mines and minerals applications; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to attach municipal conditions to mines and minerals 'conditionally approved' applications.

AMM Resolution #46-2016 *Standing Policy

Topic: Noxious Weeds

Sponsor(s): Mossey River Municipality (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development; Manitoba Infrastructure; Transport Canada

WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for appointing a weed inspector for the control of noxious weeds within the municipality; and

WHEREAS provincial ditches contain noxious weeds but little is done for the control of these weeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled in provincial drains and highway ditches as well as around railways.

AMM Resolution #44-2015 *Standing Policy

Topic: Funding for Problem Beavers

Sponsor(s): Rossburn Municipality (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development

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 #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 Agriculture and Resource 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 #13-2013

Topic: Grant-in-Lieu for Crown Land

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development; Manitoba Municipal Relations

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 #32-2013

Topic: Modernize Education Funding

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development; Manitoba Education; Manitoba Finance

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 and Resource Development

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 #41-2013

Topic: Increase Funding to Conservation Districts

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development; Manitoba Conservation and Climate

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 Agriculture and Resource Development; Manitoba Conservation and Climate

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 #48-2012

Topic: Funding Formula for Oil Related Revenue for Municipalities

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

Department(s): Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development; Manitoba Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba acquires a great deal of revenue from oil activity in some municipalities;

AND WHEREAS some communities suffer infrastructure damage as a result of the volume of traffic associated with the oil industry;

AND WHEREAS substantial provincial revenue is derived from the oil industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for a funding formula whereby a percentage of oil-related revenue be returned to the municipalities whose infrastructure is unduly taxed by traffic generated by the oil industry.



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