



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

**Meeting with the Honourable Sarah Guillemard
Minister of Conservation and Climate**

2020

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Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Sarah Guillemard and representatives of Manitoba Conservation and Climate.
- 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.
- The *Speech from the Throne* (November 2019) highlighted the provincial government's commitment to work closely with municipal partners to provide efficient, cost-effective local government, in response to the AMM calling for a 'Partners in Growth' Memorandum of Understanding during the provincial election campaign. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities through a balanced discussion of both revenues and expenditures.
- This document outlines the AMM's position and recommendations on several important municipal issues relevant to the Conservation and Climate portfolio.

Priority Issues

1) Drainage Licensing and Approvals

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to streamline and reduce provincial red tape to expedite drainage licensing approvals;*
 - ❖ *Allow municipalities to bundle applications for projects on non-contiguous parcels of land to mitigate application fee increases;*
 - ❖ *Establish a customer service standard for approving licensed projects; and*
 - ❖ *Ensure consistent enforcement by local Water Resource Officers.*
- 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.
 - The AMM commends the Province for implementing a 14-day approval period for registrable drainage projects through a streamlined registration process with the ability to bundle individual projects on one application under certain conditions.
 - Exemptions for like-for-like culvert replacements are also welcome as these routine projects are often subject to red tape causing both delays and frustration among our members.
 - The AMM is hopeful that these proposed changes will help reduce the significant backlog of drainage project applications in a timely manner and expedite routine projects.
 - To further reduce red tape, municipalities should be able to bundle applications for projects on non-contiguous parcels of land to mitigate application fee increases.
 - We also encourage the department to formally commit to establishing a customer service standard for approving licensed projects using the new portal system.

2) Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities during the implementation of the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan; and***
 - ❖ ***Support the AMM's call on the federal government to provide exemptions to 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.
 - Moreover, several municipalities throughout Manitoba are working together to meet the challenges of climate change and ensure local communities are safe and sustainable for generations to come.
 - The AMM thanks the Province for providing an update regarding the *Manitoba Climate and Green Plan* at our 21st Annual Convention in November 2019.
 - The AMM also 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 and build more sustainable local communities.
 - The AMM encourages the Province to continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities during the implementation of this Plan, including providing greater details regarding the \$30 million funding commitment to support climate resiliency measures in municipalities.
 - We also request the Province of Manitoba to support our call on the federal government to provide exemptions to municipalities from the federal Carbon Tax as one order of government should not tax another.

3) Waste Diversion and Recycling Initiatives

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Work with MMSM, News Media Canada, and other stakeholders to ensure municipalities are fully compensated for newspaper recycling; and***
 - ❖ ***Continue to directly consult with the AMM on new waste diversion and recycling initiatives.***
- Since August 2017, more than \$1.5 million has been withheld from 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 consultation with Manitoba municipalities.
 - Meanwhile, municipalities have continued to collect and process newspapers as part of their community recycling programs.
 - The AMM’s fundamental position has remained consistent and unchanged since this issue was created – Manitoba municipalities should immediately receive the outstanding payments owed to them and they should not be negatively impacted financially by any future agreement.
 - Therefore, the AMM strongly encourages the Minister of Conservation and Climate to immediately call a joint stakeholder meeting involving our organization, City of Winnipeg, MMSM and NMC in order to foster dialogue and seek a solution agreeable to all parties involved.
 - In regards to other waste diversion and recycling initiatives, the AMM appreciates being invited to the provincial Plastic Bag Stakeholder Engagement session to help foster discussion on a Manitoban approach to ban single-use plastics.
 - As the AMM is committed to advancing practical solutions to address challenges in waste diversion and recycling, we encourage the Province to continue to consult with our organization regarding any new waste diversion and recycling initiatives going forward.

4) Efficiency Manitoba and Support for Recreational Facilities

The AMM recommends the government:

❖ ***Ensure Efficiency Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro enhance and develop new energy-saving programs that decrease operating costs for community-owned public 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.
- Several recreational facilities are struggling to stay open as these facilities have limited capacity to raise additional revenue to offset increasing costs.
- The AMM continues to encourage 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.
- Additionally, the AMM appreciates the opportunity to provide input into Efficiency Manitoba's three-year Efficiency Plan which is currently being reviewed by the Public Utilities Board (PUB).
- We encourage Efficiency Manitoba to focus on streamlined service delivery and leverage available funding and programming from other departments within the provincial government or federal government to support local communities with their energy saving plans and efficiency initiatives.

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, costing municipalities tens of thousands of dollars while complying with these regulations.
- For instance, the City of Steinbach's costs associated with their 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 their current weed control programs with alternative products such as Fiesta.
- The AMM has confidence in science-based 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.
- In 2016, the AMM welcomed the Province's willingness to comprehensively review the *Non-Essential Pesticide Use Regulation*.
- Thus, 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 #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 #22-2018

Topic: Mattress Recycling

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

WHEREAS the acceptance of mattresses at landfills creates problems with compaction and maintenance of equipment, especially with inner spring mattresses getting caught in the machinery; and

WHEREAS Mother Earth in Winnipeg provides a service to recycle mattresses; and

WHEREAS the average cost per mattress in recycle fees and transport costs from southern Manitoba is approximately \$30 and considerably more in freight from other parts of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS in today's society of carbon taxes, environmental consciousness and not-for-profit recycling of mattresses, it is our duty to remove whatever material we can from the landfill;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to enact an environmental levy on mattresses at sale, with such levy being available to defray the costs borne by recyclers of mattresses and landfills.

AMM Resolution #21-2017

Topic: Comprehensive Provincial Water Management Strategy

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate; Manitoba Agriculture and Resource 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 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 #31-2016

Topic: Saskatchewan Drainage Issues

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate; Manitoba Agriculture and Resource 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 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 #33-2016

Topic: Funding for Impacted Waterways

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate; Manitoba Agriculture and Resource 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 #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 #12-2015

Topic: Funding for Retention/Drought Proofing Works

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

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;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT 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 Conservation and Climate

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 #45-2015

Topic: Invasive Species

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate; Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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 #12-2014

Topic: Nature Conservancy of Canada Land Purchases

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

Department(s): Manitoba Conservation and Climate

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 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.