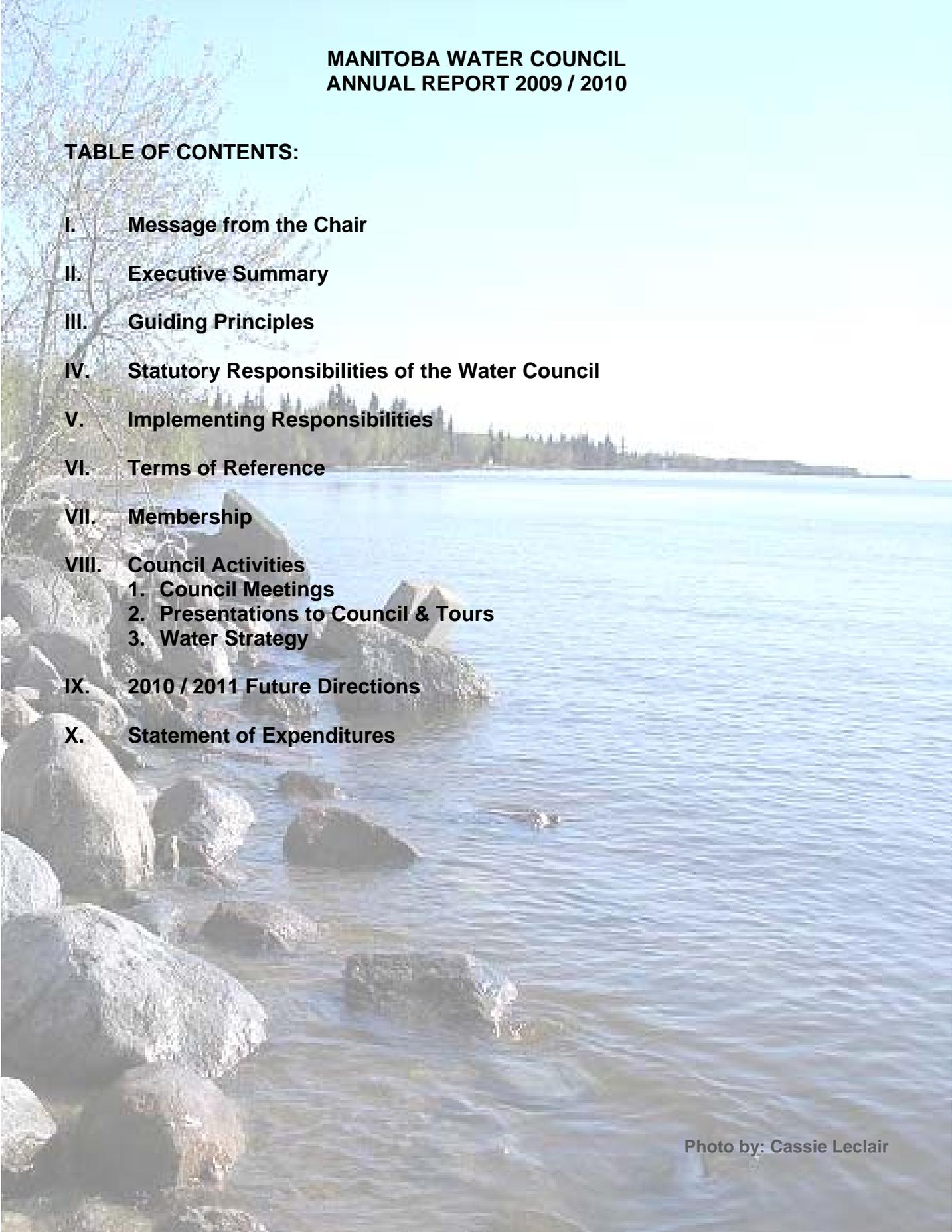




ANNUAL REPORT
2009 / 2010





**MANITOBA WATER COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2009 / 2010**

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Photo by: Cassie Leclair

I. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Over the past year we were able to meet with organizations and individuals in many parts of the province who shared our concerns

about the significant role water issues play in the future well being of Manitoba. These included meetings and tours such as those to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, FortWhyte Alive, and the South Tobacco Creek Association's projects. In addition, Council has reviewed a number of Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMP), established a Water Council Logo, and commenced work on a Manitoba Water Council website. In the coming months of 2010 we will be holding public consultations in different parts of the province to seek advice on a Manitoba Wetlands Policy. This is the first step in a renewed consideration of the provincial water strategy.

The Council believes it has made considerable progress over the past year and looks forward to continued success in the year ahead. Manitoba's water resources are vital to the present and future health and well being of all Manitobans. The work of the Council helps to develop the innovative ideas, provides the broad-based advice and encourages the collaboration necessary to maintain a secure future for Manitoba's resources.

I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow Council members, and to the staff of the Department of Water Stewardship who have given so much of their time, energy and expertise over this past year to help us fulfill our mandate, and to bring us through our third successful year as the Manitoba Water Council. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Minister Christine Melnick and Deputy Minister Don Norquay for their continued support and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Friesen".

Jean Friesen

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

GUIDING PRINCIPLES - Members of the Manitoba Water Council, as individuals and as an assembly, are: supportive, trustworthy, fair, transparent, timely, innovative, collaborative, and consensus building.

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WATER COUNCIL - The responsibilities of the Manitoba Water Council are established under the authority of the *Water Protection Act, Section 25*, subject to the direction of the Minister of Manitoba Water Stewardship.

IMPLEMENTING RESPONSIBILITIES - To provide advice to government, stakeholders and the public on water issue priorities and policies; promote education and awareness; advocate water conservation; assist government, stakeholders and the public on provincial research priorities.

TERMS OF REFERENCE - Appoint members and others to working groups and project teams as needed to provide information and advice on specific issues or to achieve specific tasks. The Council is required to make formal presentation and report to the Minister on an annual basis. Support Services to the Council is provided by the Planning and Coordination Branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship

MEMBERSHIP - The Water Council represents the regional diversity of Manitoba, including local government, agricultural, and environmental perspectives.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES - The Council meets on a regular basis to discuss progress on ongoing projects and initiatives and annual work plan, as well as to discuss current water related issues from around the province. This includes formal presentations, field tours, and attending meetings and events both as representatives of the Water Council as well as their respective organizations and interests.

2010/11 FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

- complete the public consultation process on “Seeking Manitobans perspectives on Wetlands”;
- improve the coordination and communication of the Agencies, Boards and Commissions reporting to the Minister and Department of Water Stewardship;
- engage the public in water issues and conservation, and provide a forum for communication through continued development of a website which will also provide a resource for the general public and increase the visibility of the Water Council.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES – The Water Council has expended total monies of \$38,274.19 this 09/10 fiscal year.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Members of the Manitoba Water Council, as individuals and as an assembly, are:

- **Supportive:**
of the vision, mission and principles adopted by the Department of Water Stewardship.
- **Trustworthy:**
Council will earn public trust as an independent advisory body to government, stakeholders and the public, supported by credible data and information.
- **Fair:**
Members agree to deliberate in the best interest of the citizens of Manitoba and to do their best in representing the provincial mandate from their own unique perspective and background, and in so doing shall not advocate their own organizational interests or mandates.
- **Transparent:**
Council will be visible and accessible with established processes to bring issues forward and to communicate Council activities.
- **Timely:**
The Council will respond to priority issues in a reasonable fashion.
- **Innovative:**
The Council will bring together expertise and experience to find the best solutions to provincial water management issues.
- **Collaborative:**
Council will identify common initiatives and recommend collaboration where it is beneficial.
- **Consensus Building:**
Recognize that building a consensus perspective is mandated for the advisory

aspects and roles of the Council. It is also recognized that it may perform as an appeal body and is responsible to come to make a decision in an acceptable time frame and may need to use other democratic mechanisms to achieve such.

IV. STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE WATER COUNCIL:

As per Section 25 of the *Water Protection Act* 2005, the Water Council has, subject to the direction of the Minister, the following responsibilities

- To monitor the development and implementation of watershed management plans in the province;
- To review regulations respecting water quality management zones, and provide advice to the Minister;
- To advise the Minister about matters relating to water generally
- To coordinate the activities of advisory boards and similar entities that perform
- functions relating to water, including advisory boards and other entities specified by regulation;



- To assist in reporting sustainability indicators relating to water
- Any other duties assigned to it by an Act or regulation

V. IMPLEMENTING RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Manitoba Water Council brings together the expertise and experience of its members, under a consensus based partnership, for the purpose of:

- Providing advice to government, stakeholders and the public on water issue priorities and policies:
 - Council will review issues, identify priorities and maintain a list of existing and emerging water issues.
 - Council will make recommendations based on consensus to government, stakeholders and public on the solutions to these issues.
- Promoting education and awareness:
 - Council will raise the awareness and understanding of Manitobans about water issues facing the province.
 - Encourage Manitobans to show leadership, innovation and take action to improve water management in the province.
- Advocating for water conservation:
 - Council will investigate options to improve water conservation in Manitoba, including economic instruments, improved knowledge sharing, and development and implementation of best practices.
- Assisting government, stakeholders and the public on provincial research priorities:
 - Council will gather research requirements from others, examine current research, identify research needs and advise on research priorities and funding requirements.

VI. TERMS OF REFERENCE:

The Council has the authority to:

- Review and recommend revisions to the Terms of Reference every three years or when there is consensus to do so.
- Develop, implement and revise appropriate operational procedures for the Manitoba Water Council.
- Appoint members and others to working groups and project teams as needed to provide information and advice on specific issues or to achieve specific tasks.
- The Council is required to make formal presentation and report to the Minister on an annual basis.
- Council is to provide interim reports or presentations as required by issue to the Minister or Deputy Minister.
- Council will recognize fifty percent plus 1 as sufficient for quorum.
- Lieutenant Governor in Council designates one member as chair and Council may designate one as vice-chair.
- Support Services to the Council will be provided by the Planning and Coordination Branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship.
- The Lieutenant Governor in Council appoints member terms under the *Water Protection Act* until reappointed, replaced or revoked.
- Membership is not transferable. If a member is unable to meet the participatory requirements of the Council they may be excused after four consecutive absences.

VII. MEMBERSHIP:

The Water Council consists of five to ten members and reflects priorities and policy principles of affirmative action. Council members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council are representative of the Regional diversity of Manitoba; Local government; Agriculture and Environmental perspectives.

Jean Friesen - Chair



Jean Friesen is an associate professor of history at the University of Manitoba. Previously, Jean was Deputy Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (1999 – 2003).

Donald (Don) A. Sexton - Vice Chair



Don Sexton is a water and wetlands private consultant, and previous manager of Field Operations and biologist for Ducks Unlimited Canada. Don was president of the Manitoba Chapter of The

Wildlife Society (2001 – 2002).

Bill Barlow



Bill Barlow is Chair of the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board, Director of the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium, Councillor for the merged Municipality of

Gimli, and Gimli's rep. to the East Interlake Conservation District.

Alice Bourguoin



Alice Bourguoin is the Reeve for the RM of Rosser, Rural Director of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities for the Interlake region, and chair of the South Interlake Planning

District.

Dr. L. Gordon Goldsborough



Gordon Goldsborough is an associate professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Manitoba, Director of the University's Delta Marsh Field Station and Chair Lake Manitoba

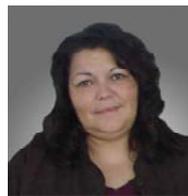
Stewardship Board.

Anne Lindsey



Anne Lindsey is the Executive Director of the Manitoba Eco-Network, and co-chairs the Steering Committee for Climate Change Connection.

Loretta Mowatt



Loretta Mowatt is a resident and member of Norway House Cree Nation. Loretta is the Environmental Coordinator for Norway House.

Wes Williamson



Wes Williamson is an agricultural producer. Previously, Wes was chairman of the Mid Assiniboine River Conservation District (MARCD), and Vice Chair of Manitoba Conservation Districts Association (MCDA).

Ian Wishart



Ian Wishart operates Agasea Farms near Portage la Prairie which is split between forages, specialty crops, and potatoes, with a 200 head cow/calf operation. Ian is President of Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP).

VIII. COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:

1. Council Meetings



Water Council members meeting with Minister Melnick at the Manitoba Legislature

The Council meets on a regular basis to discuss progress on ongoing projects and initiatives and annual work plan, as well as to discuss current water related issues from around the province.

As a regular item on the agenda, Council members are asked to share from their particular perspective, information and issues they see emerging, and concerns relayed to them. Given the diversity of perspectives represented on the board, the membership provides a broad forum.

Council members attend a number of meetings and events, both as representatives of the Water Council as well as their respective organizations and interests.

Discussion of these events and issues are a regular agenda item at Council meetings and allows Council members to be aware of and connect with a number of diverse initiatives as well as to identify emerging water issues.

Some examples included:

- Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Conference
- National Stewardship Conference
- River Basin Conferences
- Friends of the Saskatchewan River
- International Joint Commission Committees on boundary water issues
- A number of Agricultural and Environmental meetings and conferences

In order to better facilitate engaging Manitobans, and understand regional issues, meetings are held at various locations throughout the province. Meetings follow a formal agenda after which there is opportunity to meet with local representatives.

Meetings 2009 - 2010

April 6, 2009 – Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, Winnipeg, MB

May 25, 2009 – Go To Meeting

June 12, 2009 – FortWhyte Alive, Winnipeg, MB

August 24 2009 – RM of Thompson Chamber Office, Miami, MB

October 28, 2009 – Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) Office, Winnipeg, MB

December 2, 2009 – Manitoba Legislature, Winnipeg, MB

December 7, 2009 – Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB



FortWhyte Alive – Tour of Constructed Wetland
June 12, 2009
Photo by: Gordon Goldsborough

February 22, 2010 – Manitoba Habitat
Heritage Corporation (MHHC),
Winnipeg, MB

2. Presentations to Council & Tours

April 6, 2009

- Presentation on Broughton's Creek Study, given by staff of Ducks Unlimited Canada; Greg Bruce, Head, Industry & Government Relations and Shane Gabor, Research Biologist.
- Tour of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation given by Jay Middagh

May 25, 2009

- Presentation on Integrated Watershed Management Planning (IWMP) and plan development, given by; Rhonda McDougal, Director, Planning and Coordination, and Sarah Coughlin, Senior Watershed Planner for Manitoba Water Stewardship.

August 24, 2009

- Tour of the South Tobacco Creek Watershed monitoring stations by Bill

Turner from the Deerwood Soil and Water Management Association.

October 29, 2009

- Presentation on Statistical Analysis of Red River Water Ion Trends was provided by Gordon Goldsborough, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba.

February 22, 2010

- Presentation on the current On-Site Waste Water Regulation, given by Donna Smiley, Manitoba Conservation;
- Presentation on the current Nutrient Management Regulation, provided by David Hay, Manitoba Water Stewardship;
- Presentation on current Drainage License Policy, provided by Perry Stonehouse, Manitoba Water Stewardship.



South Tobacco Creek Tour
August 24th, 2009
Photo by: Gordon Goldsborough

3. Water Strategy

One of the responsibilities of the Manitoba Water Council is to review and provide advice to the Minister on existing policy and legislation. To this end, the Council initiated a preliminary review of the Manitoba Water Strategy (2003) within the membership of the Council. This review involved in depth discussions between the members of the Council.

Jean Friesen, Chair and Don Sexton, Vice Chair met with the Minister on June 12, 2009 and presented advice from the Council in how to renew the Water Strategy. The original Water Strategy is still a sound document but with the advancing issues of climate change, Council proposed two draft work plans for possible renewal of the Water Strategy

The first is a multi-year strategic review of the Water Strategy, and the second assists in the development of a Provincial Wetland Policy that would become a component of the larger Manitoba Water Strategy.

The Water Council was advised by the Minister to focus its efforts on building a broad-based consensus among Manitobans for the development of a Wetland Policy.

Wetland Strategy Sub-committee:

Don Sexton, Ian Wishart and Anne Lindsey

This sub-committee is responsible for leading the review within the Water Council.

Based on direction provided by the Minister, the Water Council is focusing on identifying Manitobans perspectives in the development of a wetland policy as a first component of a renewed Water Strategy.

A request for proposals was issued, for a consultant to provide support services to the Manitoba Water Council as it obtains the views of Manitobans on wetland issues. The Committee awarded Golder Associates with the contract.

This project is comprised of three stages. The first stage involves the preparation of materials to aid in the consultation process. This includes background information and questions organized into a workbook on wetlands to find out Manitobans perspective on the development of a comprehensive wetland policy. Materials will be broadly distributed both electronically and in print.

In the second stage, prepared materials will be delivered to the public at six to eight facilitated open houses across the Province.

The Consultant will attend and monitor these open houses and other consultation sources and prepare a "what we heard" document.

In the last stage, Council will develop specific advice for the Minister of Water Stewardship. Information gathered will assist in the development of a wetland policy for Manitoba.



IX. 2010 / 2011 FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

The Water Council develops an annual work plan that identifies priority areas on which they will focus for the coming year. The priority areas that have been identified for the 2010/2011 reporting year are to:

- complete the public consultation process on “Seeking Manitobans perspectives on Wetlands”;
- improve the coordination and communication of Agencies, Boards and Commissions of existing entities involved in watershed planning;
- Engage the public in water issues and enhanced water conservation.

X. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES:

Council members may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred while representing the Water Council. Each member is eligible to receive remuneration at Provincial Government rates (per diems, traveling, and sustenance) in accordance with the General Manual of Administration.

Expenditures from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

Meeting Expenses:	\$ 4,747.19
Remuneration:	\$ 17,258.00
Contracting Services:	<u>\$ 16,269.00</u>
Total	\$ 38,274.19





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