

---

# **MANITOBA WATER COUNCIL**

## **Annual Report 2007-2008**

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

<b>I.</b>	<b>Message from the Chair</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Responsibilities of the Council</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Purpose and Mandate</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Guiding Principles</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Duties of the Council / Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Authority of the Council</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>1. Terms of Office</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>2. Chair and Vice-Chair</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>3. Current Membership</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Council Activities</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>1. Council Meetings</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>2. Presentations to Council</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>3. Council Tours</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>4. Events Attended by Council Members</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>5. Sub-committees of the Council</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>6. Assessment of the Roles and Responsibilities of Agencies, Boards and Commissions reporting to the Minister of Water Stewardship</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>7. Review of the Water Strategy 2003</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>X.</b>	<b>Future Directions</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Statement of Expenditures</b>	<b>18</b>

---

## **I. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:**

This message gives me the opportunity to express my gratitude to the many staff of the Department of Water Stewardship who have worked to establish the Water Council in this our inaugural year. In particular I would like to thank Rhonda McDougal, Elaine Fox and Rhonda Pankratz who have provided the staff support so essential to the smooth functioning of this new Council. Their collective energy, patience and efficiency were indispensable to the Council's first year of deliberations.

I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Council who have given willingly of their time, energy and expertise as we began our efforts to interpret and fulfill our mandate. Over the past year we were able to meet with organizations and individuals in many part of the province who shared our concerns about the significant role of all water issues in the future well being of Manitoba. We look forward to continuing this work of co-ordination and co-operation in the coming year.

With thanks to Minister Christine Melnick for her support in this task.

Sincerely

Jean Friesen

---

## **II. INTRODUCTION:**

The Manitoba Water Council was established by the Minister of Water Stewardship, the Honourable Christine Melnick, in February 2007 under the authority of the *Water Protection Act*. The members of the Council were appointed in June and the first meeting was held in July. This report outlines the activities that took place during the first reporting year, from June 1, 2007 to September 1, 2008.

The Manitoba Water Council is a senior advisory board reporting to the Minister of Water Stewardship. It co-ordinates and oversees the work of all provincial advisory bodies on water protection, and is an important consultative mechanism for government on province-wide water issues. The Council advises the Minister on policies, programs, plans and legislation to achieve the government's goal of the best water for all forms of life and lasting prosperity. The Council represents the regional diversity of Manitoba, and includes local government, agricultural, and environmental perspectives. The Council helps to build consensus among Manitobans on sustainable solutions to the province's challenges for the protection and management of water quality and quantity. The Manitoba Water Council provides a vital link between existing stewardship and advisory bodies such as the Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Boards.

## **III. 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

---

In order to fulfill its mandate, the Water Council has developed terms of reference to facilitate the effective functioning of the council.

#### **IV. PURPOSE AND MANDATE:**

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

- Advising the Minister on a broad spectrum of matters relating to water
- Providing direction and advice of a consensus position to the government, stakeholders and the public on water-related issues
- Assisting in reporting sustainability indicators relating to water
- Monitoring the development and implementation of watershed management plans in the province
- Reviewing regulations respecting water quality management zones and providing advice to the Minister
- Coordinating the activities of advisory boards and similar entities that perform functions relating to water, including advisory boards and other entities specified by legislation
- Performing any other duties assigned to it by an Act or regulation
- As per clause 28, acting on any Ministerial request within their responsibilities and in accordance with the terms of reference, considering the matter and providing a written report of findings and recommendations.

---

## V. 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.

---

## VI. DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL

The responsibilities of the Water Council are subject to the direction of the Minister and may include:

- 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. Council will provide policy advice to government and stakeholders.
- Advocating for education and awareness:  
Council will raise the awareness and understanding of Manitobans about water issues facing the province and encourage Manitobans to show leadership and to 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.
- Advising 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.
- The Council is required to make formal presentation and report to the Minister on an annual basis.
- Further the Council is to provide interim reports or presentations as required by issue to the Minister or Deputy Minister.

---

## VII. AUTHORITY OF THE COUNCIL

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.

## VIII. MEMBERSHIP

The Water Council consists of a minimum of five and a maximum of ten members and will reflect the 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:

- Regional diversity of Manitoba
- Local government
- Agriculture
- Environmental perspectives

Council will recognize fifty percent plus one as sufficient for quorum.

Support Services to the Council will be provided by the Planning and Coordination Branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship.

### 1. Terms of Office:

The *Water Protection Act* leaves member terms to Lieutenant Governor in Council specification, continuing 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.

### 2. Chair and Vice-Chair:

Lieutenant Governor in Council designates one member as chair and may designate one as vice-chair.



---

### **3. Current Membership:**

#### **Jean Friesen**

##### **Chair**

Jean Friesen is an associate professor of history at the University of Manitoba where she has taught Canadian History, Aboriginal History and Public History for 25 years. She has served as chair of the Heritage Council of Manitoba and on the Board of the Manitoba Museum, edited MANITOBA HISTORY journal, and was a director of the Forks Renewal Corporation.

She represented Wolseley in the Manitoba Legislature from 1990-2003. From 1999 to 2003 she was appointed as deputy premier and minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. She has written about the Tsimshian of British Columbia, Heritage in Manitoba and the western Canadian Treaties with First Nations.

"In my early 20s I had the opportunity to spend the winter in an Inuit community in the High Arctic. I learned first hand about the fundamental importance of clean, safe water to everyone in that village. As a cabinet minister responsible for community economic development, municipal affairs, and the Conservation Districts I learned from many Manitobans all across the province how fundamental water issues were to the well being and development of our communities. I look forward to working with this new council on many of these important concerns."

Term Expires: June 1, 2010

#### **Donald (Don) A. Sexton**

##### **Vice Chair**

Don has had a 29 year career in water related activities, primarily in wetlands as a private consultant, a manager of Field Operations and biologist for Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Don has lectured in various university level courses in Faculty of Environment, Department of Zoology, and Natural Resource Institute for the University of Manitoba. He has served on these committees as an advisor and has provided input on natural resource, and wildlife management curricula for Lethbridge Community College, Keewatin Community College, and Brandon University.

Don has been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1976 where he served as president of the Manitoba Chapter in 2001. He has also served as a member of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council and is a board member for the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Center.

Term Expires: June 1, 2009

---

## **Bill Barlow**

Bill Barlow currently serves as Chair of the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board which through extensive consultation has brought forward to the Minister of Water Stewardship more than 100 recommendations to reduce nutrient loading from the vast Lake Winnipeg watershed critical to improving Lake Winnipeg's health. The Board's work continues through regular progress reports on government response to its recommendations and by developing public education strategies in partnership with Manitoba's conservation districts.

Bill also serves as a director with the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium, is an active member of the Manitoba Municipal Board, and heads up economic development and planning activities as a Councillor (2006-2010) with the merged Municipality of Gimli and in that capacity is Gimli's representative to the East Interlake Conservation District.

Bill served as Councillor (1980-1989) and Mayor (1989-2002) of the Town of Gimli, and chaired the Eastern Interlake Planning District from 1991-2002. He enjoyed the challenges of teaching English and Drama at Gimli High School from 1969 until his retirement in 2004.

Bill and his family are proud residents of Gimli.  
Term Expires: June 1, 2010

## **Alice Bourgouin**

Alice Bourgouin's career began with Air Canada. After her children became school-aged, she and her husband George purchased the local general store in Rosser, Manitoba, which Alice managed for 7 ½ years. A year after selling the store, Alice decided to enter the political world. She served two terms on council for the RM of Rosser before deciding to run against the long-time reeve, and winning, in 2002 becoming the first female reeve in Rosser. She ran again in 2006 for the position of reeve and won by acclamation.

Alice sits on a number of boards, including Winnipeg Airports Authority, The Red River Basin Commission, Mayor and Reeves of Capital Region, rural director with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities for the Interlake region. Alice also chairs both the South Interlake Planning District and the Association of Rural Municipalities – Capital Region.

Term Expires: June 1, 2010

---

**Dr. L. Gordon Goldsborough**

Dr. L. Gordon Goldsborough is an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Manitoba, and the director of the University's Delta Marsh Field Station on Lake Manitoba.

Gordon was trained at the University of Manitoba as a botanist specializing in the ecology of plants and algae in lakes and wetlands. He conducts research on the impacts of humans on the aquatic environment. He has published articles in scientific journals and has contributed to three books. He is a member of several scientific organizations, including the Society of Wetland Scientists.

Gordon is involved in the development of water policy, being chair of the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board, a member of the Manitoba Water Council, and a member on the IJC's International Red River Board.

He is also actively involved in the Manitoba heritage community, being past president and webmaster of the Manitoba Historical Society, Gazette and photo editor of Manitoba History magazine, and a member of the management committee for Dalnavert Museum.  
Term Expires: June 1, 2010

**Anne Lindsey**

Anne Lindsey has been the executive director of the Manitoba Eco-Network since 1989, overseeing its development into a thriving hub for environmental inquiry and action. Anne has been instrumental in the development of numerous MEN educational projects including currently: Climate Change Connection, the Water Caucus, the GIS and Mapping Centre and the Organic Lawn Care Project. She co-chairs the Steering Committee for Climate Change Connection, and represents the Eco-Network on the new Children's Health and the Environment Partnership

Since the early 1980s, Anne has also served as an active volunteer on environmental issues as diverse as forestry, pesticides, agriculture and nuclear energy.

Anne has two sons and a daughter, and is passionate about organic vegetable gardening and wilderness experience. She has a Bachelors degree in Anthropology from the University of Winnipeg, and a Masters degree in Archaeology from the University of Calgary.

Term Expires: June 1, 2009

---

**Loretta Mowatt**

Loretta is a member of Norway House Cree Nation. She has lived in Norway House for most of her 40 years, having left the community to attend university, returning after receiving her Bachelor of Science in 1993.

Loretta is a granddaughter, daughter, wife and mother of commercial fishers and trappers. Her lifelong exposure and experiences with these industries fostered a deep love and respect of the land, waters and their resources leading to a post-secondary education in the fields of physical geography and resource management.

Since 1998 her knowledge has been well utilized in Norway House as an environmental coordinator. She has observed and consulted on a regular basis with community elders and other resource users who have witnessed the decline of Lake Winnipeg water quality.

“I am encouraged to see the issue of water quality grow at the municipal, regional, provincial, national and global levels as evidenced by recent initiatives, newly introduced regulatory processes and general public awareness. Hopefully, it is not too late to save Manitoba’s ‘Great Lake’.”

Term expires June 1, 2010

**Wes Williamson**

Wes Williamson lives on a mixed grain and livestock farm with his wife and family north of Souris Manitoba. They have two sons and a daughter. Wes is the vice-president of the Manitoba Conservation Districts Association and a community watershed planner. He is also a chairman of the Mid Assiniboine River Conservation District (MARCD) and represents MCDA on the Ag in the Classroom Board (AITC). This not only affords Wes an opportunity to overview of conservation district operations across the province but, through AITC, the opportunity to have input into the education of our students throughout Manitoba schools.

“Some of my interests are travel; to learn about water conservation, the best use and preservation of watersheds and the benefits these actions provide all residents who depend on this vital resource. From our abundant water supplies in the province of Manitoba and Canada to the arid lands of Mexico where water is scarce I applaud the steps taken by both individuals and governments to maintain water quality and quantity... Since water flow knows no boundaries... we must look upon the whole picture of watersheds and not only deal with issues in our own back yard but also work in a positive manner, with other national and international governments and organizations.”

Term Expires: June 1, 2009

---

### **Ian Wishart**

Ian Wishart operates Agasea Farms near Portage la Prairie with his wife Leslie. The Wisharts' farm is split between forages, specialty crops, and potatoes, with a 200 head cow/calf operation. Ian and his wife Leslie have two daughters, Rhainan and CJ. Ian was elected vice president of Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) in 2004, and elected as president in February of 2007. Ian is the driving force behind Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), a conservation program that puts the emphasis on farmers' contributions to the environment, which launched a pilot project in Manitoba in 2005. Term Expires: June 1, 2009



*Water Council visiting the Minnedosa Dam.*

*From left to right: Anne Lindsey, Bill Barlow, Gordon Goldsborough, Don Sexton, Jean Friesen, Alice Bourgouin, Wes Williamson.*

*Missing: Loretta Mowatt, Ian Wishart.*

---

## **IX. COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

### ***1. Council Meetings***

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 about meetings and events that they have attended, issues they see emerging, and concerns relayed to them. Given the diversity of perspectives represented on the board, the membership is in this way able to connect with many diverse initiatives.

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 an opportunity to meet with local representatives and participate in a local tour.

July 9, 2007 – Winnipeg MB, Inn at the Forks  
Introductory meeting with the Minister

September 28, 2007 – Gimli MB, Waterfront Centre

November 23, 2007 - La Broquerie MB, Municipal Building

December 10, 2007 – Brandon MB

February 15, 2008 –, Portage la Prairie MB, Delta Marsh Field Station

March 3, 2008 – Winnipeg, MB, KPMG Office,

May 2, 2008 – Minnedosa, MB, The Conference Centre

June 27, 2008 – Winnipeg MB, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation Boardroom

---

## ***2. Presentations to Council***

### **July 9, 2007**

Rhonda McDougal, Director, Policy and Coordination, Manitoba Water Stewardship: Presentation on the Manitoba Conservation District Program. An overview of the program was provided and challenges facing the program identified. The development of staff capacity and the retention of staff at the CD level and within the department is a primary concern.

David Huck: Presentation on Integrated Watershed Management Planning. Items that will improve the development of Integrated Watershed Management Plans were discussed, including access to crop insurance information, clarification of the integration between the *Planning Act* and the *Water Protection Act*, availability of water quality data, assistance in interpreting data supplied and duration expected in implementation of the plans

### **September 28, 2007**

Harold Foster, Chair of the East Interlake Conservation District and Manager Stephen Carlyle: Presentation on the activities and organization of the East Interlake Conservation District

### **November 23, 2007**

Cornie Goertsen, Chair of the Seine Rat River Conservation District and Manager Kristy Layne Carr: Presentation on the activities and organization of the Seine Rat River Conservation District

### **February 15, 2008**

Tim Sopuck, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation. A presentation on the history and role of the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC). The MHHC has its origins in the *Manitoba Habitat Heritage Act* 1986 which was a response to accelerating habitat loss on private land. MHHC is the largest holder of conservation agreements in Canada. Conservation agreements are designed to allow long term habitat protection on private land without the need to purchase the land. The terms are negotiated with individual owners, some forms of agricultural use are still allowed and the agreements are in perpetuity and run with the land. Conservation agreements focus on protecting the best lands, it is not a landscape wide program.

Gordon Goldsborough, Director Delta Marsh Field Station. The history, facilities and activities of the Delta Marsh Field Station.

### **May 2, 2008**

Gordon Goldsborough, Associate Professor, University of Manitoba, presented information on water audits. Water audits determine an individual's personal water consumption and raises awareness of the amount of water they use. One of the Water Council's mandates is to promote water conservation and water audits are a practical way of promoting water conservation to the public.

---

### ***3. Council Tours***

September 28, 2007 – Tour of the Gimli waste water treatment plant upgrades.

November 15, 2008 – Tour of the Seine Rat River Conservation District water control works

February 15, 2008 – Tour of the Delta Marsh Field Station

May 2, 2008 – Tour of the Minnedosa dam and fish ladder

### ***4. Events attended by Council Members***

Council members attend a number of meetings and events, both as representatives of the Water Council as well as in their other capacities representing their respective organizations and interests. Discussion of these events 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 issues.

Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Conference  
December 10 – 12, 2007. Brandon Manitoba.

The Water Council encourages all its members to attend the MCDA Conference and has a meeting at the conclusion of this conference.

International Red River Board Meeting, Fargo, North Dakota

Connecting Watershed Planning to Lake Winnipeg Basin Objectives Workshop, Portage la Prairie, MB

Prairie Habitat Joint Venture Science and Policy Forum, Saskatoon SK

Canadian Water Resources Association Conference, Gimli MB

Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board Science Summit, Delta Marsh Field Station, Portage la Prairie, MB

“From Drought to Floods” Workshop, Portage la Prairie, MB



---

### ***5. Sub-committees of the Council***

#### **Agencies, Boards and Councils Roles and Responsibilities Study Sub-committee:**

Jean Friesen, Don Sexton, Wes Williamson, Bill Barlow

Responsible for the development of a report that identifies the clear role of the Water Council, relationships between all MWS reporting bodies and the respective reporting relationships between them and to the Minister with recommendations to address identified gaps or overlap of work. KPMG was hired to develop this report.

#### **Website Sub-committee:**

Gordon Goldsborough, Wes Williamson

Responsible for the development of the Water Council website. Consultations have taken place with website developers investigating various options for website development.

#### **Water Strategy Sub-committee:**

Jean Friesen, Don Sexton

Responsible for leading a review within the council of the *Manitoba Water Strategy 2003* and providing recommendations to the Minister.

#### **Annual Report Sub-committee:**

Jean Friesen, Bill Barlow

Responsible for the completion of the 2007/2008 annual report.

---

## ***6. Assessment of the Roles and Responsibilities of Agencies, Boards and Commissions reporting to the Minister of Water Stewardship***

A mandate of the Water Council is to coordinate and oversee the activities of all provincial advisory boards that perform functions related to water. The Council recognized that an overview of these organizations including current operations and communication and reporting structures would be useful in developing future frameworks for cooperation to address water issues. The Water Council awarded a contract to the consulting firm of KPMG to prepare and deliver a report that captures the roles, responsibilities and programming of agencies, boards and commissions involved in water planning or management.

The focus of the assessment was on agencies, boards and councils external to the Department that were identified as having some form of reporting relationship to the Department and Minister. Sixteen organizations were identified for contact. Representatives were interviewed in order to identify their respective agencies' relationship to the department and to other agencies, their roles, responsibilities and programs, and their perceived involvement in watershed planning and management.

The report will establish a clearer understanding of the organizations with water management and water stewardship responsibilities within the province which will enable a more effective and informed approach to managing Manitoba's water resources.

An interim report was presented to the council in December. Following a discussion and question and answer period with the consultants, recommendations were made by Council members. The final report is expected in October, 2008.

## ***7. Review of the Water Strategy 2003***

One of the responsibilities of the Manitoba Water Council is to review and provide advice to the Minister with regards to 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-person and email discussions between the members of the Council and led to the development of a Water Strategy Renewal sub-committee. The role of this sub-committee is to recommend a process for a more comprehensive and structured renewal of the Manitoba Water Strategy 2003 and provide directions, recommendations, and advice to the Minister.

---

## **X. 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 2008/2009 reporting year are:

- Upon the direction of the Minister initiate a review of The Water Strategy 2003.
- Continuing to improve the coordination and communication of the Agencies, Boards and Commissions reporting to the Minister and Department of Water Stewardship by responding to the recommendations presented in the KPMG report and making recommendations to the Minister.
- Engage the public in water issues and conservation and provide a forum for communication through development of a website which will also provide a resource for the general public and increase the visibility of the Water Council.

---

**XI. 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). Requests for reimbursement are at the discretion of the council members.

**Expenditures from June 1, 2007 to September 1, 2008:**

Equipment and Start-up Expenses: \$8,246.84  
Meeting Expenses: \$24,080.42

**Agencies, Boards and Commissions Roles and Responsibilities Study:**

KPMG Consulting Services: \$23,409.53