



ANNUAL REPORT
2008 / 2009



MANITOBA WATER COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT
September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009

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I. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:



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 second successful year as the Manitoba Water Council.

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 several tours such as those to the University of Manitoba's Delta Marsh Field Station, the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, the Fort Whyte Centre, 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.

We would 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 dark ink that reads "Jean Friesen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jean Friesen

II. INTRODUCTION:

The Manitoba Water Council is a statutory body established under the authority of the *Water Protection Act, Section 24*. The members of the Council are appointed by Order in Council of the Lieutenant Governor for Manitoba. This report outlines the activities that took place during the second reporting year, from September 1, 2008 to September 1, 2009.

The Manitoba Water Council is the 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. They represent regional diversity of Manitoba, including local government, agricultural, and environmental perspectives. 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.



Lake Winnipeg – Camp Arnes

Photo by: Cassie Leclair

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
- 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; and
 - 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.

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;



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 it 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 1 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. Previously, Jean represented Wolseley in the Manitoba

Legislature from 1990-2003. From 1999 to 2003 she was appointed as Deputy Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Jean 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.

Donald (Don) A. Sexton - Vice Chair

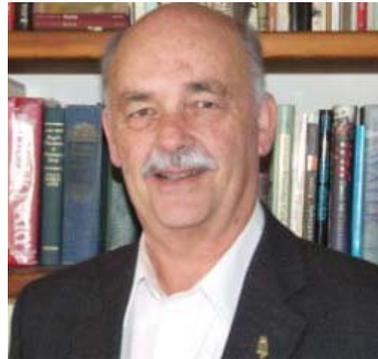


Don Sexton has had a 30 year career in water and wetlands as a private consultant, manager of Field Operations and biologist for Ducks Unlimited

Canada. Don has lectured in various university level courses, served as advisor on these committees and provided curricula input for a number of Universities. Don is a member of The Wildlife Society, since 1976, served as president of the Manitoba Chapter from 2001 – 2002, is a member of the Prairie Grouse Technical

Council and sits on the board of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Center.

Bill Barlow



Bill Barlow currently serves as Chair of the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board, Director with the Lake Winnipeg

Research Consortium, is an active member of the Manitoba Municipal Board. Bill heads up economic development and planning activities as a Councillor (2006-2010) with the merged Municipality of Gimli and 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. Bill and his family are proud residents of Gimli.

Alice Bourgouin



Alice Bourgouin is currently the Reeve for the RM of Rosser. Alice previously served two terms on Council for the RM of Rosser, and

managed a local general store for 7 ½ years. 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.

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 of the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board. Gordon is a member of several scientific organizations including IJC's International Red River Board, and the Society of Wetland Scientists. As well, Gordon is 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.

Anne Lindsey



Anne Lindsey has been the executive director of the Manitoba Eco-Network since 1989. Anne has been

involved in numerous MEN educational projects including currently; Climate Change Connection, Water Caucus, GIS and Mapping Centre and 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 including forestry, pesticides, agriculture and nuclear energy.

Loretta Mowatt



Loretta Mowatt is a member of Norway House Cree Nation where she has lived for most of her life; having left the community

to attend university, returning after receiving her Bachelor of Science in 1993. Since 1998 her knowledge has been well utilized in Norway House as an environmental coordinator. In her work as environmental coordinator, community elders and resource users have witnessed changes to the environment, including the decline of Lake Winnipeg's water quality.

Wes Williamson



Wes Williamson lives on a mixed farm in Southwestern Manitoba with his wife and their family. He has been

involved with the conservation movement for many years, serving as past chairman of the Mid Assiniboine River Conservation District (MARCD), and past vice chair of Manitoba Conservation Districts Association (MCDA) until the merger of the Tiger Hills Conservation District (CD) and MARCD which formed the Assiniboine Hills CD. He is an ESL teacher for International workers from various countries around the world who now call Manitoba home.

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 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.

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.



Minnedosa Meeting – May 2nd, 2008

Meetings 2008 - 2009

October 3, 2008 – VIA Rail Building 123
Main St, Winnipeg, MB

December 3, 2008 –, Canad Inns Keystone
Centre, Brandon MB in conjunction
with the Manitoba Conservation
District Association meeting

February 5 and 6, 2009 – Delta Marsh Field
Station, University of Manitoba

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

June 12, 2009 – Fort Whyte Centre,
Winnipeg, MB

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

2. Formal Presentations to Council

October 3, 2008

Manitoba Water Stewardship Presentation
on Nutrients: An overview/ information
session on nitrogen and phosphorus was
provided by Dwight Williamson, ADM
Ecological Services Division.

December 3, 2008

Presentation on Governments priorities and
the role that the Water Council can play,
given by Don Norquay, Deputy Minister,
Manitoba Water Stewardship

February 6, 2009

Presentation on Manitoba WaterSmart
Initiative, provided by Colleen Andreychuk,
Policy Analyst, Manitoba Water
Stewardship.

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.

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.

This meeting was held at Saulteaux
Crescent Water Stewardship office with a
number of members joining by
GoToMeeting.

3. Council Tours

April 6, 2009 – Tour of the Freshwater Fish
Marketing Corporation given by Jay
Middagh

August 24, 2009 – Tour of the South
Tobacco Creek Watershed monitoring
stations by Bill Turner from the Deerwood
Soil and Water Management Association.



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

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 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 in Brandon, Manitoba.
- National Stewardship Conference in Calgary, Alberta.
- River Basin Conferences for the Red River and Friends of the Saskatchewan River
- International Joint Commission Committees on boundary water issues
- A number of Agricultural and Environmental meetings and conferences



Water Council members at a meeting

5. Sub-committees of the Council

Agencies, Boards and Councils Roles and Responsibilities Study

Sub-committee:

Jean Friesen, Don Sexton, Wes Williamson, Bill Barlow, KPMG

This sub committee is responsible for the development of a study that identifies the role of the Water Council, relationships between all bodies reporting to MWS and the respective reporting relationships between them and to the Minister. The study formed a basis for Council advice and discussion with the Minister about identified gaps or potential overlap of work.

Website Sub-committee:

Gordon Goldsborough, Wes Williamson

This sub-committee is responsible for the development of the Water Council's website. Consultations have taken place with website developers investigating various options for website development.

Water Strategy Sub-committee/ Wetland Strategy Sub-committee

Don Sexton, Ian Wishart and Anne Lindsey

This sub-committee is responsible for leading a review within the water council of the *Manitoba Water Strategy* (2003). The Council presented possible strategic options on how to proceed on renewal of the Water Strategy to the Minister.

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.

Annual Report Sub-committee:

Jean Friesen, Bill Barlow

This sub-committee is responsible for compiling the Water Council's 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 study that captures the roles, responsibilities and programming of agencies, boards and commissions involved in water planning or management.

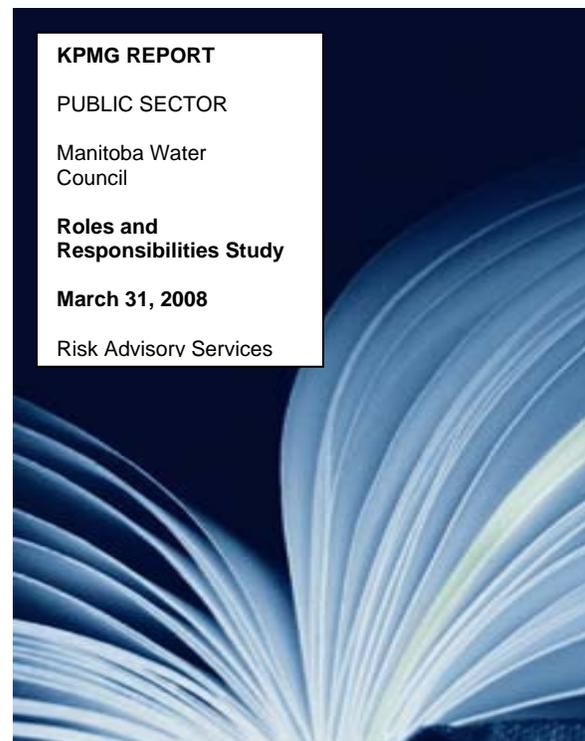
The focus of the assessment was on agencies, boards and councils external to the Department that were identified as having some form of reporting relationship to the Department and or the Minister. Sixteen organizations were identified for contact and interviewed. These representatives were also interviewed about their perceived involvement in watershed planning and management.

The final study was submitted to the Council in October 2008. The Water Council analyzed this study and through their respective expertise provided advice to the Minister.

The Water Council determined that KPMG's report could be summarized into three themes:

- Organizational structure and responsibilities for educational programming implementation of all ABCs in the province.
- Communication between the ABCs and government, other ABCs and the public.
- Establishing the watershed as the base unit for management and planning of water.

The Water Council anticipates continuing discussion with the Minister on themes raised by this report in the autumn of 2009 as they apply to the future role of the agencies, boards and commissions in Manitoba.



7. Wetlands

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 and led to the development of a Water Strategy Renewal sub-committee.

Jean Friesen, Chair and Don Sexton, Vice Chair met with the Minister on June 12, 2009 and presented her with two proposals for the Water Council's future work: 1) A multi year strategic review of the Water Strategy or 2) The development of a Wetland Policy that would become a component of the larger provincial Water Strategy. The Water Council was advised to focus its efforts on building a broad-based consensus among Manitobans for the support of the development of a Wetland Policy.

A request for proposals was issued, for a consultant to support the Manitoba Water Council as it obtains the views of Manitobans on wetland issues. Several consultants responded. 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.



Oak Hammock Marsh, Ducks Unlimited Canada

Photo by: Cassie Leclair

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.

X. 2009/10 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 2009/2010 reporting year are to:

- 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 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) in accordance with the General Manual of Administration.

Expenditures from September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009

Meeting Expenses:	\$ 6,667.23
Remuneration:	\$ 13,807.00
Contracting Services for Logo Development:	<u>\$ 1,269.00</u>
Total	\$ 21,743.00





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