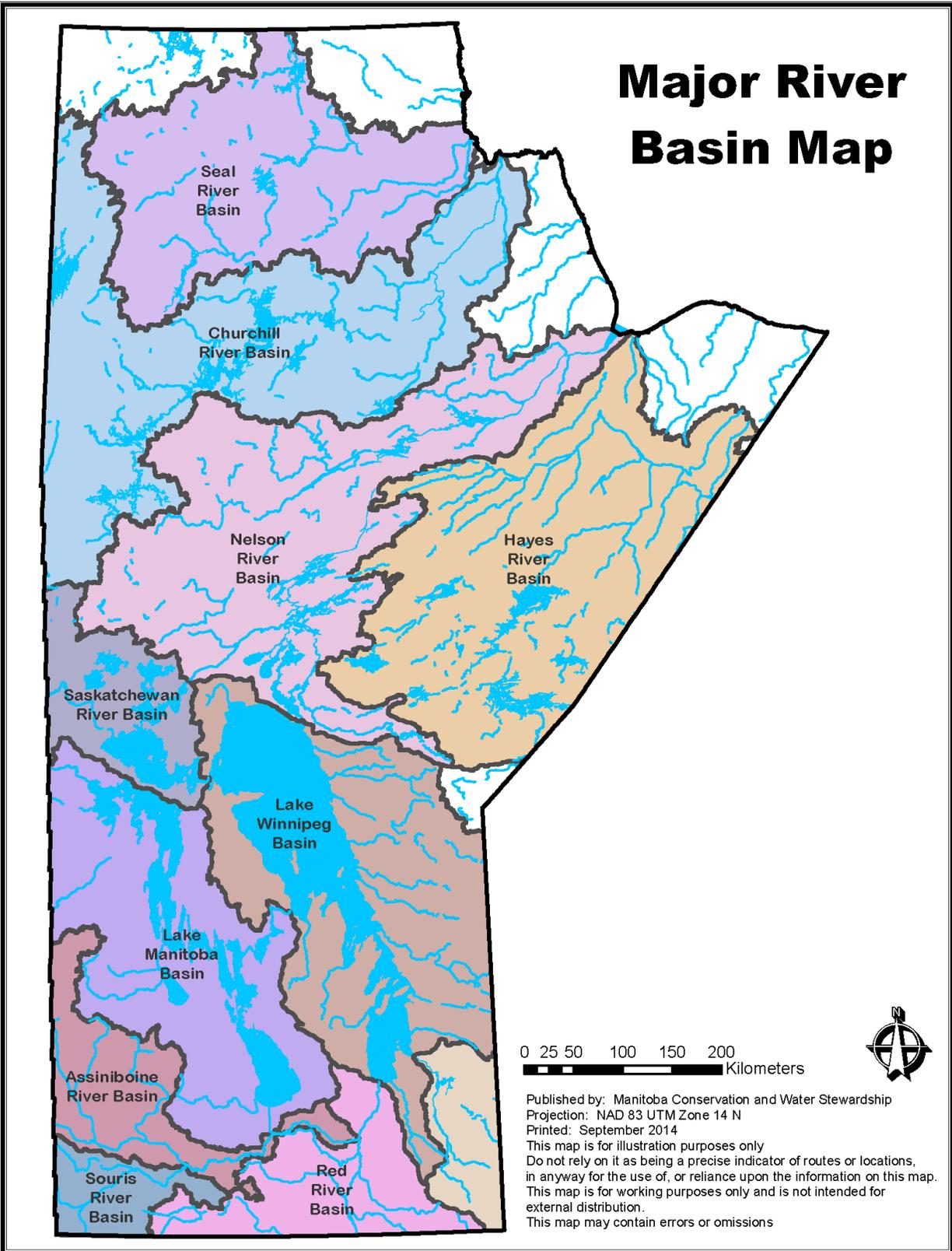




Annual Report

2014-2015

Major River Basin Map



Major River Basin Map of Manitoba

The Manitoba Water Council

The Manitoba Water Council is a senior advisory body that reports to the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship who is responsible for *The Water Protection Act*. The Water Council builds **consensus among Manitobans on sustainable solutions that will protect and manage the Province's** water quality and water quantity.

Established in February of 2007, the Water Council provides advice to the Minister on policies, **programs, plans and legislation to achieve the government's goal of ensuring a prosperous and environmentally-conscious economy.**

The Water Council coordinates and oversees the work of all provincial advisory bodies on water protection and plays a consultative role in province-wide water issues. The Council monitors the development and implementation of watershed management plans in the province and reviews regulations respecting water quality management zones.

The responsibilities of the Water Council are established under the authority of *The Water Protection Act, Section 25*. In all of their work, the Council remains committed to the three pillars of sustainable development: environment, social, and economic.



About This Report

This is the 8th Annual Report prepared by the Manitoba Water Council which summarizes the Council's activities and accomplishments from April 2014 - March 2015.

Membership

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

Chair:	Gordon Goldsborough	
Vice Chair:	Don Sexton	
Members:	Alice Bourgouin	Anders Bruun
	Albert Dohan	Don Forfar
	Wayne Hildebrand	Kristine Koster
	Loretta Mowatt	Halya Petzold
	Wes Williamson	

Departing Members:	
Jean Friesen	Bill Barlow



Water Council Meeting in St. Andrews, Manitoba on October 31, 2014

Message from the Chair



Dear Minister Nevakshonoff:

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Manitoba Water Council. The Report **profiles the Council's accomplishments and activities for the fiscal year 2014-2015.**

On behalf of the Manitoba Water Council, I am pleased to report that 2014/15 has been another productive year. This year we started to work towards developing a water conservation and efficiency strategy for the province and will chair a new subcommittee, the Surface Water Advisory Team, to provide ongoing communication between stakeholders and the Provincial Government on the Surface Water Management Strategy. The Council continues to work on the development and implementation of integrated watershed planning in Manitoba.

The Council membership underwent some change this year with the departure of Dr. Jean Friesen who had been the Chair since our inception in 2007. Jean is a dedicated leader who brought a wealth of knowledge to the group and will be sincerely missed. This year also saw the departure of another original member, Bill Barlow. We would like to express our gratitude to Jean and Bill who have both given so much of their time, energy and expertise over the past years. We thank them for their contributions to the success of the Council, and wish them well with their new responsibilities.

We welcomed five new members to our team during this past year: Anders Bruun, Don Forfar, Wayne Hildebrand, Kristine Koster, and Halya Petzold. Our new members bring an extensive range of knowledge and experience to the Council and we are grateful for their active participation as we work to maintain and protect **Manitoba's water.**

The Council believes it has made considerable progress over the past year and looks forward to continued success in the year ahead. The Council helps to develop the innovative ideas, provide the broad-based advice, **and encourage the collaboration necessary to maintain a secure future for Manitoba's vital resources.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon Goldsborough".

Dr. Gordon Goldsborough
Chair, Manitoba Water Council



Council Members



Gordon Goldsborough



Don Sexton



Alice Bourguin



Anders Bruun



Albert Dohan



Don Forfar



Wayne Hildebrand



Kristine Koster



Loretta Mowatt



Halya Petzold



Wes Williamson

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Geo Textile tubes filled with sand and used as a temporary dike at Delta Beach

Photo Credit: Dr. Gordon Goldsborough

Water Council Activities

The Water Council meets to discuss the progress of on-going projects and initiatives and current water-related issues from around the Province. As a regular item on the agenda, the Council members are asked to share information from their particular perspective, and to note issues that they see emerging. The Council also invites individuals and organizations to attend their meetings to provide local context and information. This year, the Council had an opportunity to hear from the West Interlake Conservation District at their meeting in Lundar, Manitoba.

Given the diversity of perspectives presented in the Council, the membership provides a broad forum for the discussion of water issues. To effectively manage Manitobans waters, the Council also engages with several provincial departments to discuss current water-related policies, programs and initiatives.

This year, the Water Council had three Council meetings at the following locations:

August 21, 2014

Legislative Building in Winnipeg, Manitoba

October 31, 2014

Larters Golf Course in St. Andrews, Manitoba

January 23, 2015

Pauline Johnson Public Library in Lundar, Manitoba



Water Council Meeting in Lundar, Manitoba on January 23, 2015



Pembina Valley Manitoba Conservation District Association Tour

As representatives of the Water Council, members have been involved in various projects and initiatives. These include:

- Lake Friendly Stewards Alliance
- Sustainable water resources class at the University of Manitoba

Members of the Council have also attended various conferences and events in the Province, both as representatives of the Council as well as their respective organizations. These include:

- The Manitoba Boreal Summit
- Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Conference
- Red River Basin Commission Conference
- International Red River Board
- Association of Manitoba Municipalities

These meetings and events provide the Water Council with an invaluable platform to meet with Manitobans, potential partners and other stakeholders. Participation in these events allows the Council members to be aware of emerging water issues and helps them to connect with a number of diverse initiatives in the Province and across Canada.

Water Council Subcommittees

In addition to the regular Council meetings, the Council created task oriented subcommittees that meet on a regular basis to discuss and implement their subcommittee work plan. Each Water Council member participates on at least one of the subcommittees of their choice. Currently there are three subcommittees:

- Website Subcommittee
- Surface Water Advisory Team
- Water Conservation and Efficiency



Pothole in Minnedosa - agriculture and wetlands coexisting

Website Subcommittee

The Water Council has implemented a Website Development Subcommittee to maintain the **Water Council's website**. In addition to reviewing and periodically updating the Council's website, this subcommittee has been reviewing websites from other jurisdictions to identify **useful elements that can be integrated into Manitoba's website**.

The Water Council plays an important role in communicating and educating Manitobans about water and watershed planning. The Council sees its website as the primary means by which it will share information with the public going forward, and is presently investigating methods of engaging in active dialogue via its website. This subcommittee has also been exploring ways to utilize social media as a way to communicate with more Manitobans.



Urban wetland in Bridgewater Forest subdivision in Winnipeg



Surface Water Advisory Team

The Surface Water Advisory Team was formed as a result of one of the recommendations outlined in **Manitoba's Surface Water Management Strategy**. The strategy called for the establishment of an integrated technical and planning advisory team to support surface water decision making in the province. The Advisory Team consists of representatives of stakeholder groups who have an interest and/or expertise in surface water management in Manitoba and provides a formalized avenue for ongoing communication between stakeholders and the Provincial Government.

The Advisory Team represents the perspectives of academics, local groups and organizations working with surface water within the watershed and is a source of both local and scientific watershed knowledge. The Manitoba Water Council is the Chair and official liaison between the Surface Water Advisory Team and the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship. The Water Council relies on the expertise and local perspectives of the Advisory Team to provide advice and feedback to government decision makers on identified issues and concerns.

The Advisory Team met with stakeholders on two occasions to discuss issues and concerns regarding the Surface Water Management Strategy. The first meeting was on December 1st, 2014 in conjunction with the Manitoba Conservation District Association (MCDA) conference in Brandon and the second meeting was on January 20th, 2015 in conjunction with the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) conference in Winnipeg. There were approximately 20 people at each meeting representing approximately 30 organizations. Overall, we heard that the strategy document was very well received and we came away from these discussions with a lot of valuable feedback. An outcome of our discussions at the MCDA and RRBC meetings was the Council presented their advice to the Minister that shared views about the Surface Water Management Strategy that we had heard.



Water Conservation and Efficiency

Outlined in Manitoba's Green Plan TomorrowNow, Manitoba has committed to build on the momentum of various water conservation initiatives in the province and develop a strong and pro-active water conservation plan. This includes defining conservation targets, promoting public education, incorporating building code changes, and developing best land use practices, as well as, the potential for further regulatory steps to support individual and local action on water efficiency.

The Water Conservation and Efficiency Subcommittee continues to review a range of water conservation and efficiency initiatives that are taking place in Manitoba, across Canada and internationally. The Subcommittee is in the process of developing a discussion paper as part of the advice to the Minister that will identify strategic direction and next steps for the development of a water conservation and efficiency strategy.

The Subcommittee has also reviewed policies and information provided by other jurisdictions in Canada, and has learned what other groups in Manitoba are planning with respect to water usage policy. The Subcommittee distributed a survey to a number of stakeholders in Manitoba to collect information about water conservation and efficiency initiatives in their organization. The survey focused on four main issues:

1. How water conservation and efficiency are defined
2. Policies and initiatives related to water conservation and efficiency that are currently in place around the province
3. Water conservation and efficiency plans for the future
4. The perceived impediments to the adoption of water conservation and efficiency measures

The information gathered from this survey will help guide the Council as they continue to provide advice and recommendations in the development of a strong and pro-active water conservation and efficiency strategy.



Water Efficient Faucet Aerator



Water Efficient Showerhead

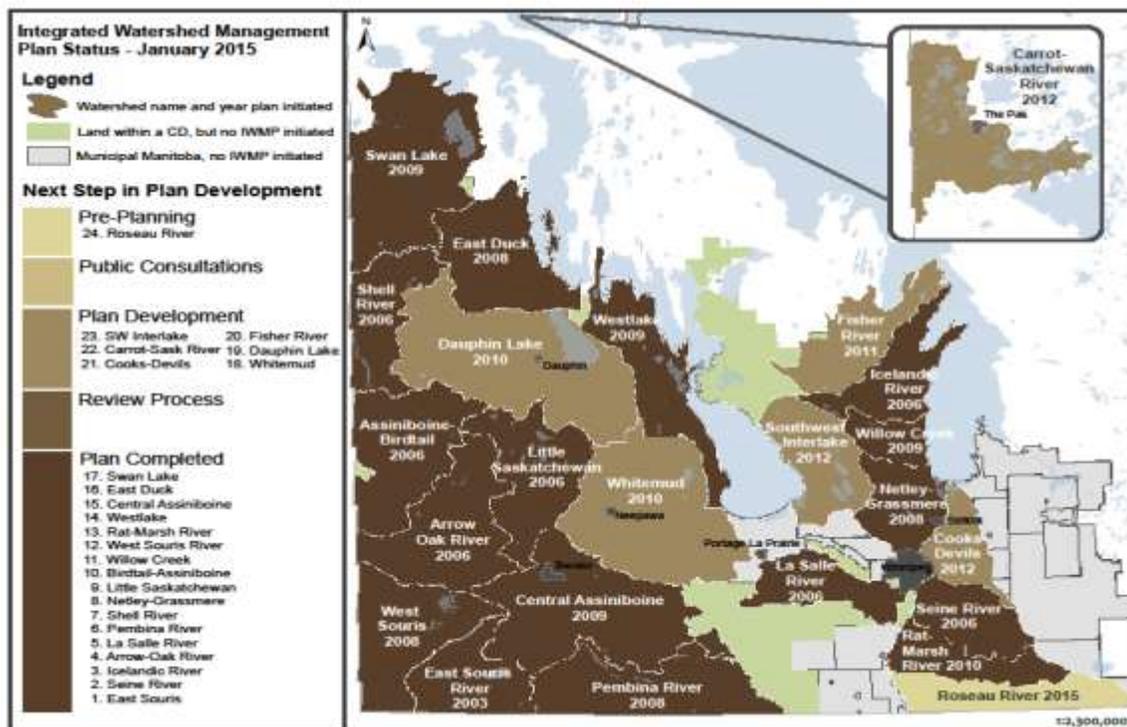
Integrated Watershed Management Plan Review

As outlined in the *Water Protection Act*, the Manitoba Water Council has the responsibility of monitoring the development and implementation of integrated watershed management planning in the province. The Water Council continues to participate in the development of Integrated Watershed Management Plans (IWMP) and is often involved right from the early stages of IWMP development. The Council also provides their inputs and suggestions during the final plan review process.

The Water Council engages with Conservation Districts (CDs) to help build on knowledge of the CDs and ensure they are informed of the immediate issues facing the integrated watershed management planning process in their respective districts and across the province. Throughout the planning process, the Watershed Planning and Programs section of Conservation and Water Stewardship provide regular updates on plan development and success of plan implementation.

This year, the Water Council had the opportunity to assess the Swan Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan as well as the engagement process for the Dauphin Lake Plan. As of March 2015, 17 plans have been completed, six plans are in the development stage and the Roseau River IWMP is in its pre-planning stage.

The map below provides the status of the Integrated Watershed Management Plans in the Province as of January 2015. The Council would like to formally recognize the extensive work represented in these IWMPs and wishes to thank and congratulate the elected officials and staff of the respective Conservation Districts. The Council also notes that a large area of southern Manitoba, especially in the Red River Valley, remains outside the Conservation District program and encourages the investigation of means by which greater participation in this worthwhile program can be fostered.



Integrated Watershed Management Plan Status—January 2015

Financial Report

Statement of expenditure for the year ended March 31, 2015

<u>Remuneration</u>	
Remuneration Paid	\$ 16,146.00
<u>Travel</u>	
Mileage	3,441.72
Transportation	1,676.72
Meal Expenses	1,017.98
	<hr/>
	\$ 6,136.42
<u>Accommodations</u>	
Hotel/Motel	\$ 1,227.99
<u>Meetings</u>	
Food	267.53
Supplies	85.88
Facility Rental	60.00
Parking	30.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 443.41
<u>Conferences</u>	
Registration Fees	\$ 1,000.00
<u>Legal and Professional Services</u>	
New Council Member Appointments	\$ 513.00
	<hr/>
Total Expenses:	\$ 25,466.82

For comments and suggestions contact us at:

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All photos provided by Dr. Gordon Goldsborough