

***Conservation Agreements Board***

**Board Members**

Chairperson

Vera Froese, Morden ^

Members

Marvin Kovachik, Cowan <sup>(1)</sup>

Ryan Sitko, Oakburn <sup>(2)</sup>

Kristin Hayward, St. François Xavier <sup>(3)</sup> +

Henry Murkin, Hartney <sup>(4)</sup>

+ civil servant

^ government appointment

(1) Association of Manitoba Municipalities

(2) Farmer and Agricultural Organization Representative

(3) Manitoba Water Stewardship

(4) Conservation Agency Representative

**Mandate:**

Established by *The Conservation Agreements Act*, the Board attempts to resolve any dispute about termination or amendment of a conservation agreement entered into by the Government of Canada, Province of Manitoba, Municipalities or any of their agencies, boards or corporations.

**Responsibilities:**

- provide a forum for discussion for interested parties regarding conservation agreements;
- assist interested parties who apply to the Board to consider the implications of a conservation agreement;
- assist in the resolution of disputes between interested parties regarding conservation agreements; and
- fulfill functions prescribed by regulation;

**Membership:**

Board shall consist of persons appointed by the Minister, including at least one representative of each of the following and a chairperson;

- a conservation agency;
- a public representative;
- a municipality or local government district, which representative must be approved by the Association of Manitoba Municipalities;
- an agricultural producers' organization

The total size of the board must no be less than 5 persons.

**Length of Terms:**

The Act is silent on length of terms.

**Desirable Expertise:**

Experience in the field of environmental science, ecological goods and services, and regulation is desirable. There is no formal educational requirement; however council members should be able to demonstrate understanding of conservation issues.

An effective council member must be able to read complex written material, analyze written and verbal information in order to ascertain facts, and apply relevant legislation to this written and verbal information.

Board members must have the following skills:

- a clear understanding of the Conservation Agreements Act, including the ability to read and interpret policy and legislation relevant to the case
- a general understanding of environmental issues pertaining to conservation agreements
- good analytical problem-solving skills
- strong conflict resolution skills
- the ability to make decisions in a fair and unbiased manner
- strong verbal communication skills including asking questions using non-judgmental language
- adhere to a high degree of confidentiality
- use plain language
- have active listening skills

**Time commitment:**

The board meets approximately 1-2 times per year.

**Meetings:**

Meetings are held throughout the province but tend to be held in southwestern Manitoba according to board member location.

**Remuneration:**

Member: \$109.00 per meeting under 3½ hours; \$192.00 per meeting over 3½ hours  
Chair: \$191.00 per meeting under 3½ hours; \$336.00 per meeting over 3½ hours

As well, board members are reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.