

Whiteshell Advisory Board

Board Members

Chair

Nicola Panchysak, Winnipeg

Members

Nora Losey, Winnipeg

Gary Kennedy, Winnipeg

Robert J. Olson, Winnipeg

Matt Erhard, Winnipeg

Sandy Fiset, Caddy Lake

Mandate:

The Whiteshell Advisory Board is established under *The Provincial Parks Act*. The purpose of this Act is to ensure that existing and future provincial parks are managed in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable development so that representative examples of diverse natural and cultural heritage are conserved and appropriate economic opportunities are provided

Responsibilities:

The Board serves, for Whiteshell Provincial Park only, as a variance committee when a provincial park cottager formally requests a variance (usually dealing with size and locations of buildings or other development) to normal policies and guidelines and as a review panel when a provincial park cottager wishes to have Manitoba Conservation reconsider its interpretation and application of existing policies and guidelines relative to a decision made by the Department. The committee reviews applications from provincial park cottagers respecting these types of issues and conducts public hearings in order to hear from both applicants and those who may be in support of the application or opposed to it. Board members make recommendations on these issues to the Minister.

Membership:

7 members are appointed by the Minister of Sustainable Development. The members of the board should, in the opinion of the Minister,

- a) be representative of the diversity of cottage types (lakefront, back tier, remote) in provincial parks Manitoba;
- b) be knowledgeable about cottaging issues within provincial parks; and
- c) not be employees under the control of the minister responsible for the designated Act.

Length of Terms:

Two years, and may be re-appointed for further two-year terms at the discretion of the Minister.

Desirable Expertise:

Knowledge of provincial park cottage subdivision management and the potential impacts of lot development issues on neighbouring properties.

There is no formal educational requirement; however, potential board members should be able to demonstrate an understanding of social issues including human behaviour and neighbour conflicts.

An effective board member must be able to read 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 be able to communicate verbally and have the ability to ask questions using open ended, non-judgmental language;
- have active listening skills;
- be able to read and interpret policies/legislation and how it applies to the case;
- use plain language;
- adhere to a high degree of confidentiality; and
- have the ability to make decisions in a fair and unbiased manner.

Time Commitment:

A minimum quorum of 3 of the 7 members meets from once to up to ten times per year as necessary based upon frequency of applications received. Individual members should be available to serve two to three hours per hearing.

Meetings:

Meetings are held primarily during weekday evenings in Winnipeg with the occasional meeting held in the Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Remuneration:

Chair: no payment or honoraria, only reasonable meals and mileage reimbursement.
Members: no payment or honoraria, only reasonable meals and mileage reimbursement.