

East Souris River Watershed Management Plan

Public Meeting Results

Boissevain – November 8

22 people in attendance

Attendees were each given five votes to identify priority issues. Votes could be cast entirely for one issue or a combination of votes could be cast for various issues.

Managed Outlet / Regulation for/of Whitewater Lake (19)

Why is it a Problem?

- Due to drainage into Whitewater Lake.
- Resulting in flooding of land adjacent to the lake.
- There is no outlet for the lake and there is continuous draining.

Where is the problem occurring?

- The problem is occurring all around the lake.

Solutions

- Should have upstream retention.
- Could delay the release of water.
- Need to control the level.

Drainage (17)

Why is it a Problem?

- Changes the landscape, results in downstream flooding, need more controls.
- There is a lack of enforcement.

Where is the problem occurring?

- NE, north and south of Whitewater Lake.

Solutions

- Need better enforcement and guidelines.
- Do it right, need a comprehensive plan.
- Drainage needs to be dealt with across municipalities and CD's if necessary.
- More research needs to be conducted on cumulative impacts about drainage.
- Monitoring is required.

Sustainable Agriculture (Environmentally and Economically) (15)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to keep people on the land otherwise there will be no people to support infrastructure.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Problem is occurring all across rural Manitoba.

Solutions

- Help retain people on the land.
- Ag support through TMCD programs.
- Need to be more proactive about educating people about the CD and its programs especially in schools regarding sustainable agriculture.

Water Quantity (14)

Why is it a Problem?

- With the amount of drainage, the level of the water table is a concern.
- Lack of recharge.

Where is the problem occurring?

- West part of the District

Solutions

- Retain water supplies.

Law/By-Law Enforcement (11)

- Need to determine whose responsibility is it.

Water Quality (9)

Why is it a Problem?

- Important for human and livestock consumption.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Along waterways.

Solutions

- Could look at riparian programs or diverting water around livestock sites.

Riparian Management (8)

Why is it a Problem?

- Has an impact on water quality.

Solutions

- Need to be proactive before it is regulated.
- Education initiatives and incentives to change management.

Protection of Turtle Mountains (7)

Why is it a Problem?

- Logging is resulting in changes.
- Very valuable resource.
- Need to ensure this resource exists for future generations.

Rural Depopulation (3)

Why is it a Problem?

- Less people to maintain area.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Everywhere.

Solutions

- Encourage smaller farms, economic incentives for rural development.

Water Erosion (2)

Why is it a Problem?

- Lack of infiltration, fills in streams with sediment, reduces water quality, leads to flooding.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Problem occurs in the Turtle Mountains

Solutions

- Permanent cover, winter wheat and zero-tillage.

Wetland Protection (1)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to recharge aquifers.
- Wetlands can help filter nutrients.

Solutions

- Need options to drainage i.e. cash incentives.

Overgrazing (1)

Why is it a Problem?

- Results in increased runoff and erosion if pastures are overgrazed.

Solutions

- Need to focus on riparian areas.

Climate Fluctuations (0)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to adapt to rapid change.
- How will climate change affect the area locally?

Solutions

- Wetland retention could help buffer against drought.

Chemical Contamination (0)

Why is it a Problem?

- May have an impact on water quality.
- Need to respect the environment.
- It should be a local responsibility.

Logging/Clear-cutting (0)

Why is it a Problem?

- Managing wooded lands and minimizing impacts.
- Need to take care of these areas.

Medora – November 10

8 people in attendance

Attendees were each given five votes to identify priority issues. Votes could be cast entirely for one issue or a combination of votes could be cast for various issues.

Water Quality (Groundwater and Surface) (8)

Why is it a Problem?

- It is important to maintain for human consumption.
- Concerns exist with use of chemicals.
- There is a link with drainage.
- Need to conduct tests to identify problem areas.
- Wells are not as good as in the past.
- Perception that town lagoons have contaminated water.

Where is the problem occurring?

- There is a problem with the water quality in Medora (boil water advisory).
- Need to maintain the quality of water in the Turtlehead Creek reservoir (Deloraine's water source).

Solutions:

- Implement riparian projects.
- Education.
- Abandoned well sealing.
- Water quality monitoring / testing.

Education and Awareness (4)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to improve the awareness level.
- Need to get the word out about the issues and potential solutions.
- Poor TMCD marketing.

Solutions:

- Need to target youth and adults.
- Minutes should be distributed to the public.
- Have a newsletter.
- Advertise website on all ads.
- Make better use of the TMCD website.

Deliver Projects in a Planned Approach (bottom to top of watershed) (4)

Why is it a Problem?

- Downstream landowners often don't get contacted when drainage projects occur upstream.
- Need to consider the cumulative effect.
- Flooding is a problem.
- Erosion increases when volumes increase.

Where is the problem occurring?

- More water is flowing now than in the past – widespread.
- Water gets trapped in certain areas.

Solutions:

- Look at infrastructure (there are often bridges upstream and culverts downstream).
- Clear snow from bottom to top.
- Need to have a plan.
- Should try to slow water down to reduce erosion.
- Improve awareness about watersheds.

Drainage (3)

Why is it a Problem?

- Needs to be controlled and planned.
- Currently no guidelines exist.
- There is no enforcement.
- Drainage results in the lowering of the water table.
- Drainage can have positive and negative consequences.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Everywhere.

Solutions:

- Need a plan with teeth.
- Plan needs to look at everything from bottom to top.
- Need better enforcement as there has been next to no enforcement.
- Need a controlled system.
- Need to look at wetland protection that provides meaningful dollars to landowners.
- Education.

Board Structure / Governance (3)

Why is it a Problem?

- Use / overuse of programs by Board / Sub-District members.
- Personal gain vs. public good.
- This has been a problem in the past.

Solutions:

- With a change in Board members, new ideas are brought to the table.
- Should have priorities and rationale for approving projects.
- Need to educate the public as to what is offered by the CD.

Weed Control / Invasive Species (3)

Why is it a Problem?

- Problem with milkweed and leafy spurge.
- Issue requires immediate attention.
- Difficult to deal with along waterways.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Problem is widespread; however it seems to be more pronounced north of Medora.

Solutions:

- Education
- Biological control (bugs, beetles) has worked but it is slow.

Water Quantity (2)

Why is it a Problem?

- Higher demand for agricultural and human uses.
- Agriculture demand has increased due to more cattle and more spraying.
- Need sufficient supply to meet the needs.

Where is the problem occurring?

- It is a widespread problem in the spring.
- There are shortages in areas (north of Deloraine, Medora area and Hartney area).

Solutions:

- Need to construct storage facilities (could be in-channel, off-channel).
- Need more tankloads.
- Rural water pipelines

Water Storage (2)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to store more water for dry periods.

Solutions:

- Should construct in-channel or off-stream structures.
- Could also look at backflood structures to control flows.

Carry Over of Provincial Funds (2)

Why is it a Problem?

- It would be nice to have the option to carry over funds.

Solutions:

- The issue should be raised with the TMCD Board, MCDA and MB Water Stewardship.

Salinity (1)

Why is it a Problem?

- Naturally occurring problem.
- Compaction may be a contributing factor.
- More noticeable in recent years.
- Problem with foxtail barley and kochia.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Problem is occurring along roads/highways.

Solutions:

- Education.
- Create a long-term fair partnership between livestock and grain producers.
- Seed forages.

Too Much Water / Too Little Water (1)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to store water in wet times for dry periods.

Solutions:

- Use roads / culverts to slow down flow.
- Education.

Creek Maintenance (1)

Why is it a Problem?

- This is an on-going concern for the need to maintain the creek.

- Work was started on Medora Creek in the headwaters in the 1980's however; work was not completed at the bottom end.
- Need balance between water flowing, but not too much where it causes erosion.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Problem is occurring along Medora and Waskada Creek and it is widespread.

Solutions:

- Mowing or other forms of control could be considered.

Rural Depopulation (0)

- Less people exist on the land all the time.

Water Erosion (0)

Why is it a Problem?

- The speed of the water has increased which is creating problems in many areas, not just at the bottom end.
- More volume is coming down waterways.
- Improper culvert sizes in many cases.

Where is the problem occurring?

- It is a big problem at the bottom end and at other areas.

Solutions:

- Infrastructure inventory.

Habitat Loss / Improvement (0)

Why is it a Problem?

- Habitat loss is occurring in the Turtle Mountains

Solutions:

- Education
- Conservation Agreements
- Need funds for protection.

Hartney – November 15

9 people in attendance

Attendees were each given five votes to identify priority issues. Votes could be cast entirely for one issue or a combination of votes could be cast for various issues.

Drainage / Salinity (10)

Why is it a Problem?

- Salinity is increasing.
- Drainage along highways is contributing to salinity.
- Need groundwater recharge.
- Sandpoints are susceptible when the water table is lowered.
- Landowners are draining to lower the water table to decrease salinity.
- Water seeps a long way.
- Landowners are using shallower rooted crops now which have resulted in salinity concerns.
- Landowners are using soil differently than in the past.
- Province doesn't enforce some of the laws.
- Roads can create salinity problems.

Solutions:

- Promote forage production/rotation.
- Need a plan for drainage.
- Use local knowledge.
- Need to determine and map recharge areas.
- Need to understand the system.
- Homework needs to be done before making legislation.
- Education
- Get rid of water first to reduce salinity.

Water Quantity – Sustainable Water Management (10)

Why is it a Problem?

- Too much for short periods of time and too little for the rest of the year.
- Increased demand for water.
- Too little water for farmyards / humans / livestock.
- Some people haul water.
- In the drought year's water supply is a problem.
- Municipal wells are under stress.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Problem occurs between Hartney and Deloraine and in the NE part of Cameron.
- Problem is spotty with some pockets of gravel existing.

Solutions:

- Retention (small dams, off-stream storage structures).
- Rural water pipeline.
- More tank loads are needed.

Water Quality (Surface and Groundwater) (10)

Why is it a Problem?

- Nitrate levels are high in some areas.
- Water quality is fine in the eastern part of the R.M. of Cameron.

Solutions:

- Find old wells and seal those that are abandoned.

Education (Lack of Education) (8)

Why is it a Problem?

- Declining rural population is resulting in a declining rural voice.
- Local people are doing things necessary to maintain quality of land - don't give control to government.
- Local people want to look after the local area.
- Lack of respect / understanding at the government level.
- Use incentives / education rather than legislation.

Solutions:

- Be pro-active.
- Educate urban audience and government as to what is being done.
- Education programs should start in school.
- Schools often get the urban point of view.
- Education is an ongoing process. You always need to re-educate.

Riparian Management (Managing the Waters Edge) (5)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to educate landowners on proper management of riparian areas.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Along the Souris River, small creeks and small lakes.

Solution:

- Should have benchmark measurements to create report card.
- Education programs for producers.
- Need to inform them that management improvements often result in increased production (Not exclusion fencing).
- Educate government.
- Cooperate.
- Implement Riparian Health / Water Quality Monitoring programs.
- Take advantage of programs like Living by Water.
- Develop a state of the watershed report.

Decreased Soil Fertility (1)

Why is it a Problem?

- Decreased soil fertility has resulted in increased use of fertilizer.
- Much of the nutrients have been used up.
- Cropping practices may change in the future.

Solutions:

- Seeding deep rooted crops.
- Testing for organic matter.

- Soil testing (don't over or under apply fertilizer) – results from tests vary which can be a problem.

Look at the Whole Area (0)

Why is it a Problem?

- Have to find a balance for all.
- Local people know area best act in a unified way.
- Rural areas are affected as a whole e.g. BSE.

Politics (0)

- There are politics at every level which makes issues difficult to deal with.

Soil Erosion (Water) (0)

Why is it a Problem?

- It is a problem because of more land drainage.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Along the Souris River or in the last half mile prior to reaching the Souris River.
- Zero-tillage has addressed much of the wind erosion concerns.

Solution:

- Slow water down.
- Control drainage.
- Promote Zero-tillage.

Melita – November 16

6 people in attendance

Due to the limited number of individuals in attendance, issues were not ranked and individuals filled out questionnaires and some discussion was held.

Drainage

Why is it a Problem?

- It is a problem due to increased drainage activities along the Waskada Creek, Medora Creek and Souris River.
- Some parts of major creeks have been maintained while others have been ignored (e.g. lower end of Waskada Creek in the Blind Souris).
- Some areas get flooded at the lower ends of the waterways.
- It contributes to salinity.

Where is the problem occurring?

- The problem occurs along the bottom end of Waskada and Medora Creeks.

Solution:

- Cleaning out these drains can help with the problem.

Water Quality

Why is it a Problem?

- Some people have concerns with their well water quality.
- Water quality is generally good in the Souris River; however there is a problem with algae in the Souris River.

Solution:

- There should be a program designed to compensate farmers for leaving sloughs.
- These areas are important for wildlife and for water quality.

Water Storage

Why is it a Problem?

- This area is chronically dry.

Solution:

- Could build a big dam on the Souris River to address the issue.

Salinity

Why is it a Problem?

- It is a problem due to poor drainage.
- Salinity is a big concern.
- Foxtail barley is becoming a big concern in the saline areas.

Where is the problem occurring?

- The problem is really bad in the Medora area.
- The problem is occurring in road side ditches.

Solution:

- Improvements to the drainage system could resolve the problem.
- Could use up water through forage production.

- Need a plan to seed these patches as many farmers are focused on getting their crop in and a seeding service by the TMCD may be well received.
- Need to seed more than just the saline area.
- Demonstration sites could be very useful.
- The R.M. of Arthur would like to see the road allowance seeding program re-instated as it helped with addressing salinity in the ditches and it was important to the R.M.

Flooding

Why is it a Problem?

- Flooding of agricultural land is a problem along the Souris River, and although you can't stop it, it would be nice if you could get rid of the water quicker.

Lack of Sufficient Water for Farmyards – Drought Proofing the area.

Why is it a Problem?

- There is a shortage of water on farms.
- Government seems to be committed to drought proofing the area.

Solution:

- The problem could be addressed with a rural water pipeline.
- The pipeline was a good idea and still may be an option.
- Looking at a possible source by Tilston.
- There is a hidden valley between Tilston and Pierson.

River Flows

Why is it a Problem?

- River has silted in with dead trees.
- Put pressure on government to resolve problem.
- The Souris River is a provincial responsibility.
- We need to have a stronger voice in order to get action.
- Erosion is a problem along the Souris River due to the high flows it erodes the banks.
- Snyder and Ross Dams – old dams that need repairs, however they may not be able to be replaced due to concerns by DFO.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Problem is occurring along treed areas and through the Sand Hills.

Term of TMCD Board members

Why is it a Problem?

- Personality and conflict between ratepayers and board members often happen.
- New ideas could come about with a change in the Board.

Solution:

- Could have a term on how long a member could sit on the main TMCD Board.

General Comments regarding wind erosion and shelterbelts:

- Wind erosion is not as much of a concern now as it was in the past with zero-tillage practices.
- Although wind erosion is less of a concern, shelterbelts are important for crop protection during hot windy days.

- Although the demand for shelterbelts is low at the time, maybe demand and need will increase over time.

Souris – November 17

8 people in attendance

(Participants did not rank the issues, however the ones marked with *** were considered high priorities).

*****Drainage Licensing**

- Poorly dealt with by government.
- Lack of support/interest for agricultural producers.
- Lack of a local say in the process.
- Costly for CD's to be involved in studies which take away from on the ground projects.
- ***- Local people are often ignored by the Province.

*****Water Quality Monitoring (Surface and Groundwater)**

- Testing water quality in creeks and surface sources is important.
- Can use data to determine best practices to achieve goals for program delivery.
- Can use data to determine problems/sources.
- Need to develop a testing program in the study area as you can't apply data from another area.
- Need to get CD employees out in the field during water testing to improve visibility and build landowner relationships.

*****Problem with R.M.'s not being involved in CD's**

- Not looking at the whole sub-watershed.
- This is an issue in the Elgin Creek sub-watershed (R.M. of Whitewater)
- Reinforces the necessity for R.M.'s currently in CD's to stay involved with CD's.

Poor Vision for the TMCD

- Some landowners feel that the TMCD is anti-agriculture.
- They are not sure what the TMCD does and the programs it offers.

Education

- Need to educate the people about the issues and possible solutions.

Lack of trust by CD's that they will keep data confidential

- Many landowners are sceptical about allowing CD's to conduct soil tests etc. as they fear the data won't be kept confidential.

Salinity

- Caused by poor drainage.

Intensity of Flows in Creeks

- This is mainly a problem in the Elgin Creek sub-watershed.

From Handout Sheet

Culvert pipes too high in roads

- Holds water in ditches, low areas and sloughs. Results in worsening salinity problems.
- Problem is occurring in the R.M.'s of Cameron, Whitewater and Morton.
- Pipes should be lowered to correct (laser surveyed) level.

Natural Resources / MB Water Stewardship are reluctant to allow drainage.

- Drainage programs are started and then stopped / blocked. Resulting in large (25%) amounts of land lost for agricultural purposes.
- Problem is occurring in the R.M.'s of Cameron, Whitewater and Morton.
- Right to farm legislation. Must be able to drain farm land.

Less not more government

- More organizations, ministers and government = more red tape, less progress and much more frustration.
- Problem is occurring in the R.M.'s of Cameron, Whitewater and Morton.

Waskada – December 1

27 people in attendance

Attendees were each given five votes to identify priority issues. Votes could be cast entirely for one issue or a combination of votes could be cast for various issues.

Drainage / Licensing (20)

Why is it a Problem?

- Too much and too little.
- Flat areas drain too slow and steeper areas drain too fast.
- Weather in recent years has caused problems.
- Government regulation with licensing.
- Licensing is more red tape for farmers to deal with. Often lengthy to get approvals.
- Government often takes the “do nothing approach” with enforcement.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Problem is occurring in the Waskada Creek sub-watershed.

Solution:

- Need to determine the capacity of the major creeks.
- Require better planning by the watershed to deal with drainage.
- There should be an appeal process for landowners if drainage licenses are turned down, and arbitration should be explored.

Salinity (12)

Why is it a Problem?

- Caused by a lack of drainage, road construction, and unnaturally trapped water.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Problem is occurring throughout the entire Waskada Creek sub-watershed.

Solution:

- Seeding some saline areas down to forage may help address the problem.

Creek Maintenance (12)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to look after the area when it is built.
- There is not enough money to maintain the creeks.
- Can lead to poor water quality.
- Agriculture land tends to get flooded when the creek isn't maintained.
- Snow blockage is a problem.
- Municipal waste discharge causes water problems along Medora Creek.
- Increased cattail growth is a problem.
- Water moves slowly in the flats.
- Problem is often moved downstream if there isn't wise investment to complete projects and have a good maintenance plan.

Where is the problem occurring?

- This is a regional problem.

Solution:

- Need a priority plan for maintenance “mowing”.

Aquifer / Water Development (11)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to determine the source of water is for the Waskada Aquifer.
- More data on the aquifer is required.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Waskada Aquifer

Solution:

- Test drilling should be conducted for new supplies (e.g. Pierson Buried Valley)
- Data on monitoring wells should be distributed to the public to inform them of water levels in the Waskada aquifer.
- There seems to be a lack of concern for a drop in the water table, especially by government officials.
- Need to determine recharge areas.
- Proposed SW rural water pipeline and other potential supply options need further consideration.

Projects ½ Completed (6)

Why is it a Problem?

- TMCD should complete unfinished projects.
- Projects should be maintained.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Downstream of Waskada along Waskada Creek.

Solution:

- Improved planning to ensure that sufficient funds are available to complete projects.
- Scheduling of projects should be improved.

Water Storage (6)

Why is it a Problem?

- This is a water deficit region.

Solution:

- Should look at potential storage sites (could be off-channel or in-channel).
- Need a general balance of storing water for potential use in the future.
- Water could be used for recreation, irrigation, livestock, recharging dugouts, fish farms and other industry.

Funding (5)

Why is it a Problem?

- More money is required to maintain the major creeks that handle much of the water flow (e.g. Waskada Creek).
- Is there a new definition on “conservation” regarding what the CD works on?
- Don't forget to focus on farmland.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (4)

Why is it a Problem?

- Lack of common sense rules, too bureaucratic.

Water Quality (4)

Why is it a Problem?

- Contamination is occurring in shallow wells.
- More chemicals and pesticides are used.
- Hard to fence out waterways (e.g. flat areas along the Souris River).
- Need more testing to determine the quality of water.
- Better manure management is occurring.

“Right to Farm” Legislation (3)

- Government set aside programs are needed for compensation.
- “Ecological Services Concept”.

Need to Review the Shelterbelt Programs and possibly others (2)

- With the boundary re-alignment in the R.M. of Arthur and Cameron, there may be less need for shelterbelts in the TMCD.
- Shelterbelts around Lyleton need work (area is in the WSRCD).

Turnover on the TMCD Board (2)

Solution:

- Encourages new ideas with new people.
- Could limit each member to 2 years.

Invasive Species (0)

Why is it a Problem?

- Milkweed and leafy spurge are a concern.

Where is the problem occurring?

- Problem is occurring north of Medora.

Solution:

- Weed District is aware of the problem, which may be an area they could focus on.

Souris River (0)

Why is it a Problem?

- Sedimentation is occurring and nothing is being done for maintenance along the riverbanks.
- Need to determine the amount of sedimentation in the river and if they are increasing.
- Is the Souris River Province’s responsibility.
- Bad odours occurred in the Souris River flats for approximately 10-15 days, need to check into what is causing this problem.

Deloraine – December 2

19 people in attendance

Attendees were each given five votes to identify priority issues. Votes could be cast entirely for one issue or a combination of votes could be cast for various issues.

Lack of Maintenance on Creeks that the TMCD focused on in the past / Salinity. (30)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to determine ownership of the creeks as well as maintenance responsibilities of the landowners, CD etc.
- Is there a plan to maintain these creeks?
- What is the role of the TMCD in the management of Medora, Waskada and the South Border Creek?

Solution:

- Maybe decisions on maintenance should be made by an unbiased 3rd party.
- May need to consider dredging, mowing and burning of the creeks.
- Need to consider an integrated approach to management.
- Should look at culvert sizing.
- Need a more planned approach.
- Need to set up a system and fund it.
- Need to look at separate government funding for creek maintenance.

Drainage (10)

Why is it a Problem?

- Lack of a plan or there is no plan at all.
- Red River Valley has such a drainage focus with large costs and very little money is available for this area.
- Where is the balance on control / authority to influence “good” land and water management?
- Often it is “one landowner” versus the team approach.

Solution:

- Need to look at the whole system.
- Local ownership and implementation of a plan depends on multi-landowner cooperation to make plan succeed. (most land is privately owned.
- Could look at other incentives to the landowner for water storage.
- Could look at a municipal tax credit for those interested in storing water. Credit could be based on the storage on a per day or per week basis.

Water Quantity (6)

Why is it a Problem?

- Problem of too much water for short periods of time and too little for most of the year.
- Need to ensure that the water is of sufficient quality for tankloads.

Solution:

- Need to look at more storage areas.
- Storage areas could be off channel structures.
- Could look at dams and backflows.

- The is opportunity for more new projects.
- Could look at all areas.
- Need to take the systems approach, which is tied to upstream creek management.
- Need to determine if headwater dams are feasible.
- Is the role of the CD to deliver a broad small dams program or should it be targeted.
- Need to have a plan. Could store water in the headwaters and release for downstream use.

Payments for Ecological Services to landowners (5)

- ALUS concept (Alternate Land Use Services)
- Could be a role of the CD to coordinate.
- Need for a community plan.
- Potential new revenue.
- It is a reward for good land stewardship.
- Could determine landowner interest for a program like this.

Urban Responsibility for Nutrient Reduction (5)

Why is it a Problem?

- Often the urban citizens blame the farmers, when they are also contributors to the nutrient issue.
- Rural people are burdened to keep the city clean.
- Need to have a balance.

Promote landuse practices that support infiltration for water quality and other benefits. (4)

Why is it a Problem?

- Need to look at infiltration to solve water problems, not just draining to rid areas of excess water.
- Should be a plank in the Board plan.
- Compliments other programs.

More funds should go to the grass roots (i.e. sub-district). (4)

Why is it a Problem?

- Less funding has been available for water related projects.
- Sub-District budgets have been reduced over time.

Solution:

- More Board funds should go to the sub-districts.
- Require more provincial funds for CD's.

Shelterbelts (Field) (4)

Why is it a Problem?

- Many shelterbelts are aging.
- Increased money is required to trim / maintain.
- Maintenance is an issue with the cleaning up of existing belts.
- How can existing belts be kept?

Solution:

- Maybe landowners that have field belts should be compensated due to the amount of effort required to maintain them and work around them with equipment.

External Funding Opportunities for Native Habitat (3)

- Maybe funding should be pursued to conserve native habitat.
- It may be better to focus on retaining native habitat rather than establishing habitat through the planting shelterbelts.

Water Quality (3)

Why is it a Problem?

- Agricultural practices are contributing chemicals and fertilizers.

Solution:

- Need to consider the quality of surface and groundwater sources.
- Should establish benchmark data for water quality.
- Riparian management programs may help with water quality.

Deforestation of the Turtle Mountains (3)

Why is it a Problem?

- “Proper” management is needed.
- A study may be needed.

Solution:

- Reforestation opportunities may exist to a variety of establish trees.
- Possible outside funding (MHHC) for the development of woodlot management plans.

Landowner Responsibility on CD projects (1)

Why is it a Problem?

- Landowners must be committed to meeting their responsibilities on a project (i.e. fencing out small dams).
- Is there any legal authority with CD agreements?

Solution:

- Need to define the terms of the agreement with the landowner upfront.