



# **FISHER RIVER INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This document presents the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Fisher River Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). The TOR will include the following information:

- A summary of background information;
- A description of the principles of integrated watershed management;
- An outline of the questions the plan will answer;
- A description of the planning area;
- An overview of the watershed;
- The roles, responsibility and accountability of those who will be involved;
- A review of guiding policy and legislation;
- The potential linkages to other planning initiatives;
- A proposed schedule and budget for the planning process;
- A strategy for shared implementation; and
- A strategy to monitor and evaluate the plan's success.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Province of Manitoba and the East Interlake Conservation District (EICD) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 19, 2009 to designate the EICD as the Water Planning Authority (WPA) for the development of the Fisher River IWMP. This MOU outlines the broad responsibilities for both parties in the development of the Fisher River IWMP (Appendix A).

An IWMP is a document that outlines actions to address priority land and water resource issues on a watershed scale. An IWMP strives to assist residents, stakeholders and all levels of government in making responsible decisions on how to conserve, protect and improve water resources, drinking water sources and aquatic ecosystems.

The EICD is located along the western shores of Lake Winnipeg and includes the Rural Municipalities of Armstrong, Bifrost, Fisher, Gimli, Rockwood, Rosser, and St. Andrews, West St. Paul, Woodlands, the City of Selkirk, the towns of Arborg, Stonewall, Teulon and Winnipeg Beach, and the villages of Dunnottar and Riverton. The mandate of the EICD is "to promote the sustainable use and management of land and water resources within the East Interlake region of Manitoba."

In September of 2011, the EICD began to form a Project Management Team (PMT) to initiate the planning process for the Fisher River IWMP. The PMT acts as the secretariat to the WPA and guides the overall management and development of the plan.

## **PRINCIPLES OF INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

<b>Mutual Dependence</b>	Water, land and related resources are interdependent and must be managed as such.
<b>Accountability</b>	Each of us is responsible for the social, economic and environmental consequences of our decisions and accountable for our actions.
<b>Transparency</b>	Actions must be based on relevant information, and team members must use an accessible, open and informed decision making process.
<b>Respect</b>	All interactions must be fair and respectful and provide for an environment for sharing ideas and solutions. Everyone has an important role.
<b>Balance and Integration</b>	Consideration of social, economic and environmental costs and benefits must be an integral part of all decision making.
<b>Be Local</b>	Watershed management and planning will provide forums that will encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in decision making.
<b>Coordinated and Cooperative Efforts</b>	Coordinated and cooperative efforts are needed among all government and non-government interests.
<b>Recognition</b>	There must be recognition of existing rights, treaties, agreements and obligations in all decision making.
<b>Transition Takes Time</b>	Sustainability is a journey that requires constant feedback, learning and adjustment. In the short-term, the elements of sustainability may not always be in balance.
<b>Commitment</b>	Watershed management requires a long-term commitment, with continual adaptation and modification based on information provided by regular monitoring and updates.
<b>Support</b>	Actions require resources. Support for the planning process extends beyond meeting participation, and is best shown through action on the ground.

## **THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS WE WANT THE PLAN TO ANSWER**

- 1) What are the priority water issues in our watershed?
- 2) How can we improve our decision making processes on water issues to be more transparent, accountable, recognize and respect Aboriginal and inherent rights of First Nation peoples and consider local, traditional and eco-based knowledge?
- 3) How can we raise awareness with watershed residents and stakeholders to prevent future water quality and management issues?
- 4) What is the quality of our drinking water and what can we do to protect and improve it?
- 5) What is the quality of our surface water and aquatic ecosystems and what can we do to protect and improve it?
- 6) What are feasible solutions to address flooding concerns in communities along the Fisher River and throughout the agricultural community?
- 7) Where are the best locations in the watershed to retain and manage the flow of water?
- 8) Where are the best locations to protect important natural or sensitive areas from future development?
- 9) What are the limitations/capabilities of our watershed and how can we make residents aware of these factors?

## PLANNING AREA

The Fisher River watershed, also known as watershed 05SD, is located in the north-eastern portion of Manitoba's Interlake region. As shown in Figure 1, the Fisher River watershed includes Fisher River Cree Nation, Peguis First Nation, and portions of the Rural Municipalities of Fisher, Bifrost, Grahamdale and Eriksdale, as well as, many communities located in unorganized territory.

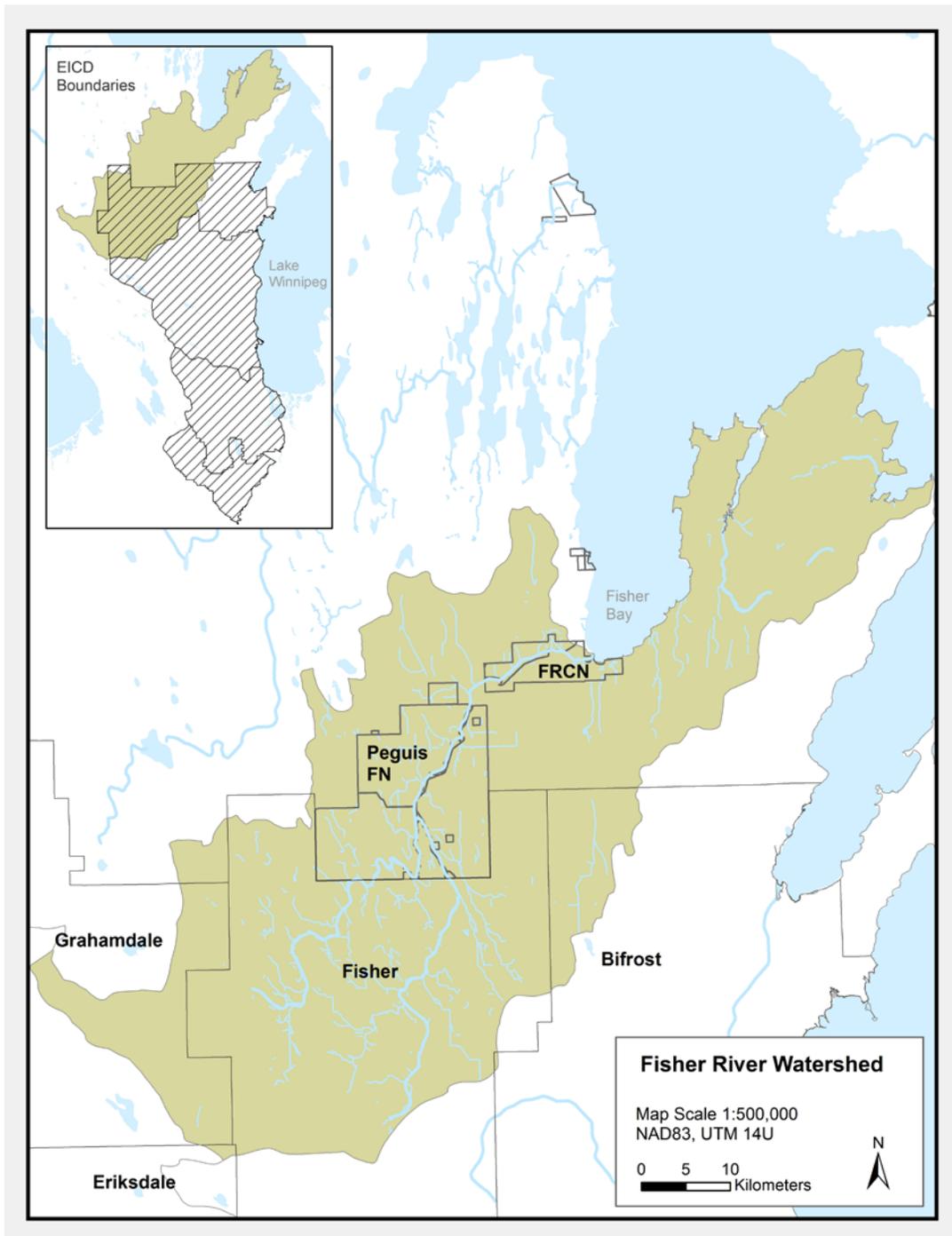


Figure 1: Fisher River watershed

## WATERSHED OVERVIEW

The Fisher River watershed is located in the north-eastern portion of Manitoba's Interlake region. The watershed includes Fisher River Cree Nation, Peguis First Nation, and portions of the Rural Municipalities of Fisher, Bifrost, Grahamdale and Eriksdale, as well as, many communities located in unorganized territory. The Fisher River watershed is located adjacent to Lake Winnipeg, the 10<sup>th</sup> largest body of freshwater in the world, and is part of the second largest watershed system in Canada, the Lake Winnipeg watershed. The Fisher River watershed has a drainage area of approximately 3,150 km<sup>2</sup>.

The Fisher River flows north-eastward through the Rural Municipality of Fisher, Peguis First Nation and Fisher River Cree Nation into Lake Winnipeg at Fisher Bay. The two branches of the Fisher River join together within the Peguis Reserve north of Provincial Road 325. The east branch of the river is called the East Fisher River, whereas, the west branch is locally known as the Fisher River.

The Fisher River watershed is home to approximately 8,500 people and includes high quality and marginal agricultural land, a thriving commercial fishing industry and an abundance of natural habitat including forests and wetlands. Peguis First Nation is the largest First Nation community in Manitoba, with a population of over 7,200 band members of Ojibway and Cree descent, of which approximately 3,000 live on-reserve. Peguis consists of nine reserves, of which not all are located within the Fisher River watershed. Fisher River Cree Nation is composed of two reserves with a population of over 3,000 band members of Cree descent, of which approximately 1,700 live on-reserve.

The topography of the watershed is such that the highest point is in the south-west, with the land sloping north-eastward towards Lake Winnipeg. Elevation ranges from a high of 292.1 metres above sea level (masl) in the south-western corner of the watershed down to 217.4 masl in the eastern region along the shoreline of Fisher Bay. The average slope is approximately one metre per kilometre.

Drinking water is withdrawn from a major fresh water aquifer, known as the Carbonate aquifer. The Carbonate aquifer is highly productive and consists of limestone and dolostone inter-layered with several impermeable layers which act as a barrier to water movement. The Carbonate aquifer is underlain by a shale and sandstone aquifer known as the Winnipeg Formation. The Winnipeg Formation is also a productive aquifer; however, water quality tends to be saline. In terms of surface geology, much of the watershed is characterized as offshore glaciolacustrine sediments containing mostly silt and clay material and some deposits of sand and organic material.

As shown in Figure 2, land cover data is only available for the southern region of the watershed. Agriculture plays an important but lesser role to other land cover categories such as trees, water and wetlands.

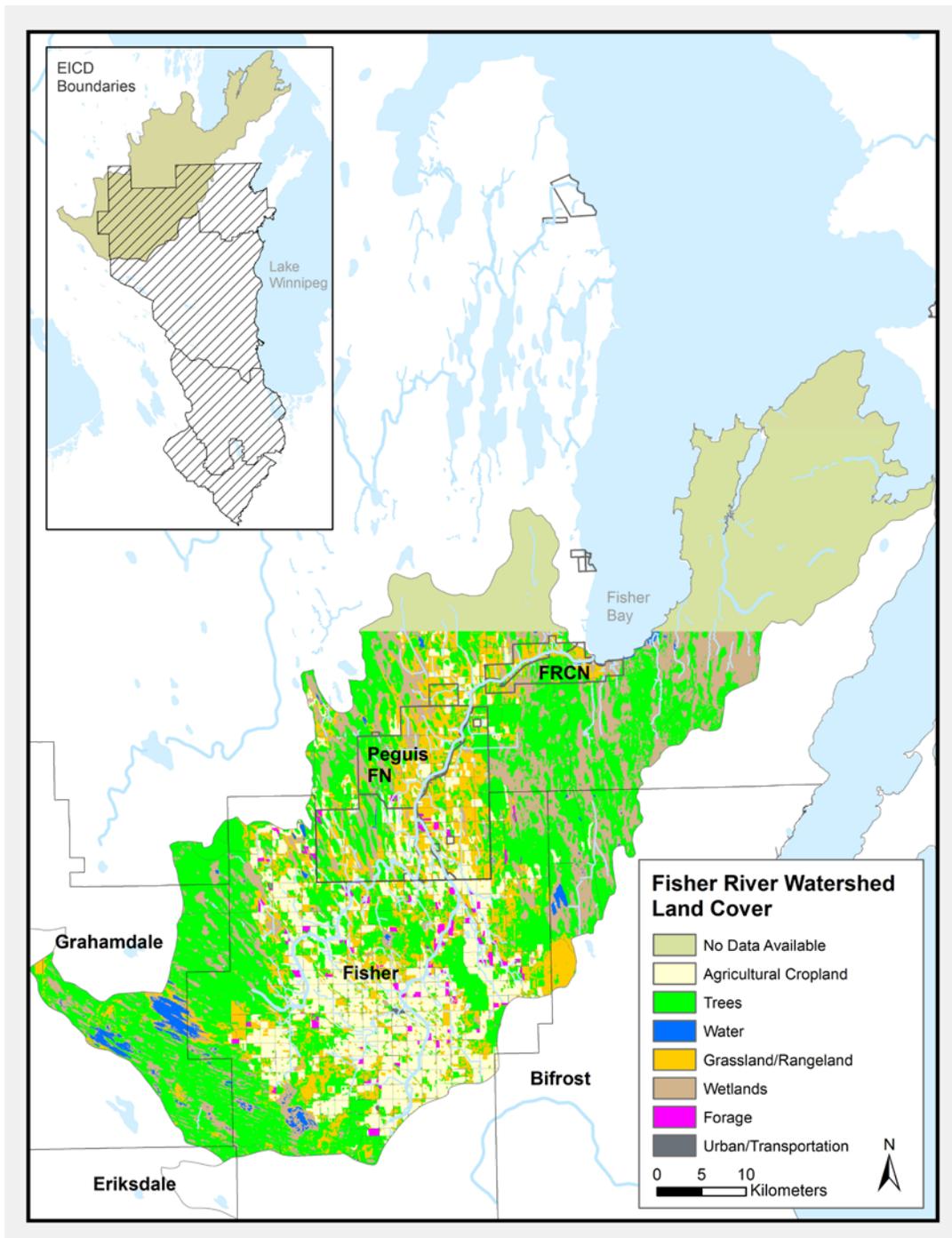


Figure 2: Land Cover

## SOILS

The majority of soil in this watershed has moderate to severe limitations to crop production classified as Class 3 to 6 as shown in Figure 3. Much of the watershed contains soil types that naturally drain imperfectly or poorly.

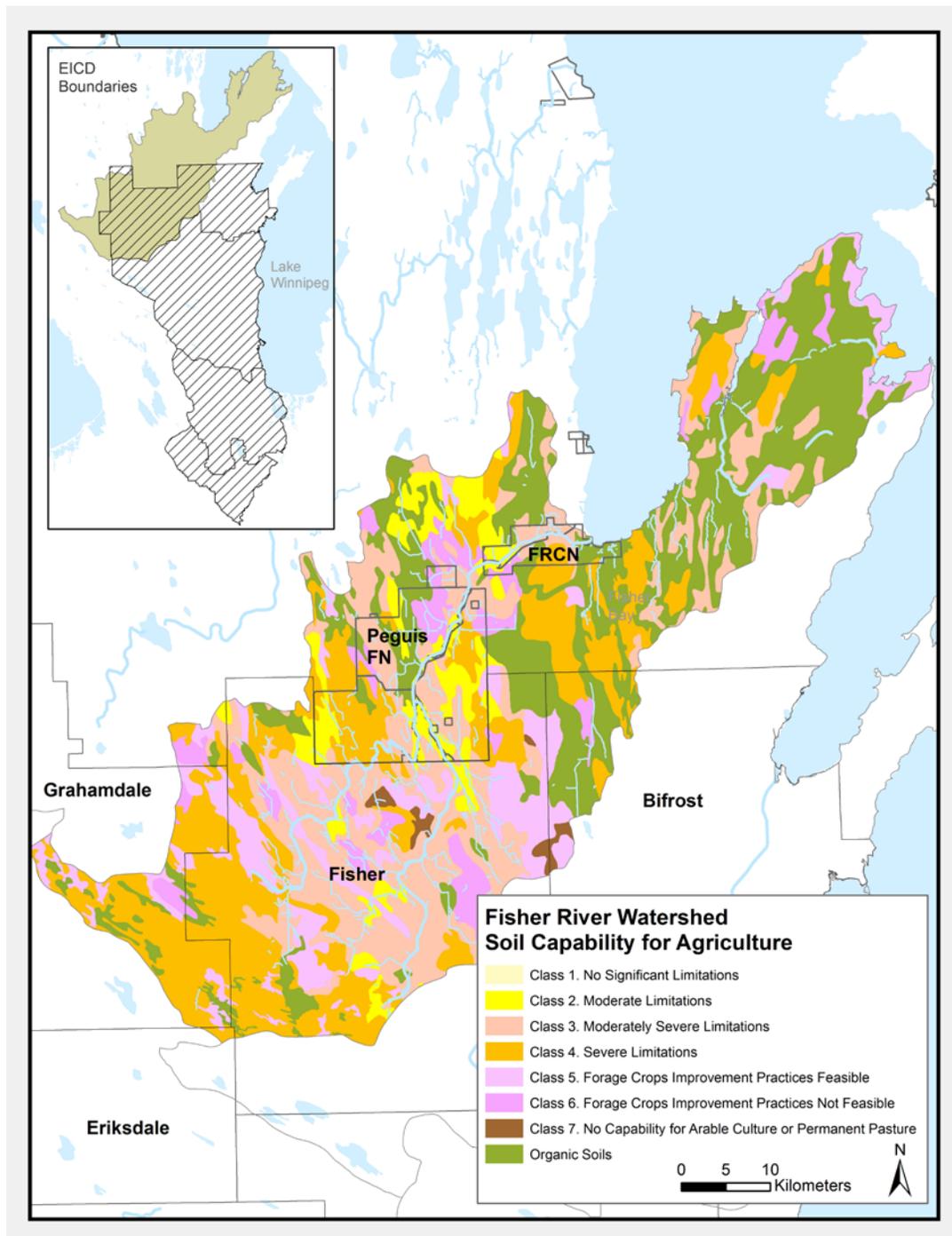


Figure 3: Soil Capability for Agriculture

## **PARTICIPANTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### WATER PLANNING AUTHORITY (WPA)

The Water Planning Authority is the organization deemed responsible for the development of an integrated watershed management plan in accordance with the *Water Protection Act* for a specific watershed. Through a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Province of Manitoba on March 19, 2009, the EICD became the WPA for the Fisher River watershed (Appendix A).

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM (PMT)

The Project Management Team is the secretariat to the WPA and act as the `key decision makers` as they guide the overall management and development of the plan.

Responsibilities include:

- a. Identify a chairperson to plan and chair meetings, lead discussions and be a spokesperson for the group;
- b. Attend regular meetings (approximately twelve meetings per year for up to three years throughout plan development, followed by annual meetings for up to ten years throughout plan implementation)
- c. Coordinate all plan related meetings and advertising;
- d. Provide direction to the EICD manager and watershed planner;
- e. Establish a Watershed Team;
- f. Manage the budget and plan schedule;
- g. Record and distribute meeting minutes to the WPA;
- h. Engage participation and interest from the watershed community;
- i. Collect and compile all information submissions, technical reports and consultation inputs;
- j. Ensure adherence to the Terms of Reference and *The Water Protection Act*;
- k. Write and edit the plan;
- l. Facilitate a plan review process (including a public review process);
- m. Develop a communications strategy to inform watershed residents of the IWMP and planning process;
- n. Measure and evaluate the plan's implementation, and;
- o. Complete other tasks as required.

Membership includes:

- Two representatives from WPA including one board member and the manager;
- A Watershed Planner from Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship;
- One representative from the RM of Fisher;
- One representatives from Peguis First Nation
- One representative from Fisher River Cree Nation; and
- One representative from the community of Dallas Red Rose.

## WATERSHED TEAM (WT)

The Watershed Team is a large group (~30 people) comprised of representatives from organizations with background scientific, traditional and local knowledge, of which many have a specialization in certain field of land, water, agriculture and natural resource management. The Watershed Team is expected to provide an overview of existing information to facilitate stakeholder discussions and understanding of the watershed, as well as, identify assets, issues, assess options, and provide recommendations to address specific watershed issues. Membership should include, but is not limited to:

- Members of the Project Management Team
- Provincial Government Departments (Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural initiatives, etc.)
- Federal Government Departments (Environment Canada, Indian Northern Affairs Canada, etc.)
- First Nations
- Rural Municipalities
- Planning Districts or land-use planning groups

## RURAL MUNICIPAL AND BAND COUNCILS

The final draft plan will be reviewed and receive signatures from rural municipalities and band councils prior to submitting the plan for approval from the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship.

## MINISTER OF CONSERVATION AND WATER STEWARDSHIP

As identified in the *Water Protection Act*, the WPA must submit its IWMP to the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship for approval. Upon receiving a proposed plan, the Minister may refer it to the Manitoba Water Council for review and comment prior to plan approval.

## **GUIDING POLICIES AND LEGISLATION**

Manitoba's vision for water is "The best water for all life and lasting prosperity". Striving to attain this vision, Manitoba has undertaken many water related initiatives including the review and consolidation of existing water legislation. As a result, Manitoba developed *The Water Protection Act* which was proclaimed in January of 2006. The purpose of *The Water Protection Act* is to provide for the protection and stewardship of Manitoba's water resources and aquatic ecosystems.

Part 3 of *The Water Protection Act* (Appendix B) relates to watershed management and planning. It describes the designation, role and responsibilities of a WPA, required content of an integrated watershed management plan, required consultations, process for plan approval and amendments, establishment and purpose of the Water Stewardship Fund, and the establishment, role and responsibilities of the Manitoba Water Council. Further, it identifies the importance of developing plans to address land drainage and flood control, protect drinking water sources, and identify ways that the plan can be implemented, monitored and evaluated.

## **LINKAGES TO OTHER PLANNING INITIATIVES**

The Fisher River IWMP is the forth and final integrated watershed management plan being developed by the EICD as the Icelandic River – Washow Bay Creek IWMP was completed in 2010, the Netley-Grassmere IWMP was completed in 2011 and the Willow Creek IWMP is scheduled to be completed in 2012. Efforts will be made to complement and link actions in this plan to the actions in these other three watershed plans for ease of implementation.

Also, there are two Planning Districts located within the Fisher River watershed, the Fisher-Armstrong Planning District and the Eastern Interlake Planning District, as well as, other land-use planning groups for unorganized territory and First Nation lands. The PMT recognizes the close linkage between the Fisher River IWMP and these local development plans and land-use planning groups. The PMT will work with these groups to ensure future development in the watershed occurs in a sustainable manner.

## **SCHEDULE**

The planning process occurs on a ten-year cycle and is organized into three phases – pre-planning, plan development and plan implementation. There will be three check-points throughout plan development to ensure members of the PMT and the councils they represent are in agreement before proceeding to the next step in the planning process.

### **PHASE 1 - PRE-PLANNING**

#### Activities

- Designate a Water Planning Authority (completed March 2009)
- Form a balanced Project Management Team (completed October 2011)
- Develop a Terms of Reference (completed February 2012)

**CHECK POINT 1: Receive endorsement from all councils on the Terms of Reference.**

### **PHASE 2 - PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

#### Activities

- Engage watershed residents to gain an understanding of watershed priorities
- Collect and compile scientific, traditional and local knowledge
- Hold at least one meeting with the Watershed Team

**CHECK POINT 2: Receive endorsement from all councils on the watershed priorities that will form the framework of the plan.**

#### Activities Continued...

- Complete source water assessments for all public drinking water systems
- Develop a surface water management strategy
- Draft the plan and edit as necessary
- Review the draft plan with the WPA, Watershed Team, Provincial Branches and Departments, Rural Municipal and Band Councils and the watershed residents
- Compile a final draft plan

#### **CHECK POINT 3: Receive endorsement from all councils on the final draft plan prior to submitting the plan for approval.**

- Submit the plan to Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship
- Once plan is approved, print a minimum of 500 copies
- Promote the plan to watershed residents and stakeholders

#### PHASE 3 - PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

##### Activities

- Implement the IWMP
- Monitor and evaluate the progress of implementation annually
- Revisit and revise IWMP

## **BUDGET**

The Province of Manitoba provides a watershed planning grant of \$25,000 to the WPA to cover the costs associated with plan development. Eligible expenses for this planning grant are outlined in the MOU in Appendix A. This grant funding is not to be used to implement the plan actions.

The Province of Manitoba, federal government departments, local government, First Nation communities and many other stakeholders provide significant in-kind support throughout the development of the plan. The EICD also provides significant financial and technical assistance throughout the planning process including remuneration expenses for PMT members.

A draft plan budget is outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: Plan Budget**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Meetings (room rental, refreshments, etc.)	Project Management Team and Watershed Team meetings	\$4,000
	Engaging Watershed Residents	\$3,000
Design and printing	Graphic Design	\$5,000
	Printing Final Plan (minimum of 500 copies)	\$8,000
Promotion and Advertising	May include mail-outs to watershed residents, newspaper advertisements, distribution of final plan, etc.	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$25,000</b>

## **SHARED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

The IWMP is to include an implementation strategy which will outline who is the organization responsible for implementing each action in the plan. This shared implementation strategy will guide and assist stakeholders with the implementation of the plan.

Funding to implement the plan is to be shared by watershed partners. The East Interlake Conservation District receives funding to implement actions in the plan that fall within their mandate through their annual CD operating grant.

## **MONITOR AND EVALUATE PLAN SUCCESS**

Over the ten year planning cycle, the PMT is to monitor the plan's implementation progress on an annual basis. The plan will also include measures of success as a tool to understand improvements made to the health of the watershed.

## ENDORSEMENT

The following partners support the principles of integrated watershed management and agree to work together to develop the Fisher River Integrated Watershed Management Plan and implement the recommendations in the plan that fall within their mandate. The intent of endorsing this document is to gain support and build partnerships and cooperation to assist with the protection, conservation and restoration of water, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources in the Fisher River watershed.

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Harold Foster  
Chair, East Interlake Conservation District  
Reeve, RM of Bifrost

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Date

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Rhonda McDougal  
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

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Date

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David Crate  
Fisher River Cree Nation

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Date

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Glenn Hudson  
Peguis First Nation

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Date

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Richard Hyde  
Reeve, RM of Fisher

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Date

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Diane Price  
Reeve, RM of Grahamdale

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Date

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Barbra Marcynuik  
Mayor, Dallas Red Rose

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Date

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

**DESIGNATION OF WATER PLANNING AUTHORITY**

**FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE**

**FISHER RIVER INTEGRATED WATERSHED**

**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is between:**

**GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA**  
as represented by Manitoba Water Stewardship –  
Watershed Planning and Programs  
(Hereinafter referred to as Manitoba)

and the

**EAST INTERLAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (EICD)**

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**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MOU is to designate a Water Planning Authority for the development of the Fisher River Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

**2. VISION**

The vision is that watershed stakeholders, municipalities and government agencies will work through the planning process cooperatively, identify the priority issues and concerns of all groups, utilize local knowledge and scientific information to develop objectives and actions, reach consensus on funding and implementation, and develop the Fisher River Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

Manitoba realizes that effective and sustainable watershed management must include local involvement in the planning and management of the natural resources and be the shared management responsibility of all stakeholders and watershed residents.

### **3. AGREEMENTS**

#### **Manitoba agrees to:**

1. Designate the East Interlake Conservation District as the Water Planning Authority for the Fisher River watershed as shown in Figure 1 and as authorized by *The Water Protection Act*.
2. Provide a Watershed Planner from Manitoba Water Stewardship – Watershed Planning and Programs to assist with the planning process.
3. Provide a watershed management planning grant of \$25,000 to the East Interlake Conservation District.
4. Provide additional in-kind financial and technical support from other provincial staff through the provision of information necessary for the development of the plan.

#### **East Interlake Conservation District agrees to:**

1. Become the Water Planning Authority for the Fisher River watershed as shown in Figure 1.
2. Play the lead role in the development and implementation of the Fisher River Integrated Watershed Management Plan, with an understanding of the value in developing the plan as a document that identifies and focuses on priorities and provides direction on watershed management efforts and activities over the next 5-10 years.
3. Use the watershed management planning grant of \$25,000 for eligible items and activities as listed in Appendix 1 and return any unexpended funds to the Province at the completion of plan development.
4. Commit financial and staff resources to the planning process and the development of the plan.

#### **Both Parties agree to:**

1. Work together to develop a Terms of Reference for the development of the Fisher River Integrated Watershed Management Plan.
2. Strive to complete the plan within two years from the date the plan is initiated.

3. Provide watershed stakeholders with meaningful opportunities to participate in the planning process.
4. Develop the Fisher River Integrated Watershed Management Plan in accordance with *The Water Protection Act*.

#### 4. DURATION

This MOU becomes effective on the date of signatures below.

This MOU is ongoing unless it is terminated by either Party upon written notice to the other Party.

This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual accord.

Signed:

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The Honourable Christine Melnick  
Minister of Water Stewardship  
Government of Manitoba

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Date

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Wayne Hildebrand, Manager  
Manitoba Water Stewardship  
Watershed Planning and Programs

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Date

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Harold Foster, Chairman  
East Interlake Conservation District

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Date

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Manitoba Water Stewardship - Integrated Watershed Management Planning Grant**

#### Eligible expenses:

- Advertising and promotion directly related to the completion of the plan
- Design, printing and photocopy expenses related to documents developed during the planning process and for discussion at public consultations
- Printing expenses for final plan
- Facilitator or consultant expenses
- Expenses (hall rental, refreshments) associated with hosting meetings

#### Ineligible expenses:

- Water Planning Authority, Project Management Team or Conservation District staff remuneration and salary expenses
- Administrative and operational (general office) expenses
- Assets including office or field equipment

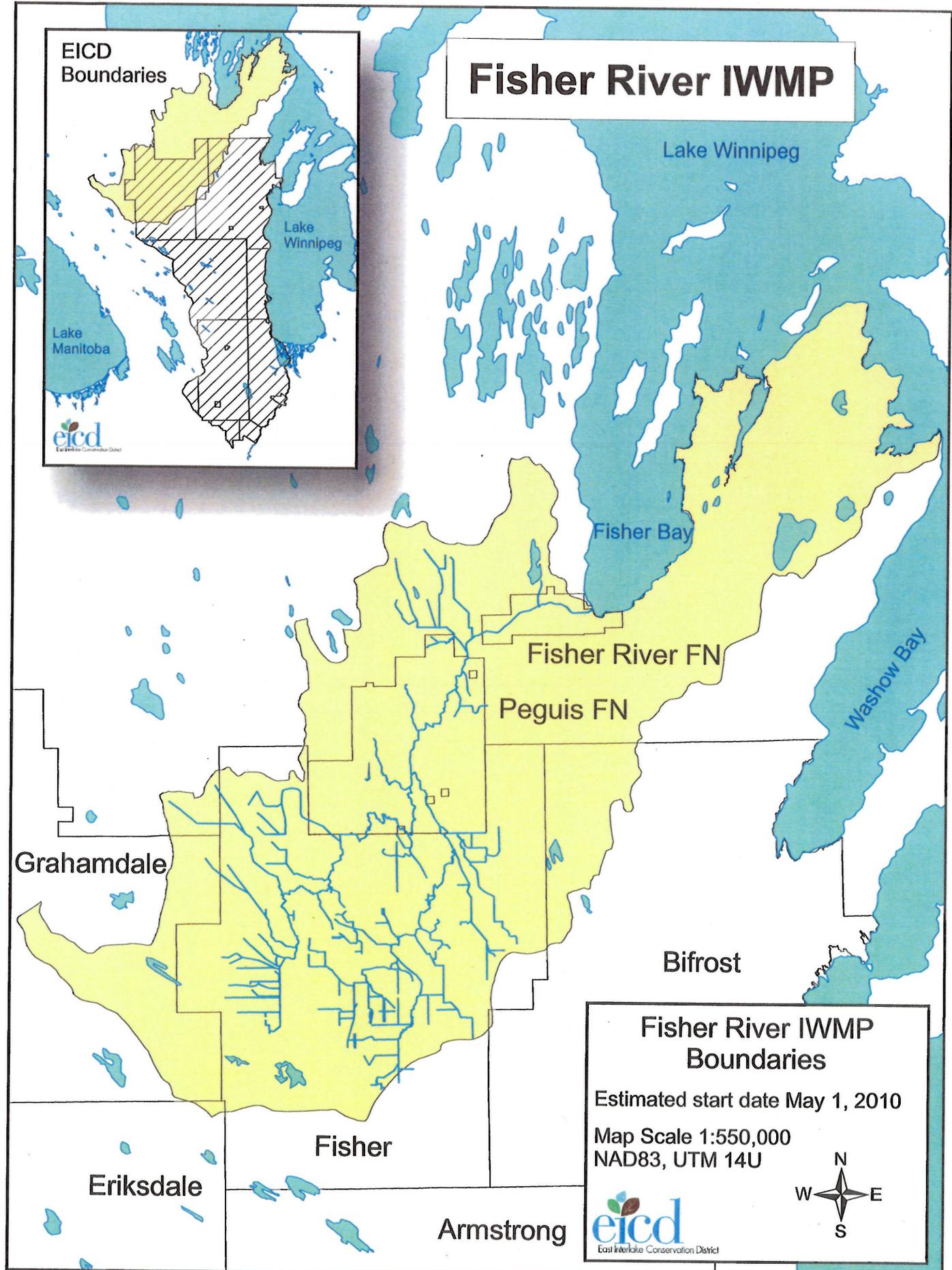
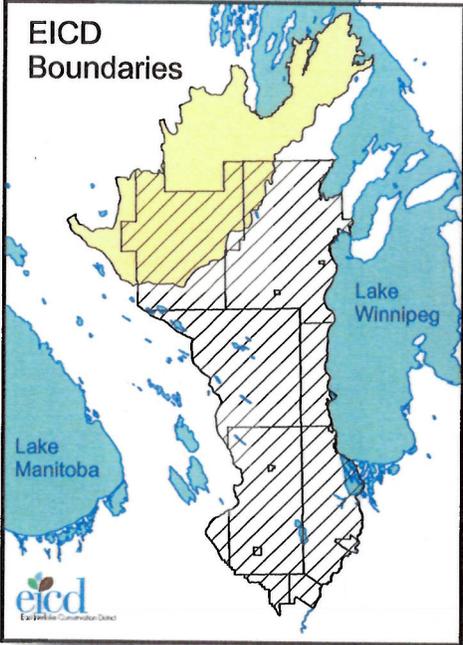
#### Unexpended Funds

- All unexpended funds must be returned to the Province of Manitoba upon completion of plan development

#### Reporting:

- A summary of grant expenditures for the fiscal year must be submitted annually, in April. The report must show all related expenses incurred as a result of the development of the Watershed Management Plan

# Fisher River IWMP



## Fisher River IWMP Boundaries

Estimated start date May 1, 2010

Map Scale 1:550,000  
NAD83, UTM 14U



## **Appendix B – Part 3 of the Water Protection Act**

### C.C.S.M. c. W65 The Water Protection Act

#### **PART 3**

##### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

##### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS**

###### **Designation of watersheds and authorities**

- 14** The Lieutenant Governor in Council may by regulation
- (a) designate a watershed for the purposes of this Act, and specify its boundaries;
  - (b) designate a water planning authority for a watershed, which may be
    - (i) the board of a conservation district,
    - (ii) the board of a planning district,
    - (iii) the council of a municipality,
    - (iv) any other person or entity, or
    - (v) a joint authority consisting of two or more entities or persons described in subclauses (i) to (iv);
  - (c) prescribe the date by which the authority must submit a watershed management plan for approval, terms of reference for the preparation of the plan, and any other terms or conditions that the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary.

###### **Considerations in preparing a plan**

- 15** In preparing a watershed management plan, a water planning authority must consider the following:
- (a) water quality standards, objectives and guidelines that apply to the watershed;
  - (b) whether a water quality management zone is included within any part of the watershed, and if so, any regulations made under section 5 respecting the zone;
  - (c) studies that the authority considers relevant relating to water, land use, demographics, the capacity of the environment to accommodate development, and any other matter related to present or future physical, social or economic factors;
  - (d) comments received through public consultation or public meetings held under section 17;
  - (e) prescribed water management principles;
  - (f) relevant provincial land use policies, development plans, and zoning by-laws;
  - (g) any other information that the authority considers relevant.

###### **Content of a watershed management plan**

- 16(1)** A watershed management plan must
- (a) identify issues relating to the protection, conservation or restoration of water, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources in the watershed;
  - (b) contain objectives, policies and recommendations respecting some or all of the following:
    - (i) the protection, conservation or restoration of water, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources,
    - (ii) the prevention, control and abatement of water pollution, including wastewater and other point-source discharges, and non-point sources of pollution,

- (iii) land drainage and flood control, including the maintenance of land drainage and flood control infrastructure,
  - (iv) activities in water quality management zones, riparian areas, wetlands, flood areas, flood plains and reservoir areas,
  - (v) water demand management, water use practises and priorities, the conservation of water supplies, and the reduction of water use and consumption during droughts and other periods of water shortage,
  - (vi) the supply, distribution, storage and retention of water, including measures to ensure persons in the watershed have access to clean potable water,
  - (vii) emergency preparedness to address spills, accidents and other emergencies that may affect water, an aquatic ecosystem or a drinking water source;
- (c) specify linkages between water management and land use planning so as to facilitate the adoption, in a development plan or other planning instrument, of some or all of the provisions of the watershed management plan; and
- (d) identify ways in which the plan can be implemented, monitored and evaluated, recognizing the need to implement the plan with the assistance of individuals, groups, and organizations.

#### **Additional content**

- 16(2) A watershed management plan may also
- (a) contain maps to assist in its interpretation; and
  - (b) specify a date by which the plan must be reviewed.

#### **Consultation**

- 17(1) In preparing a watershed management plan, the water planning authority must consult with the following:
- (a) if land within the watershed is in a conservation district or planning district, the board of that district;
  - (b) the council of any municipality located wholly or partly within the watershed;
  - (c) any band, as defined in the *Indian Act* (Canada), that has reserve land within the watershed; and
  - (d) any other person or entity specified by the minister.

#### **Public meetings**

- 17(2) The water planning authority must hold one or more public meetings to consult with residents of the watershed on the preparation of the plan.

#### **Plan to be submitted to minister for approval**

- 18 A water planning authority must submit its watershed management plan to the minister for approval.

#### **Referral of plan to the water council**

- 19(1) After receiving a proposed plan, the minister may refer it to the Manitoba Water Council for its review and advice.

#### **Approval of the minister**

- 19(2) If the proposed plan is satisfactory to the minister, the minister may approve it in the form in which the water planning authority submitted it.

#### **Referral of plan back to authority**

- 19(3) If the proposed plan is not satisfactory to the minister, the minister may refer it back to the water planning authority to be revised in accordance with any directions that the minister makes.

#### **Revision of plan**

- 19(4) The water planning authority must revise a proposed plan that is referred back to it in accordance with the minister's directions, and re-submit it to the minister for approval within the time required by the minister.

### **Amending a plan after approval**

20(1) If a water planning authority proposes to make any amendments to an approved plan, it must submit them to the minister for approval.

### **Minister may require amendments**

20(2) In addition, the minister may require a water planning authority to make amendments to an approved plan about any matter the minister specifies, and the authority must prepare the amendments and submit them to the minister for approval.

### **Section 19 applies**

20(3) Section 19 applies to amendments under this section.

### **Notice of an approved plan**

21 The minister must provide notice of the approval or amendment of a watershed management plan in accordance with any requirements specified in the regulations.

### **Periodic review**

22 A water planning authority must review its approved watershed management plan, in accordance with the regulations,

- (a) when directed to do so by the minister; and
- (b) on or before any review date specified in the plan.

Sections 15 to 21 apply to the review of a plan, and its approval, with the necessary changes.

### **Plan to be considered in decision-making**

23 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, require that an approved watershed management plan be considered before a prescribed decision is made or a prescribed approval is issued under this or any other specified Act or regulation.

## **MANITOBA WATER COUNCIL**

### **Manitoba Water Council**

24 The "Manitoba Water Council" is established.

### **Responsibilities of the water council**

- 25 The water council has, subject to the direction of the minister, the following responsibilities:
- (a) to monitor the development and implementation of watershed management plans in the province;
  - (b) to review regulations respecting water quality management zones, and provide advice to the minister;
  - (c) to advise the minister about matters relating to water generally;
  - (d) 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;
  - (e) to assist in reporting sustainability indicators relating to water.

The water council must also perform any other duties assigned to it by an Act or regulation.

### **Members**

26(1) The water council is to consist of at least five members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council are representative of the regional diversity of Manitoba and of local government, agricultural and environmental perspectives.

### **Term of office**

[26\(2\)](#) The term of a member is as specified by the Lieutenant Governor in Council in the appointment, and a member continues to hold office until he or she is reappointed, a successor is appointed or the appointment is revoked.

**Chair and vice-chair**

[26\(3\)](#) The Lieutenant Governor in Council must designate one of the members of the water council as chair and may designate another member as vice-chair.

**Expenses**

[27](#) Each member of the water council may be reimbursed for such reasonable expenses as may be approved by the minister.

**Minister may refer matter to water council**

[28](#) The minister may refer any matter within the water council's responsibilities to the water council. The water council must, in accordance with the terms of reference, consider the matter and give the minister a written report of its findings and recommendations.