



1. Water quality

To protect and enhance our aquatic ecosystems by ensuring that surfacewater and ground water quality is adequate for all designated uses and ecosystem needs.

Policy 1.1 - The “Manitoba Surface Water Quality Objectives” shall be adopted and implemented to protect water uses for Manitobans.

Policy 1.2 - Water quality shall be enhanced through the management of water resources.

Policy 1.3 - Water quality enhancement programs shall be designed to restore environmental quality, as well as deliver economic, cultural, and heritage benefits to Manitobans.

Policy 1.4 - The quality of wastewater discharges shall be improved and non-point sources of pollution decreased to achieve water quality objectives.

Policy 1.5 - Pollution control programs shall be designed in consultation with affected user groups and, where possible, implemented in such a manner as to cause minimum disruption to established land and water uses.

2. Conservation

To conserve and manage the lakes, rivers, and wetlands of Manitoba so as to protect the ability of the environment to sustain life and provide environmental, economic, and aesthetic benefits to existing and future generations.

Policy 2.1 - River, lake, and shoreland habitat and the general environmental, subsistence, and economic values of rivers, lakes, and wetlands shall, where possible, be conserved.

Policy 2.2 - Soil conservation, wetland retention, and the application of appropriate land use practices shall be promoted primarily by the provision of incentives, but with regulation where required, not only as essential elements of water conservation and protection, but also as key measures to reduce siltation impacts, downstream flooding, and non-point source pollution.

Policy 2.3 - Those waterways whose cultural, natural, and/or recreational values are of provincial or national significance shall be given special consideration.

Policy 2.4 - Water retention, and control and timing of runoff, shall be promoted as part of watershed management.

3. Use and allocation

To ensure the long term sustainability of the province’s surface water and ground water for the benefit of all Manitobans.

Policy 3.1 - Economic well being and sustainability shall be the goal in the allocation and utilization of Manitoba’s water resources for consumptive and instream uses.

Policy 3.2 - Water management priorities shall be determined through a basin planning process that takes into account the protection of potable water supplies, environmental integrity, existing commitments, and economic requirements.

Policy 3.3 - Ground water development and utilization shall be managed so that the long term sustainability of aquifers is achieved and existing uses are not negatively impacted.

Policy 3.4 - Surface water shall be managed to ensure sustainability of supplies.

Policy 3.5 - Transfer of untreated water across the Continental Divide (to or from the Hudson Bay drainage area) shall be opposed. Transfers within the Hudson Bay drainage area shall be minimized and only considered after a complete assessment of the environmental, social, and economic impacts on the donor and receiving basins.

4. Water supply

To develop and manage the province’s water resources to ensure that water is available to meet priority needs and to support sustainable economic development and environmental quality.

Policy 4.1 - Demand management programs shall be implemented to conserve water and reduce the requirements for new water supply infrastructure.

Policy 4.2 - Irrigation, industrial, and other development proposals involving direct or indirect water use shall consider impacts on existing and potential water uses as well as impacts on the environment.

Policy 4.3 - The cost of developing, operating, and maintaining the water resource infrastructure shall be apportioned among the beneficiaries in accordance with their share of the benefits.

Policy 4.4 - Pristine and potable water sources shall be afforded special protection.

5. Flooding

To alleviate human suffering and minimize the economic costs of damages caused by flooding.

Policy 5.1 - Development on land subject to flooding or other water related hazards shall occur only under planning guidelines which prevent human suffering and property damage, limit public costs and liabilities, and address environmental impacts.

Policy 5.2 - Economically viable measures to alleviate personal and property damage

to existing development in flood prone areas shall be fostered.

Policy 5.3 - The negative impacts of changes to water level and flow regimes caused by hydro-electric development projects shall be mitigated to the extent possible.

6. Drainage

To enhance the economic viability of Manitoba’s agricultural community through the provision of a comprehensively planned drainage infrastructure.

Policy 6.1 - Drainage works shall be designed to remove excess rainfall from cropland during the growing season.

Policy 6.2 - The standard of drainage shall be based on the production capability of the soil and on technical, economic, and environmental criteria, recognizing watershed, community, and farm impacts.

Policy 6.3 - Maintenance of existing drainage systems shall be of higher priority than reconstruction.

Policy 6.4 - Reconstruction of drainage systems to improve productivity and to reduce erosion and deposition shall be given a higher priority than expansion into new agricultural lands.

Policy 6.5 - Drainage projects shall be planned and executed so that projects in one area do not adversely affect another area.

Policy 6.6 - The protection of wetlands shall be a consideration in planning and developing drainage projects.

Policy 6.7 - Water retention, and control and timing of runoff, shall be promoted as part of watershed management.

7. Education

To enhance the awareness and knowledge of Manitoba’s water resources.

Policy 7.1 - Schools: -Students of all ages shall be provided with information on the significance of Manitoba’s water resources.

Policy 7.2 - General Public: Education on water matters shall be achieved in part through the sharing of information, demonstration projects, and the involvement of the general public.

Policy 7.3 - Forum for Scientific and Technical Input: A forum shall be developed to obtain input from the scientific, technical, and professional communities on water management issues.

Policy 7.4 - Community Leaders and Elected Representatives: Community leaders and elected representatives shall be provided with the information they need to make sound water management decisions.

For further information:

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