

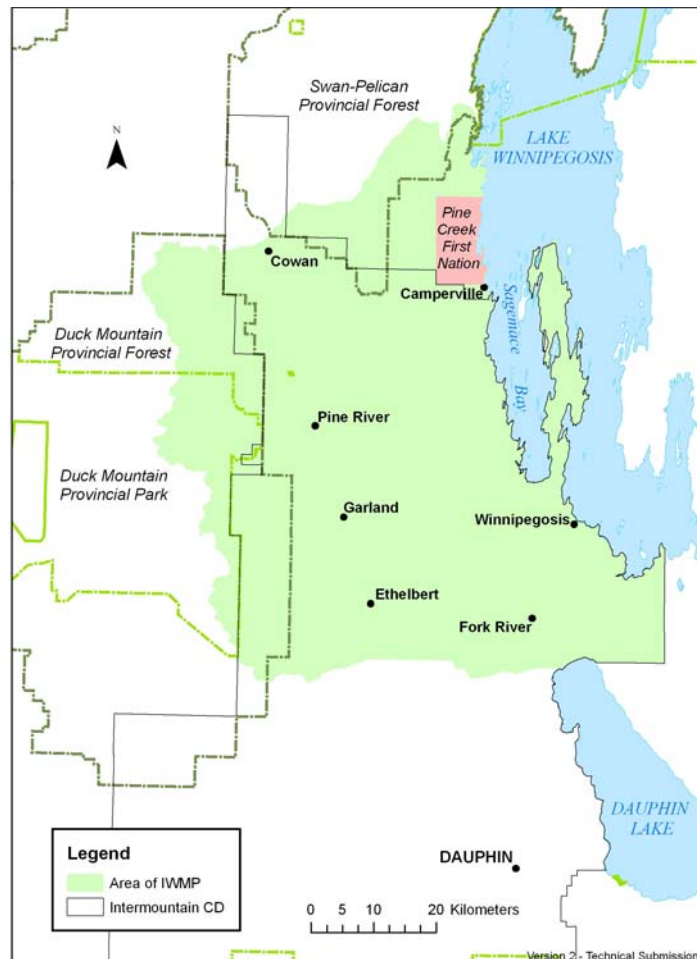
Appendix 1

East Duck Mountain/Sagemace Bay IWMP Public Issues

In February 2008 the Intermountain Conservation District (IMCD) was designated as the Watershed Planning Authority for the East Duck Mountain/Sagemace Bay watersheds (05LG and parts of 05LJ and 05LH) by the Province of Manitoba. This designation gave the IMCD the authority to create a watershed management plan for the watersheds (Figure 1). One of the first steps in the development of the watershed plan was to hold public forums to explore the water concerns of local residents and other stakeholders within the planning area. The issues identified at these public forums will provide direction to IMCD on the scope of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

Early in the planning process the IMCD formed a 10 person Project Management Team¹ (PMT) whose role is to guide the watershed planning process from conception to completion. One of the first tasks completed by the PMT was the organization of three public forums. Meetings were held in distinct areas of the watershed with the goal of engaging more people and soliciting a range of public issues. The meetings were held in October 2008 at: Cowan (October 21), Garland (October 22) and Winnipegosis (October 23).

At each of the public meetings the attendees were asked to provide their concerns related to the watershed. Attendees were also asked to contribute ideas on how their issues could be resolved and what they would like the watershed to look like in the future. All responses were compiled in a digital format by members of the PMT. Also collected at the meeting were group issues and solutions. This was done to allow for table discussions on issues and to obtain more general concerns within the watershed as opposed to very site specific issues garnered through individual responses. The group comments were also converted to a digital format and were used to aid in the identification and ordering of top public issues.



¹ The project management team is comprised by: Marvin Kovacic (Chairperson), Michael Semeniuk (IMCD Vice-chair), Ken Shewchuk (R.M. of Ethelbert councilor), Ron Kostyshyn (Reeve of R.M. of Mossey River), Dane Guignon (Local producer), Wayne Lytwyn (Local producer), Mitch Michaluk (Mayor of Village of Ethelbert), Bruce Stratuliak (IMCD Manager), James Wellbourne (IMCD Watershed Planning Assistant) and David Jones (Watershed Planner, Manitoba Water Stewardship).

When recording the individual and group responses, the PMT members categorized the issues into a primary issue category (i.e. surface water). This is how the results have been reported in this document. This methodology does require some subjectivity in the categorization process but concerted efforts were made to capture the essence of the issues.

During public forums and in completing survey response forms, interested members of the public identified numerous issues. The issues and suggested solutions, listed in order according to the frequency of appearance are:

Surface Water

1. Flooding and Drainage/Drain Maintenance was the most prevalent issue identified throughout the entire series of public forums.
2. Water retention and management.
3. Erosion.

Ideas suggested by the public to address the above issues:

- Restore water courses back to their original location.
- Better beaver controls and maintenance (increased bounties etc.).
- Better coordination and notification of projects between R.M. and landowner.
- Removal of livestock from waterways.

Ground Water

1. Abandoned wells causing contamination.
2. Saturation of soil.
3. Well contamination
4. Pine River Spring.

Ideas suggested by the public to address the above issues:

- Old wells should be sealed (RM should contribute \$; IMCD should consider waiving \$100 fee to increase interest).
- Restore Pine River Spring back to the way it was before it was leased.
- More recycling, less waste.
- More monitoring on livestock operations, better locations.
- If we could manage surface water it will have a positive effect on ground water.

Source Water Protection

1. Contamination from various sources (abandoned wells, leaky lagoons etc.).
2. Source water quality.
3. Pine River Spring.

Ideas suggested by the public to address the above issues:

- Better water treatment technology (private water sources).
- Restore Pine River Spring back to the way it was before it was leased.

Soils and Land Use

1. Flooding and loss of usable land (and related issues such as increased flow rates)
2. Land use practices (timber removal, use of fertilizers and pesticides, improper land use).
3. Soil erosion.
4. Improper use of marginal land.

Ideas suggested by the public to address the above issues:

- Beaver control and maintenance and drainage/surface water management.
- Alternate use of land (give farmers/producers help on crown and municipal lands by reducing rent or taxes on land until it is useable again).
- Stay back from water courses.
- Higher incentives for producers.
- Land should be used for what it is suitable for.

Habitat and Wildlife

1. Beavers and related issues such as flooding and destruction of timber land.
2. Wildlife movement out of wetter areas (more predators such as wolves in yard sites).
3. Food and commercial fisheries (beavers are damming streams and fish cannot get to spawning grounds; study on Fairford dam seems to have a connection with a drop in fish stocks).
4. Hunting practices.
5. Nuisance wildlife such as bears, moles and raccoons.

Ideas suggested by the public to address the above issues:

Beaver

- Better trapping and controls need to be maintained by everyone.
- More dedicated trappers.
- More dedicated trappers and better population control.
- Increase bounty; develop monitoring system for population; set up trap lines in unused crown land areas.
- Promote prevention through population control rather than reaction through beaver dam cleanouts.

Wildlife Movement

- Baiting practices should be abandoned.

Hunting practices

- Should be regulated on crown and private lands.

Nuisance Wildlife

- More tags for bears.
- Mole trapping program.

This summary was completed as a means to identify the concerns of the public and prioritizing them so we can address the watershed needs in an appropriate manner. Now that the public has identified their main concerns we will send requests to the remaining watershed stakeholders and people that can provide us with technical/scientific input on these issues. Through the technical input, we will be able to establish appropriate actions to help address each of the public concerns.