

WHAT WE HEARD

A Report on Input from Public Meetings held for the Southwest Interlake Integrated Watershed Management Plan

INTRODUCTION

The West Interlake Watershed Conservation District (WIWCD) as the Watershed Planning Authority for the Southwest Interlake Watershed (Figure 1) began planning efforts in December 2013.

Figure 1: Southwest Interlake Watershed



The WIWCD formed a Project Management Team to guide the development of the Southwest Interlake IWMP.

The Project Management Team includes:

Earl Zotter (Chair)	Rural Municipality of St. Laurent
Jack Cruise	Rural Municipality of Armstrong
Henry Rosing	Rural Municipality of Woodlands
Brian Sigfusson	Rural Municipality of Coldwell
Garth Asham	Rural Municipality of Portage La Prairie
Neil Brandstrom	Rural Municipality of Eriksdale
Linda Miller	West Interlake Watershed Conservation District
Patrick Watson	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

PUBLIC MEETINGS

One of the first steps in the development of the plan was to hold public meetings to discuss what residents of the watershed value within the planning area. Four public meetings were held in May and June of 2014: May 18 – Lundar, May 20 – Eriksdale, May 27 – Lake Francis, and June 7 – St. Laurent. A total of 45 watershed residents attended the meetings. The discussions from these meetings are reported in this document and will provide direction to the Project Management Team on the scope and priorities of the plan.

GATHERING INPUT

At each of the public meetings, participants were asked to fill in worksheets. The worksheets included questions on what people felt were the main issues in the watershed, why they felt that these were priority issues, what they valued in the watershed, how they felt the issues could and should be addressed, and a number of other questions related to watershed management. The worksheets were collected at the end of each meeting. Participants were also asked to identify specific locations of issues on the maps provided on each table.

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY ISSUES

Below is a summary of the priority issues identified during the public meetings:

- High water levels on Lake Manitoba and Shoal Lakes
- The impacts from the Portage Diversion on Lake Manitoba water levels, fish and water quality
- Sewage from cottages and homes being dumped or pumped directly into Lake Manitoba
- Shoreline erosion, property damages and the loss of trees along Lake Manitoba
- Flooding and drainage, including poor planning and management in flood prone areas, lack of maintenance on provincial and municipal drains, beaver activity and the impacts on people's livelihood
- The lack of management of Ducks Unlimited Canada water control structures
- Contamination of groundwater and drinking water sources
- Impacts of carp on fish and aquatic habitat

The verbatim input collected on the individual and group worksheets is recorded on the following pages.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#1 Issue	How can #1 issue be addressed?	#2 Issue	How can #2 issue be addressed?	#3 Issue	How can #3 issue be addressed?	Why is it important to address each of your top 3 issues?
Lack of management, Information monitoring	We need constant monitoring of inflows and outflows on all drains. E.g. Hatchery, Walker, Swamp Lake, etc. We need heights on Shoal Lakes continuously as well as Vestfold and Hatchery.	Water level is too high on North, East & West Shoal Lake, Vestfold, and Goulet Lake. All combined.	Manage the outlet from Hatchery Drain to maximize outflow throughout the season.			Inability to get anything done, consultation with public good but need solid, clear information to make decisions. Risk of contamination is very high when all bodies of water are combined. - separate them then contamination would not spread. Lower lake level allows surrounding sloughs to drain run-off.
Planning and management of flood prone areas.		Water in Shoal Lakes complex needs to be lower in order for bullrushes to come back to filter water.	Lower water level by 2-3 feet. Clean and improve the Hatchery Drain.			Land loss, forages for filtration, overland flooding causing acidic soil
Surface water management / Water control	Controlled outlet to Shoal Lakes to maintain water levels within the lake bank of each lake. I recommend constructing an outlet connected to the Grassmere Drain, cleaning out the silted-in areas and replacing the crossing and bridges that create ice jams and flooding during spring runoff. This work (on Grassmere) needs to be done anyways.	Drinking water / Groundwater protection	By controlling surface water runoff and preventing it from rising high enough to enter wells.	Planning and management of flood prone areas	Refer to the answer to address #1 issue. Maintaining Shoal Lakes at a reasonable level will eliminate a lot of the problems with regards to flooding. I would also provide storage capacity to allow drainage from around the lakes into them to provide flood protection to surrounding areas during wet cycles.	Too much productive land is still flooded due to Shoal Lakes flooding. Productive grassland, hayland and pasture are damaged and will take years to recover. Old, old trees on the lake bank have been destroyed and we will never see them replaced in our lifetime. I am trying to protect my (2nd generation) farm.

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More farming - more hog barns, more dairy, more grain.		Beaver flooding. Make it viable for trappers				
To keep water levels in check on the Shoal Lakes	It was suggested in the past 2-3 years that it is possible to make a relatively inexpensive small drain and clean out some old drains to not drain but have some form of height (water level) control.					Reasonably productive land for pasture, hay is being destroyed. Trying to protect to keep people / taxpayers in the area.
Excess water in Shoal Lake destroyed pasture I was renting.						Loss of pasture
Sewage from lakeside cottages dumped directly into Lake Manitoba	Toughen up provincial regulations and enforce them.	Poorly maintained Provincial and municipal ditches which results in surface water / drainage issues	Surface water could be held back in some parts of the area and then released in a timely manner if drains were better maintained.	Groundwater pollution caused by poor sewage management in towns and villages	More surveillance and provincial money to fix the problems.	Water quality for the future - for our grandchildren
Drainage / Illegal and licensed. Lack of understanding surrounding issues.		Beavers - in wet years (bounties and trapping). Trapping in winter time (\$30/beaver). Game branch brought them in years ago.		Groundwater - abandoned tanks. Lagoons in reserves - follow provincial regulations (not all are yet)		

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Portage Diversion	Only run Portage diversion when really necessary - not on a whim, because someone down the system might have built in a low hole and have a basement flood. Come on - use it sparingly.	Ducks Unlimited Policy of not allowing in the marshes and Tall Prairie Grass Association. Keeping land out of production. Ecosystem out of whack.	Clean marshes up. Young ducks, geese, frogs, and snakes no longer are out there. The trash is too deep and the habitat is not there. When the land was farmed (hayed) we had a lot of the above. New shots to feed the young and access water.	We have wonderful drinking water in this area. We need to protect it.	We have good water in my area. With the Portage diversion being used the way it is we will lose our excellent water.	Portage diversion brings pollutants to lake Manitoba, Ducks Unlimited has damaged our snake, frog and duck population and is now not in existence. Protect water which is pure to drink.
No management of heights of Shoal Lakes.	Short term: Multi-control strategy. Consider many options - do not just find reasons to not do anything as has been done in the past.	Lack of ability to control flooding on Lake Manitoba	Speed up!!! Plan to get Lake St Martin outlet done.			All of the points above are threatened by unmanaged water levels.
Loss of land due to indiscriminate draining.	More and better planning on drainage					Wild hay land and pasture.
Overland flooding	Water management needs to have a higher priority with the Province of Manitoba. Shoal Lake water is drinking water quality in summer and almost in winter. Put a pipeline to city of Winnipeg; use the water to a manageable level and alternate levels for ecosystem health. City would benefit from the water rather than throw it away.	Water quality	Taking care of #1 will help address #2.	Loss of livelihood	Province holds little value in the loss of productivity.	Destruction of natural habitat, nesting habitat, fish habitat, carp contamination (i.e. Lake Francis)

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Drinking water	Speak to Winnipeg water control	Pasture land	Lower the water level on Shoal Lake	Fish	Keep the fish in the lake.	
Drinking water / Groundwater protection	More control over animal waste onto lands and into watersheds.	Surface water management	same as stated for #1	Wetland protection / Fish enhancement habitat / Aquatic environments	same as stated for #1	Ecosystem protection / which in turn protects water resources.
Drinking water quality (i.e. Uncapped abandoned wells)	Make Manitoba government accountable and dig channel.	Riparian area destruction		External flooding and lack of cleanup.		1. Uncapped wells can contaminate deep water and hard to clean. 2. Riparian areas are the best filters. 3. Flooding from other areas (i.e. Diversion negatively affects Lake Manitoba and area).
Drinking water / Groundwater protection	Educate the public on how groundwater gets polluted and how they can help to prevent further damage. I think everyone cares about having safe drinking water and will work to keep it clean.	Surface water management	More investments made and time spent looking at how surface water flows and how it can be better managed.	Protection of surface water quality	Again, educate people on how they are damaging water quality and how they can help. Have incentives to help people improve the practices, as opposed to strict regulations. Follow a 'let's work together' approach.	1. Always important to look after drinking water for the future. 2. Surface water affects our land and crops. 3. Good to ensure the lakes and river/creeks do not get polluted as they are an important ecosystem.
Water level management in Lake Manitoba / Lake Francis	Proper outlet	Safeguard the quality of drinking water	Not aware of current threats. Make people aware of dangers. Well management, sewer problems, fuel storage, etc, etc.	Sensible plan for Shoal Lakes	Sensible plan setting maximum level	Massive ecological and economic damage

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Control Lake Manitoba water level (810 - 812 ft asl)	See recommendations and follow. The Westdal Report - Lake Manitoba Regulation Reviews Report	Water into Lake has to equal water out (i.e. Build channel as promised by government)	Same as #1	Water quality of Lake Manitoba because of Assiniboine River entering the lake through diversion.	Same as #1	Erosion of shoreline at Twin Beaches. Pristine beaches being destroyed. Shorebirds threatened. Homes being destroyed. Natural vegetation destroyed. Well water contaminated.
Portage diversion - overland flooding	Shut it down or operate it more responsibly. Why are we helping Saskatchewan with their problems and putting Manitobans at risk?	Water quantity. Lake too high. Marsh too high. Marsh and lake need to be fluctuated.	Fluctuate level of lake - don't keep it at upper level or exceed the higher limit. Let Marsh dry out at certain times.	Most pollutants came in through diversion	Close Portage diversion.	1. Recent destruction of property and houses around the lake. 2. Prevent destruction of our marshes - create healthier marsh by fluctuating the level of the lake and Delta Marsh
Flooding of Lake Manitoba!	Make a permanent floodway at Fairford and Lake St Martin to regulate the lake level.	Pollution of Lake Manitoba	Make another lake and dam within Saskatchewan to hold back water.	Preservation of the marshes	Allow a fluctuation of the lake and marsh levels.	Seasonal and permanent homes that have chosen this area 50 - 60 years ago to invest money in and enjoy for their enhanced quality of life.
Controlling water levels only when no other reasonable alternatives are available.		"Natural" drainage worked before man thought he knew more.		All beach areas throughout Manitoba should be given the same recognition and respect as Lake Winnipeg beaches.		Farmland is manipulated, people's lives are ruined, beach areas are ruined or lost forever, man must stop playing GOD and quit playing with water levels for economic games and gains.
The lake levels	Who is in control of the water that goes into the lake and can it be better controlled? It's too late when we are flooded out.	The rocks being put on all the beaches!	You cannot get to the water. We have to climb over the rocks and they are loose and dangerous. Also, it is possibly polluting.	How healthy is the lake after all the flooding and the water being dumped into the lake?	The lake didn't come out of this unharmed!!	We don't want any more floods or damage to the lake and wildlife.

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Water control (water level control)	Continue to work on and improve the new drainage channel to direct excess water over to Lake Winnipeg. I understand that currently the water flows over highway #6 when the channel is in operation. That obviously needs reworking.	Planning and management of flood prone areas	Don't allow new cottage developments in flood prone areas unless there is sufficient control over Lake Manitoba water levels to ensure that they won't flood again.	Drinking water / Groundwater protection	Preventing future floods would go a long way towards ensuring future good drinking water quality. Sufficient regulation and enforcement of wastewater laws is important too.	High water levels cause shoreline erosion which eventually threatens cottages and homes more and more. Safe drinking water is important for sustaining life, and floods are a threat to safe drinking water.
Water intake amounts at Portage Diversion vs. out takes	Out take must match intake	Lake levels standardized	Website developed, or similar, where lake levels are listed.	Lake Manitoba not to become dumping grounds	Turn off Portage Diversion when lake level is being threatened.	Shoreline is being destroyed; access to shoreline is being hindered.
Low municipal lands draining into my lot every time it rains water standing several days no growth of plants. Weeds grow 3-4 feet tall can this area be cut, say once to twice, say July and August.	Some build up would help keep lot dry.	Removal of outhouses and water quality				Land level and water table (drinking water safe)
Prevent flooding of Lake Manitoba	Open channel at north end of Lake Manitoba	Groundwater contamination	Have all wells in high water / flood prone areas equipped with water tight sanitary seals.			Unless flooding is controlled, all problems related to watershed will be GREATLY amplified.
Groundwater stability	Deal with any issue that would allow seepage into the ground aquifers	Riparian area stabilization	Identify areas to be protected and make a plan. Landowners need to buy-in.	Re-establish mature grass and forage where possible.	Intricate part of recommendation to address #2 issue	If not taken under consideration, ground and surface water quality will be gone.

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Drinking water	No flooding, test wells regularly, keep pollution out of creeks and waterways.	Protection of waterways	Fencing out cattle from waterways. Have guidelines for cottage owners and make sure it is regulated and enforced.	Flood protection	Stop pumping water through the Portage Diversion.	If drinking water is not protected, our most valuable resource will be lost. People would have to buy water. If waterways are polluted it runs into our lakes. Flooding - residents are lost, communities die, businesses close, small town way of life is lost.
Drinking water		Protection of our Waterways		Planning and management of flood-prone areas		
Flooding of agricultural land and therefore limiting the potential use of property properly and economically. We have to use more land to be able to make a living.	Clean and open new creeks to address sitting water. Draining water east and not cleaning west limits the flow.	Fish habitat	Again, opening existing creeks that are plugged up and if possible open new creeks attracting fish for spawning.		Diversion in Portage la Prairie. Allowing species of fish into our lakes from abroad, possibly polluting our Lake Manitoba.	The hayland and pasture is being limited by water. More water sitting and not draining increases sloughs. Allow water to properly drain. Open up creeks would which increase drainage and help in fish habitat. A swift current attracts fish for spawning.
Outlet - follow regulations water from Saskatchewan and USA		Pollution, fish habitat, and debris.		Control diversion and lake levels, preserve marshes for birds.		Homes, quality of water and quantity.

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Drinking Water	Drinking water. I do not know how to protect it other than by taking care of all the other measures. It has been said that Agent Orange has been found in North America. Yet it was never used here! It came through the water systems.	Protection and enhancement of fish habitat and aquatic environment	Again, our fish habitat can only be taken care of if measures are taken to protect the environment they live in.	Planning and management of flood-prone areas	Make sure the government keeps its promises to build the second watershed and keep the Dauphin River clear.	Drinking water has been affected by the flood and can be affected in ways that we have no way of predicting. Our fish in Lake Manitoba are in a much different environment - where perch were plenty we now catch jack. This flood could have been prevented especially if recommendations in the 60's had been followed or even if care of the Dauphin River had been taken. So many other options
Assiniboine River diversion	Shut down the diversion or redirect it over to Lake Winnipeg where it was going naturally.					Lake Manitoba is being destroyed. I would like to protect the lake.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

During your lifetime, what landscape changes have you noticed in the watershed?	Is there adequate protection of drinking water sources? Recommendations?	Is water pollution from man-made sources a major concern? Recommendations?	Is there adequate management and control of wastewater? Recommendations?	Are there adequate controls in place to manage and limit activities or development in flood prone or riparian areas? Details?	Is over use of water a concern in the watershed? Recommendations?
Water level on West Shoal Lake has increased consistently. Years with increases were higher than decreases.	No - Wetlands have been swallowed up by lake therefore no cleaning of runoff.	Not Sure	Yes - But keep the water from flooding into yard sites to prevent contamination.	No - allow cottages to be built right up against lake. Need to manage water levels so we have a predictable level.	No - We should have irrigation projects to use water up.
Drainage. Road upgrades and drains.	Yes	No	Yes	No - lack of drainage	No
Flooding has caused severe damage to farmland and killed large areas of trees all around the lakes. This was caused by development blocking the natural outlets so that as soon as we entered a wet cycle, the water had nowhere to go.	Yes	No - It may be a concern in certain areas but not in the entire system.	Yes	No - Man-made development blocked natural outlets to major water systems (Shoal Lakes). Now that everyone can see the result of this, it is time to create a man-made outlet to correct this problem.	No
More beaver in the area, less ducks in the lake due to Ducks Unlimited projects.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
		Not sure	Yes	Not sure	No
The excess water has destroyed trees and grass.					

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Expanding cottage development too close to the lakes without proper care. Clearing of bush land that has created drainage issues. Introduction of noxious weeds such as Red Bartisia.	No - Recommendations are useless without adequate provincial or federal funding to correct.	Yes - we know what needs to be done. Recommendations are useless without adequate provincial or federal funding to correct.	No - Recommendations are useless without adequate provincial or federal funding to correct.	No - Cottages up and down the lake without proper sewage disposal.	No
Localized flooding in Interlake - not just Shoal Lake				I would like an update on the flood protection program.	
Negative. Lack of ducks, mud hens, snakes and frogs. No longer have a habitat any more. Clean the marshes up.	No. Portage diversion is going to contaminate our water. Portage diversion is used far too much for the wrong reasons.	Yes. Again, Portage diversion and when you flood Lake Manitoba - you flooded the sewer system on Lake Manitoba beach.	No. Make all sewer companies dump in the lagoon. Do not allow them to dump in pastures and fields.	Yes	No
The water has changed taste a bit.	No. Manage water levels. Riparian areas around agriculture grain land. Not just pasture.	Not sure	No. Programs to switch injectors near water sources to containment tanks.	No. There is barely any control or plan for Shoal Lakes. Government has buried it's head on the problem for 30 years.	No. Should store on land to improve runoff control.
Not so much change as caused by not enough thought given to drainage.	Not sure	Not sure			
Water drainage has impacted the rate of runoff (increased substantially). Chemical and fertilizer runoff, soil erosion.	Yes. Isolated pockets have problems but overall quality is better than a lot of other areas.	Yes	Yes	No. Pressure for economic development is being tempted to overlook the impact to 'make a buck'.	No. At this time, but future overuse should be continuously monitored.

During your lifetime, what landscape changes have you noticed in the watershed?	Is there adequate protection of drinking water sources? Recommendations?	Is water pollution from man-made sources a major concern? Recommendations?	Is there adequate management and control of wastewater? Recommendations?	Are there adequate controls in place to manage and limit activities or development in flood prone or riparian areas? Details?	Is over use of water a concern in the watershed? Recommendations?
Water Stewardship letting RM to run runoff water into Shoal Lake.	No. Close up the abandon wells.	Not sure. Manure management.	Yes	Not sure	No
More destruction of water and lands. Lack of government involvement of enforcing the law.	No. More government involvement in enforcement.	Yes. More enforcement of present laws.	Not sure	Not sure	No
		No	Yes	No. No riparian area protection in place.	No
2011 Flood of Lake Manitoba has really changed the areas around the lake. Caused by wet year as well as water from diversion. Shoal Lake flooding - again, really damaged area around lake - caused by many above average rainfall years in a row.	Not sure	Not sure - not a major concern but good to be proactive and educate public before it becomes a major issue.	Not sure	Not sure	No
Land has become a lot wetter. Change in plant populations as a result of wet cycle and lack of drainage infrastructure at lower portions of watershed to deal with increased upland drainage.	Not sure. Raise awareness of activities which negative impact drinking water.		No. Cabbage areas change from small seasonal to large year round properties. Waste water concerns.	Not sure. Proper development plans often lacking.	Not sure
Flooding of Lake Francis. Marshland destroyed. Beach at Twin eroded and flooded vegetation. Mature trees destroyed.	Not sure	Yes		No. Overuse of Portage diversion. No suitable outlet at Fairford. Promised new outlet. Needed immediately.	Not sure

During your lifetime, what landscape changes have you noticed in the watershed?	Is there adequate protection of drinking water sources? Recommendations?	Is water pollution from man-made sources a major concern? Recommendations?	Is there adequate management and control of wastewater? Recommendations?	Are there adequate controls in place to manage and limit activities or development in flood prone or riparian areas? Details?	Is over use of water a concern in the watershed? Recommendations?
Flooding of Lake Francis. Marshland destroyed. Beach at Twin eroded and flooded vegetation. Mature trees destroyed.	Not sure	Yes		No. Overuse of Portage diversion. No suitable outlet at Fairford. Promised new outlet. Needed immediately.	Not sure
Marsh exceedingly high - Marsh overcome with wrong vegetation.	No. Make marsh more productive - effective.	Yes. Retain more water on land. Don't let people drain their land as efficiently.	Yes	Lake Manitoba is not a flood plain. It is man-made. Cut a northern channel to offset what they are doing with the Portage diversion.	No
Our back marsh between Lake Francis and Lake Manitoba is flooded. Our front shoreline has been eroded 100 feet.	Allow the marsh areas to survive and do their filtering job.	Yes. Farming chemicals are flowing along irrigation ditches straight into the rivers. Make wetland potholes to filter water.	Not sure	No. We have created all new flood plains with the increase in the Lake Manitoba water levels.	No
Shoal Lakes - once used quite consistently back in the day. I understand that changed when Ducks Unlimited placed 5 dams, changing levels and areas. Ron always said if several of these dams were knocked out, levels would naturally go back to where they were.	Not sure	Not sure	No. More observation throughout all areas.	No. Presently done to protect only certain areas.	No. Limitation of man-made toys.
I think before dumping rocks on the beach we should all have a say or a vote.	Not sure	Yes. Stop the gray water illegal dumping - and the rocks on the shoreline.	No. Keep track of size of septic tanks and how often they are emptied.	Not sure	Not sure

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I've noticed shoreline erosion and a lot of dead trees, shrubs, etc. High lake water levels and the flood of 2011 seemed to cause the worst of it.	Not sure	Not sure	No. I don't think septic fields should be allowed.	Not sure	No
Loss of all trees. Owners altering the beaches with rocks making beaches inaccessible	Not sure	Not sure	No. Random inspections of people's homes that have grey water pits set up where not allowed.	No	No
Water standing and lowering landscape	Gray water drainage regulations and checked.				
Negative. Trees have disappeared. Cause -> Selinger.	No. Heavy fines for abandoning wells improperly.	Yes. Manage sewage truck calls with log books to document how many times per year a particular tank has been pumped.	No. Manage sewage truck calls with log books to document how many times per year a particular tank has been pumped.	Not sure	Not sure
Flood - Flood - Flood. Prevent Flooding!	Yes and No. Septic tanks, well integrity, run-off of nitrates / phosphates	Yes. "Treated" tanks. Grey water, etc. Dumping garbage - ditches / off roadside.	No. Better records mandated by law of honey wagon operations.	No. Provincial government practices unsuitable with management process.	No
Trees dying along the lake that have been there for many years. Flooding.	No. More provincial regulations and enforcement.	Yes. More provincial enforcement.	No. Monitoring and enforcement.	No	Yes
	No	Yes	No	No	Not sure

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Shoal Lakes having more water.	Yes	Not sure. Have not noticed anything significant polluting.	Yes	Yes	No
Trees flooded out, vegetation, shoreline erosion, homes.	Not sure	Yes. Education	Not sure	No. Portage Diversion flow	Yes. More into lake.
	No. They allow overland flooding to take place in rural areas too much!	Yes. It requires tighter regulation including in the city where raw sewage goes in the river. It is not all the farmers.	Not sure. I know they try but is it enough? Not likely.	No. The Dauphin River has flooded for years with no repairs - Hwy 229 floods. This is a haven for birds and fish.	No
The watershed hasn't changed much, but the lake itself has.	No. Stop the pollution that is coming in through the Assiniboine diversion.	Yes. Stop the Assiniboine diversion.	No. Stop the Assiniboine diversion.	No. Lake Manitoba is being used as a cesspool by pollution from the Assiniboine River being diverted into the lake.	No

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Is there adequate protection of fish habitat / aquatic environments? Recommendations?	Do you feel that local watershed residents are currently active in the protection, conservation and restoration of surface water, groundwater, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources?	If you were to dedicate funding to improve watershed health, what projects or activities would you implement?	Are there special places or assets that you feel have significant heritage or cultural value and should be protected and/or restored?
Yes. There is more concern for fish beyond other animals and people.	No	Water management, drainage, retention	My Farm
Yes	Yes		
Yes	No - Not sure	Clean and upgrade Grassmere Drain. It could then solve Shoal Lakes complex problems and provide benefits to all those living and farming along it. It would provide the most bang for the buck in terms of benefit to the largest number of taxpayers.	
Yes	Yes	Drainage and farming, and storage of water	Shoreline - Lake Manitoba. Ditch at Lake St. Martin.
Yes			
No - Improvement of spawning shoals, etc in our creeks and rivers. STOP the harvest of female fish before they spawn. This must apply to all members of our society.	No - Better education as most people are too concerned about day to day events without thinking of future consequences.	Groundwater protection and monitoring. Improved maintenance of drainages to accommodate retention and then release of surface water.	
		Restore shorelines (from flooding) unless another outlet is built, it will be a waste of money.	
No. Portage diversion is not healthy for our fish.	Yes	Clean up marshes and allow more haying along lakes.	
Yes. In this area fish are put ahead of other animals.	Yes and No. We're here aren't we!? Many would do more but likely funding is need for so many.	Water level management. Infrastructure. Monitoring.	
Yes	No. Major participation probably won't happen unless they are personally affected.		Proper water management will protect existing benefits we have of clean water and for the most part a clean environment.

Is there adequate protection of fish habitat / aquatic environments? Recommendations?	Do you feel that local watershed residents are currently active in the protection, conservation and restoration of surface water, groundwater, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources?	If you were to dedicate funding to improve watershed health, what projects or activities would you implement?	Are there special places or assets that you feel have significant heritage or cultural value and should be protected and/or restored?
Yes	Yes	Put a pipeline from Lake Manitoba to Winnipeg and tie into Shoal Lake to control the levels.	Erinview Church area
No. Enforcement of present laws.	No. Follow present laws.	More enforcement to agricultural laws.	Lake Francis. Cramer Lake.
No. Spawning areas protected and add in more fish hatcheries.	No. Not really active in protection but also not destructive. Incentives would be better awareness and also more incentives (e.g. Monetary and cost sharing)	Shelter belts and riparian areas	Lake Manitoba shoreline and the marsh. Shoreline trees should be replanted.
Yes	Yes. They are but could be better informed of why it is important and what they should do to be more active. More education on how watershed works and why it is so important.		
More attention for spawning. Feeder lakes.			Lakes Francis needs attention it deserves. Seasonal water drawdown for health of marsh and unique native hayland. Plan to keep Carp out of lake itself.
Not sure	Yes	Build the promised outlet channel	Delta Marsh
No. Delta Marsh and Lake Manitoba not run properly.	No	Create northern channel - dredge Fairford. More effective controls between Lake Manitoba and Delta Marsh.	Delta Marsh. Twin Lake Beach. Delta Beach.
Yes. Fishing is still thriving during the winter.	I have no idea what is being done?	Promote the fluctuation of both Lake Manitoba levels and the marsh levels over a 10 year period. Do not exceed 813 ft asl on Lake Manitoba.	Twin Lakes Beach and Delta Beach are historic family beaches. Also St. Ambrose campground which are well worth preserving for future generations. The migratory flyway is especially a bird-watcher's paradise. The whole area could be promoted as such!
No. Constant changes of levels, misuse of waterways (toys), etc. Damages to nature's water and land.	No. Only if it benefits the individual. Actually recognize peoples voices, ideas, suggestions and/or actual corrections of past, present and future wrongs.	Between St. Laurent and St. Ambrose. Conclude - water (fish/wildlife) improvement. Beautiful beaches.	

Is there adequate protection of fish habitat / aquatic environments? Recommendations?	Do you feel that local watershed residents are currently active in the protection, conservation and restoration of surface water, groundwater, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources?	If you were to dedicate funding to improve watershed health, what projects or activities would you implement?	Are there special places or assets that you feel have significant heritage or cultural value and should be protected and/or restored?
Not sure	No. Put up more information boards. Or send out emails, flyers - out with tax bills.	I don't know but we need to do something! And I'm on board.	We need to protect it all or there won't be anything left for our grandchildren or for wildlife. It is all of user's responsibility - let's do something.
Not sure	Yes, but they're only active in it to the extent required by law for the most part.	Finish the new drainage channel. Lower the maximum acceptable level of Lake Manitoba by at least 1 foot above sea level. In other words, use drainage systems sooner and to a larger extent than current practices dictate.	All those should be protected particularly the snake dens. The highway that runs east/west through Clarkleigh should be raised enough to be flood proof from North Shoal Lake and paved. There aren't enough good East/West highways in the Interlake.
No. Quads are allowed to tear up beaches.			Unsure
No. No fishing of area by Portuguese Rec Centre road especially when fish spawning.			
Not sure	No. Provide funding to help pay for a professional to seal abandoned wells.	Provide funding to help pay for a professional to seal abandoned wells.	
No. More spawning sites needed. Better control of coarse species (i.e. Carp)	No. Well head management needs improvement. Septic / waste water needs improvement based on areas - blanket regulations for cottage and rural areas is WRONG. General building and land use needs be to be addressed. Some heavy construction (roads, ditches, sub-divisions)		
No. People should not be allowed to fish where spawning shoals are installed or drive four-wheelers through spawning areas.	No. Residents need education on what their actions are doing to drinking water. Need programs in our schools.	To re-use grey water.	
No	No?		

Is there adequate protection of fish habitat / aquatic environments? Recommendations?	Do you feel that local watershed residents are currently active in the protection, conservation and restoration of surface water, groundwater, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources?	If you were to dedicate funding to improve watershed health, what projects or activities would you implement?	Are there special places or assets that you feel have significant heritage or cultural value and should be protected and/or restored?
No. Creeks opened or cleaned out, on private or public properties.	Yes	Creeks cleaned and maintained. Public and private properties. Allow private property owners to open and clean creeks and help with funding if possible.	?
Not sure			
No. Prevent the water levels from going too high or low. Maintain the hatchery. Perhaps the lake requires a different range of highs and lows.	Yes		
No. Fisheries and Oceans are doing absolutely nothing to protect Lake Manitoba from the pollution that comes from the Assiniboine River.	Yes. Local people are - but the Province isn't.	Carry the Assiniboine diversion over to Lake Winnipeg where nature intended it to go.	The whole area around Lake Manitoba is very special and should not be destroyed by the Assiniboine diversion.

RESULTS FROM GROUP WORKSHEET

	#1 Issue	Recommendations	#2 Issue	Recommendations	#3 Issue	Recommendations
LUNDAR GROUP	Flooding / high water levels. This causes wildlife to move (includes other animals, not just fish).	Beavers have built dams causing high water levels plugging controls. Dirt from ditches now forming dykes causing water to be held back.	Lack of monitoring at water structures. Inability to talk to those who can make decisions.	Passing the buck in dealing with the issue (Province). Stalling tactics causing divide and conquer among residents.	Well water - would be dealt with if flooding was controlled.	Feel that Interlake being used as water storage. Southern MB already has water flow - wetlands need to be put back in South. Grassmere Drain should be maintained and used for water source for Center Port.
LUNDAR GROUP additional comments	Drainage - hatchery drain due to sales hasn't been enforced					
	Red Barstia (weed) being spread by 4 wheelers that disturb and transmit weeds. Are there 4 wheeler by-laws? Enforcement? Quadding through water also affecting fish.					
	East of Oak Point (Wagon Creek) - ditch dug ~40 foot drop in a couple of miles (since dug in 1995) - 1 year without flooding since it was dug.					
	Pollution caused by car wrecking areas in Eriksdale #6 and 68. (Upside down vehicles, oil and gas). Half of Swan Lake goes into major spawning grounds.					
	Clean up after pets on beaches.					
Septic fields in beach area.						

	#1 Issue	Recommendations	#2 Issue	Recommendations	#3 Issue	Recommendations
ERIKSDALE GROUP	Drainage -illegal? Unlicensed? Large wetlands drained to Shoal Lakes	Drainage licensing enforcement.	Water levels at Shoal Lakes	Constructed drainage. Fishery is purely recreational. Did the buy-out program replace the possibilities of ever digging a drainage outlet / channel? What was the total amount \$ spent on buy-out program?	Beavers	Bounties and trapping. Trapping in 'fur prime season' - late fall through to early spring.
ERIKSDALE GROUP additional comments	If we had money to spend in the watershed: 1) Drainage (municipal drains), 2) Address risks to groundwater / drinking water, 3) Outlet to Lake Manitoba, 4) Shoreline restoration - or is this just a waste of money? Should this only be addressed after the outlet is built?					
	Why is wastewater management handled differently on Reserves? Who enforces this? Impacts on water quality?					
	How much money was spent on the Flood Protection program at Lake Manitoba?					
	Shoal Lakes - persistent high water levels impacting adjacent land, unsure where the lake will spill out if we get more years of high precipitation levels, not getting straight answer on what MIT's plans are (outlet or no outlet), what will happen to the Crown land around the lake?					
	Drinking water quality - issues with boil water advisories in small towns, septic systems, bacteria, nutrients and leaking oil/gas.					
Lake Manitoba - need better monitoring and maintenance of private on-site septic systems.						

RESULTS FROM GROUP WORKSHEET

	#1 Issue	Recommendations	#2 Issue	Recommendations	#3 Issue	Recommendations
LAKE FRANCIS GROUP 1	Outlet needed for Lake Manitoba. Avoid damage and provide security and confidence.	Outlet for Lake Manitoba	Safeguard groundwater quality	Well sealing program, Financial incentive to upgrade problem wells, Raise awareness.	Better management of drainage infrastructure. Better management of designated wetlands.	
LAKE FRANCIS GROUP 2	Overland flooding	Turn Portage Diversion off. Shoal Lake water is drinkable so could it not be piped to Winnipeg to help with drinkable water?	Water quality / water - used for our towns	Keep water pure and drinkable. Shoal Lakes could be used as drinkable. Portage Diversion should be used in emergency only, not every year to save stupid issues. Portage Diversion is going to bring contaminates to our area.	Sewage / loss of population because of flood.	Do not allow more development unless lagoons can handle the waste. Management needs to be at the top. Flooding around Shoal Lakes and Lake Manitoba has declined the population tax base. Our RM's are suffering.
LAKE FRANCIS additional comments	Water Hemlock, Foxtail, Gumweed					

	#1 Issue	Recommendations	#2 Issue	Recommendations	#3 Issue	Recommendations
ST LAURENT GROUP 1	Man-made flooding of Lake Manitoba	Water in must equal water out. Follow the recommendations made by the report (Westhal Committee)	Pollution, debris, water quality of Lake Manitoba	Educate people on water management. Restore wetlands. Be proactive and not make some mistakes as was made on Lake Winnipeg.	Preservation of wetlands	Stop DRAIN only policy of farmlands
ST LAURENT GROUP 2	Amount of water coming into Lake Manitoba	Control Portage Diversion in relation to lake level	Control Lake level	Turn off Portage Diversion when lake levels reach pre-flood level and create new flood channel for Lake St Martin.	Drinking water standards and protection for wells	Random inspections of drainage systems in homes for enforcement