

TERMS OF REFERENCE

WHITEMUD RIVER INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

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 Act* is to provide for the protection and stewardship of Manitoba's water resources and aquatic ecosystems.

Part 3 of *The Water Protection Act* relates to watershed management. It describes the designation, role and responsibilities of a Water Planning Authority, required content of a 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.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Whitemud River Integrated Watershed Management Plan is to provide watershed stakeholders with a list of recommendations and initiatives that should be implemented in order to address water related issues in the watershed.

3. PARTICIPANTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

WATER PLANNING AUTHORITY (WPA)

The Water Planning Authority is the recognized legal entity / organization, authorized through *The Water Protection Act* that takes on the responsibility of developing an integrated watershed management plan (IWMP).

In January 2009, through a Memorandum of Understanding signed with Manitoba Water Stewardship, the Whitemud River Conservation District became the Water Planning Authority for the Whitemud River Watershed (Figure 1).

Responsibilities:

- Ensure that the plan adheres to the required content as identified in *The Water Protection Act*

- Ensure that the plan reflects provincial priorities, while also addressing local issues and interests
- Submit the plan to the Minister of Water Stewardship for review and approval
- Review, assess, and evaluate the IWMP implementation plan annually
- Report on plan progress and successes
- Facilitate plan review and update

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM (PMT)

The Project Management Team is a small group of individuals appointed by the Water Planning Authority to keep the watershed planning process on schedule and moving along as smoothly as possible. The group maintains regular communications and may meet as many as 10 times throughout the planning process.

Responsibilities:

- Develop a Terms of Reference for approval by the Water Planning Authority
- Identify a Chairperson to plan meetings, agendas, lead discussions, and be the spokesperson for the group
- Establish a Watershed Team
- Coordinate meetings and advertisements
- Facilitate and lead the public consultation and stakeholder meetings
- Collect and manage all information submissions, technical reports and consultation inputs
- Manage the plan budget and schedule
- Record and distribute meeting minutes to the Water Planning Authority and Watershed Team members and post on WPA or CD website
- Engage participation and interest from the watershed community
- Be familiar with *The Water Protection Act*
- Clearly identify the plan writer and editor(s)
- Determine layout and look of plan
- Provide input and edits to the plan (draft and final)
- Develop a communications strategy to inform watershed residents of the IWMP

Membership will include representative(s) from:

- Water Planning Authority / Whitemud River Conservation District
- Manitoba Water Stewardship – Planning and Coordination Branch

WATERSHED TEAM

The Watershed Team, also known as the Technical Advisory Group or Advisory Team, is a large group (~30 people) and is comprised of representatives from organizations with background knowledge and/or specialization in land management, water resources management, agriculture, land-use planning and local conditions. The group will meet between 3 – 5 times throughout the planning process.

Responsibilities:

- Provide existing technical data, relevant watershed information, and first-hand knowledge and experiences with local conditions
- Present the views and concerns of the organization that they are representing
- Assist with identifying watershed issues, discussing options, and providing recommendations and approaches to address the issues

Membership should include, but is not limited to:

- Manitoba Water Stewardship – Planning and Coordination Branch, Office of Drinking Water, Water Control Systems Management, Water Science and Management, Fisheries Branch
- Manitoba Conservation – Environmental Services, Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
- Planning Districts
- Rural Municipalities

MINISTER OF WATER STEWARDSHIP

As required in Section 18 of *The Water Protection Act*, the Water Planning Authority must submit its proposed watershed management plan to the Minister of Water Stewardship for final approval. The Minister may forward it to the Manitoba Water Council for review, comments and advice.

MANITOBA WATER COUNCIL

The Water Council is comprised of at least five people 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.

4. PRINCIPLES OF INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

The following principles will guide the watershed planning process and shall remain forefront in future decisions and activities.

Mutual Dependence	Water, land and related resources are interdependent and must be managed as such.
Accountability	Each of us is responsible for the social, economic and environmental consequences of our decisions and accountable for our actions.
Transparency	Actions must be based on relevant information, and team members must use an accessible, open and informed decision making process.
Respect	All interactions must be fair and respectful and provide for an environment for sharing ideas and solutions.
Balance and Integration	Consideration of social, economic and environmental costs and benefits must be an integral part of all decision making.
Opportunity	Watershed management and planning will provide forums that will encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in decision making.
Coordinated and Cooperative Efforts	Coordinated and cooperative efforts are needed among all government and non-government interests.
Recognition	There must be recognition of existing rights, treaties, agreements and obligations in all decision making.
Transition Takes Time	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.
Commitment	Watershed management requires a long-term commitment, with continual adaptation and modification based on information provided by regular monitoring and updates.
Support	Actions require resources. Support for the planning process extends beyond meeting participation, and is best shown through action on the ground.

5. SCHEDULE

	KEY ACTIVITY	DELIVERABLE	TIMELINE
PRE-PLANNING	Designate a Water Planning Authority to develop the Westlake IWMP	Memorandum of Understanding	January 2000
	Form a balanced Project Management Team	Project Management Team	February 2010
	Develop a Terms of Reference to guide the watershed management planning process	Terms of Reference	March 2010

PLAN PREPARATION	Hold first round of public / stakeholder consultations	List of well-defined and prioritized issues, options, objectives, and measures of success	April 2010
	Begin to compile existing literature and information to develop watershed information	"Watershed Characterization" document	May 2010
	Summarize information from public consultations	"Watershed Issues identified by Public" summary document	May 2010
	Develop Source Water Assessments for all Public Water Supply systems in watershed	Source Water Protection Assessments	August/September 2010
	Watershed Team Meeting #1	Information exchange, issue confirmation and draft recommendations	November 2010
	Summarize information from first round of public / stakeholder consultations and Watershed Team meetings	Draft Action IWMP	January 2010
	Watershed Team Meeting #2	Confirm plan direction, identify gaps, discuss commitments and revise recommendations	April 2011
	Draft IWMP	1 st Draft IWMP	July 2011
	Watershed Team Meeting #3	Comments and suggestions to incorporate into Draft IWMP	September 2011
	Public / stakeholder review of Draft IWMP	Comments of Draft IWMP	September 2011
	Edit Draft IWMP based on public feedback	2 nd Draft IWMP	October 2011
	Water Planning Authority to review Draft IWMP	Water Planning Authority approves IWMP	November 2011
	Submit IWMP to Minister of Water Stewardship for review and approval	Provincially approved IWMP	December 2011

IMPLEMENTATION	Implement the IWMP	Review Programs and Budget, establish and maintain partnerships, measure success and do projects	December 2011 (ongoing)
	Monitor and evaluate actions	IWMP reporting	Annually
	Revisit and update IWMP	Revisit IWMP Revised IWMP	5 years 10 years

6. BUDGET

Manitoba Water Stewardship provides a watershed planning grant of \$25,000 to the Water Planning Authority.

Manitoba Water Stewardship and other Provincial and Federal government departments provide in-kind technical assistance throughout the planning process, as required.

The Whitemud River Conservation District provides significant financial and technical assistance throughout the planning process.

Category	Task	Amount
Meetings (coffee/donuts, hall rentals)	Project Management Team (12)	\$2,000
Design and printing	Advertising	\$3,000
	Draft IWMP	\$6,000
	Final IWMP	\$7,000
	Promotional tools	\$3,000
Implementation	Advertising	\$2,000
	Promotional tools	\$2,000
TOTAL		\$25,000

7. WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT

The following partners support the principles of integrated watershed management and agree to work together to develop and implement the Whitemud River Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

The intent of endorsing this document is to gain support and build partnerships and cooperation among people and organizations in order to assist with the protection, conservation and restoration of water, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources in the Whitemud River Watershed.

Robert Rogers
Chair, Whitemud Watershed Conservation District

Date

Suzanne Smith
Watershed Planner, Manitoba Water Stewardship

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Stan Asham
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Alonsa

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Jon B. Burton
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Elton

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Tony Kushner
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Glenella

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Philip Thordarson
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Lakeview

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Kathy Jasiencyk
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Langford

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Richard Funk
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Landsdowne

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Larry McLauchlan
Reeve, Rural Municipality of McCreary

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Keith Syslak
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Minto

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Brad Wells
Reeve, Rural Municipality of North Cypress

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Neil Christofferson
Reeve, Rural Municipality of North Norfolk

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Jim Anderson
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Odanah

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

J.T. Trimble
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Portage La Prairie

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Edward Levandoski
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Rosedale

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

David Single
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Westbourne

Date

WHITEMUD IWMP ENDORSEMENT, continued

Victor Baraniuk
Reeve, Rural Municipality of Clanwilliam

Date

ement Plan Boundary

