

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
for the
DESIGNATION OF A WATER PLANNING AUTHORITY
and for the
DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN
INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN
for the
ICELANDIC RIVER/WASHOW BAY CREEK (05SC)
WATERSHED

UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

The Province of Manitoba represented by the Department of Water Stewardship as empowered by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and

The East Interlake Conservation District.

UNDERSTANDING PREAMBLE

INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

The integrated watershed management plan (IWMP) planning process uses the watershed boundary and a local approach to protect and manage natural resources, ecosystems and the environment. The process engages all stakeholders and local leadership to address watershed issues and to work cooperatively toward a vision for the watershed. It is an ongoing, cyclical process that utilizes the latest knowledge and technology to deal with new and ongoing watershed issues.

The planning process adapts the standard four-step, repeating resource planning cycle (plan, implement, monitor, evaluate) to the requirements of the Water Protection Act. The process is designed to be stakeholder-driven and to provide a comparable level of planning for all of Manitoba's watersheds. Each IWMP is to be locally designed to meet local needs and to fit a standardized framework in order to support appropriate development and a comparable level of resource protection throughout the province.

VISION

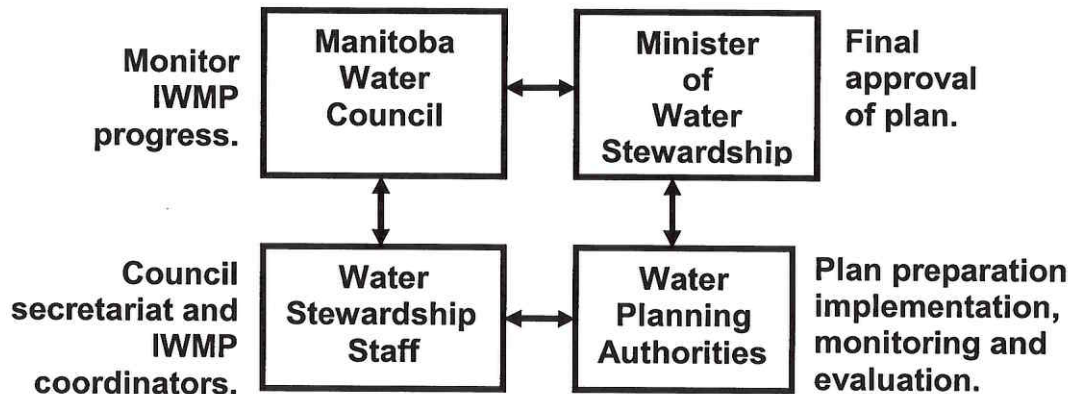
To have in our watershed the best possible water for all people, the environment, and our economy.

GOAL

To protect our water and ensure the social, environmental and economic health of our watershed is preserved. This will require the effective participation of all watershed stakeholders in a broad discussion of watershed issues and to define a plan of action to protect our water. In doing so, it is important to connect water and land planning, and to use local and scientific knowledge.

KEY PLAYERS

The three key players in the planning process are the local Water Planning Authority (WPA), Manitoba Water Stewardship and the Manitoba Water Council. The roles and working relationships of these three groups are displayed in the following figure.



PLANNING PROCESS PRINCIPLES

By this understanding, we agree to support the following IWMP principles:

- **Planning on a watershed basis:** The WPA will plan on a watershed boundary, consulting all those affected by the IWMP.
- **Empowered local water planning authority:** The most effective means of protecting water, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources is to empower those most directly affected. This process will be locally-driven by the WPA.
- **Public participation:** Active public participation and education will be sought throughout the planning process.
- **Provincial laws/policies/guidelines:** All provincial land and water laws, policies and guidelines will be adhered to in the planning process.
- **Science:** Science based information will be the foundation of our IWMP.
- **State of the watershed:** Planning begins by assessing the current state of the watershed. This information is to be shared with all watershed stakeholders with the goal of actively engaging them in the discussions and planning process.
- **Source water protection plans:** These plans are integral to the protection of our drinking water sources.

PARTICIPANTS CODE OF CONDUCT

By this Understanding, we agree to incorporate the following behaviors throughout the planning process:

- **Support:** We agree to support the vision and goals of the planning process.
- **Cooperation:** We agree to cooperate and constructively support the planning process.
- **Participation:** We agree to encourage the participation of all watershed stakeholders.
- **Equity:** We agree all stakeholders should have an equal opportunity for input to the IWMP and all voices and interests are to be heard and considered.
- **Integration:** We agree a successful IWMP is dependent on comprehensive planning with respect to the interdependence of water, land and ecosystems.
- **Honesty:** We agree to be honest in all aspects of the planning process.
- **Open and informed decision making:** We agree to an open public process.
- **Adaptability, caution, and transition:** We agree to be adaptive in the process, not rigid, to exercise the precautionary principle where there is uncertainty and to recognize that transition takes time.

UNDERSTANDING

WHEREAS the East Interlake Conservation District has submitted a proposal (Appendix 1) to act as the WPA and to develop and implement an IWMP for the Icelandic River/Washow Bay Creek (05SC) Watershed as per the map displayed in Appendix 2; and

WHEREAS the East Interlake Conservation District agrees to the planning approach detailed in the understanding preamble; and

WHEREAS Manitoba has accepted, in principal, the request to develop and implement an IWMP for the Icelandic River/Washow Bay Creek (05SC) watershed; and

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto agree to the following terms and conditions:

I Province of Manitoba

The Province, upon signing section V of this document, agrees to:

1. Designate the East Interlake Conservation District as the WPA for the Icelandic River/Washow Bay Creek (05SC) Watershed as authorized by the *Water Protection Act* Sections 14(a) and 14(b).
2. To act as the IWMP coordinators.
3. Provide financial support from the Water Stewardship Fund to the WPA as authorized by Section 29(3) of the *Water Protection Act*.

II East Interlake Conservation District:

The East Interlake Conservation District, upon signing section V of this document, agrees to:

1. Become the Icelandic River/Washow Bay Creek (05SC) Watershed WPA.
2. Submit to and endorse with Manitoba Water Stewardship a terms of reference for the preparation of the IWMP that covers the following information; reasons for preparing, objectives or desired outcomes, participants and their roles, process, timeline, and budget. Submit any other terms or conditions that the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary.
3. Ensure that all provisions for preparing the IWMP, contents of the plan, consultation and public meetings, and plan review, revision

and approval process are completed in accordance with the *Water Protection Act* (Sections 15-22).

4. Ensure all watershed stakeholders are provided the opportunity for input to the planning process.
5. Ensure that the IWMP reflects the provincial priority interests of drinking water source protection and a state of the watershed report.
6. Ensure that the following planning steps are completed:
 - a. Background/history/scope
 - b. Characterize the watershed (State of the Watershed)
 - c. Identify and prioritize Issues, (Challenges and Opportunities)
 - d. Watershed vision and mission
 - e. Action plan (goals and objectives)
 - f. IWMP approval, publication and distribution
 - g. Implementation
 - h. Monitoring, evaluation and public reporting
 - i. IWMP update
7. Seek to complete steps “a” through “f” and to initiate step “g” of the process by January 1, 2008 (2 year duration).
8. Complete an update of the IWMP by January 1, 2018. (10 years later)

III Both parties agree to the following target task schedule to complete the first generation IWMP.

IWMP Task Steps	Cumulative Time
Establish WPA	0 months
Form IWMP Project Management Team	1 month
Form IWMP Planning Advisory Team	2 months
Complete and Distribute State of Watershed Report	11 months
Public Consult –Comment On & Identify Watershed Issues	12 months
Complete and Distribute Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP)	12 months
Complete Draft IWMP	13 months
Public Consult – Comment on Draft IWMP	14 months
WPA Assemble Final IWMP and obtain Provincial approval	18 months
Implement SWPP and IWMP	24 months
Monitor SWPP and IWMP	24 months
Evaluate SWPP and IWMP progress and Redo IWMP	10 years

IV Duration:

The Understanding shall commence from the date of signing below. It is expected to be ongoing with an updated IWMP submitted at least every ten years.

V IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Understanding has been executed on behalf of the Province of Manitoba and the East Interlake Conservation District.

East Interlake Conservation District
Box 689 (temporary)
Arborg, Manitoba R0C 0A0
(204) 376-5033

Wayne Hildebrand, Manager c/o
Conservation Districts Commission
Box 38 – 48 Dennis Street West
Gladstone, Manitoba R0J 0T0

2005-04-01

Dear Mr. Hildebrand:

On behalf of the proposed East Interlake Conservation District (CD) we are pleased to forward the final document to the Conservation Districts Commission for approval to form the East Interlake CD # 17.

As you are aware over the past few years, the Interlake municipal councils began the process of investigating the possibility of forging a partnership with the Province of Manitoba on forming the East Interlake CD.

We feel that this region has an opportunity to participate in the CD Program to benefit all residents within the Interlake as well as the health of Lake Winnipeg. ~~The main priority will be to initiate an Integrated Watershed Plan to outline future direction, set goals and be able to target programming for source water protection.~~

Upon approval, we would welcome an opportunity to meet with and invite the Commission and Minister of Water Stewardship to an official launch of the new Conservation District. If the Commission has any questions or requires additional information, please feel free to call at anytime.

Sincerely,



Harold Foster, Committee Chair
East Interlake CD (proposed)

ATTACHMENT

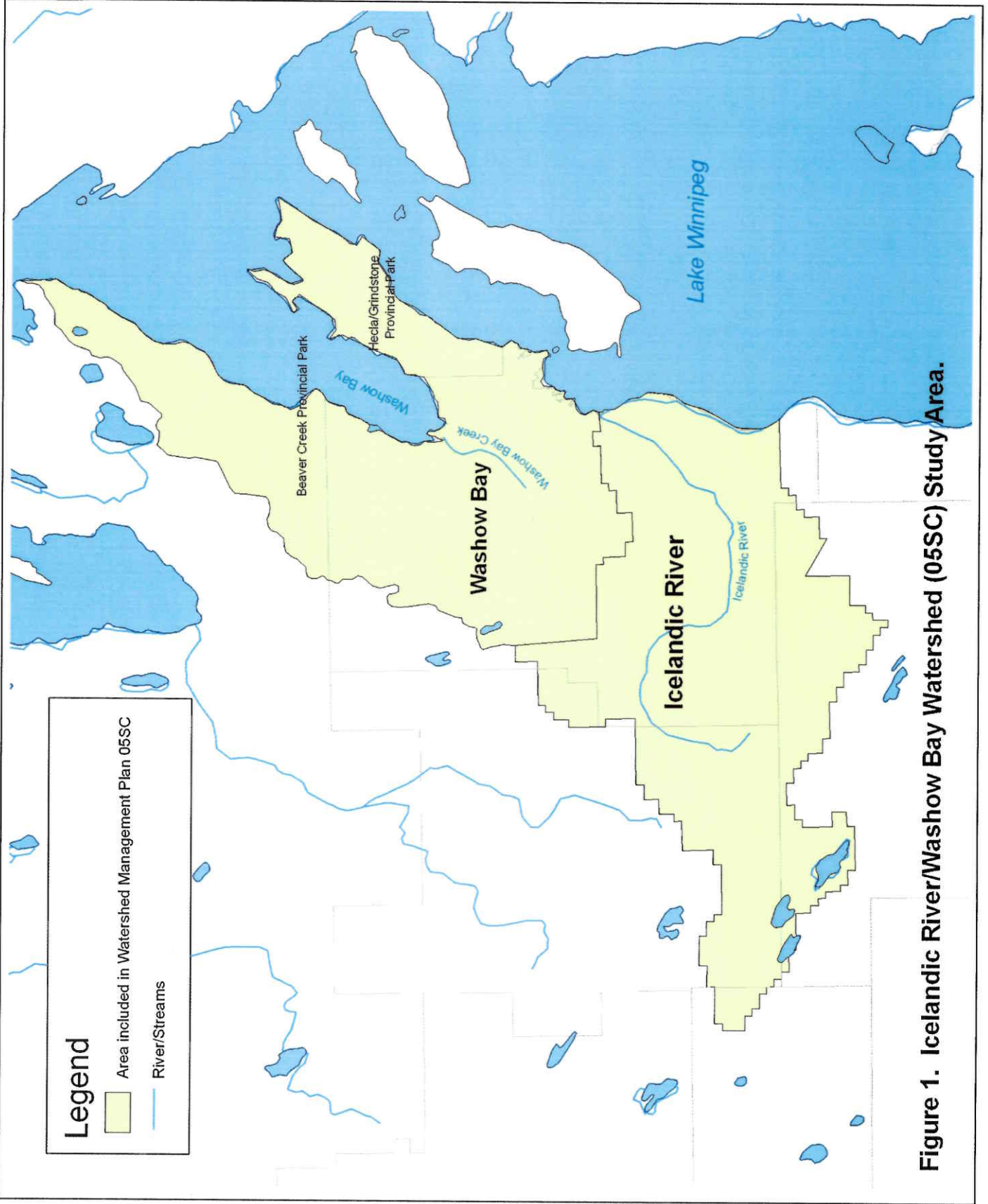


Figure 1. Icelandic River/Washow Bay Watershed (05SC) Study Area.