



## Issue #3 The Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board

Information current as of: July 2005  
Manitoba Public Registry File #: 4975.00

### Summary and Current Status:

The Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board (LWSB) was established in July 2003 as part of a provincial action plan to help protect Lake Winnipeg (see box below). The role of the LWSB is to assist the Manitoba government to achieve the main commitments in the Lake Winnipeg Action Plan to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen in the lake to pre-1970 levels.

### Elements:

The Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board (LWSB), whose members represent a cross section of Manitobans living in the Lake Winnipeg watershed, began meeting in August of 2003.

In fall 2004, the LWSB put out a request for public comments regarding the eutrophication of Lake Winnipeg and the actions needed to reduce nutrient levels (nitrogen and phosphorus in particular) in the lake. Their interim report of February 2005 was based on the various presentations, reports and advice provided in meetings of the LWSB and also on public input<sup>1</sup>. A total of 87 recommendations in 32 different areas are contained in the interim report.

### Lake Winnipeg Action Plan:

1. establishment of a Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board to help Manitobans identify further actions necessary to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous to pre-1970 levels in the lake
2. introduction of new measures to help protect natural growth along the Red and Assiniboine rivers to prevent erosion and reduce nutrient run-off into the rivers
3. provision of a program to expand soil testing to ensure appropriate fertilizer application in both rural and urban settings
4. introduction of a new sewage and septic field regulation that will outline clear standards for the placement of systems
5. development of a shoreline protection project in partnership with Manitoba Hydro to help address erosion concerns
6. commencement of cross-border nutrient management discussions

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/top/2003/02/2003-02-18-01.html>

In spring 2005, the LWSB was requested by the Manitoba Water Stewardship minister to hold public meetings to elicit public input on the recommendations of the interim LWSB report. Seven meetings were held in April and May 2005.

<sup>1</sup> Since public comments have not been made available, it is difficult to determine the extent to which public input was incorporated into the LWSB interim report.

## Manitoba Water Issues

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The public feedback is being used to prepare a "Report on Public Discussion" for the Manitoba Minister of Water Stewardship, Steve Ashton, which is scheduled to be released in July 2005. The LWSB will also prepare a final report for the Manitoba Government for August 2006.

There is no public record of public comments or submissions from the fall 2004 comment process, nor have any comments on the February 2005 interim LWSB report been made publicly available. None of these are in the public registry file. There has been no indication of how the feedback received through public meetings in April and May 2005 and/or through the feedback form on the LWSB web site will be made available. The 2005 interim report does not list presenters or submissions received. Essentially, the operations and decision-making processes for the LWSB are not occurring in a transparent manner.

### Key Publication(s) & Links:

- Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board web site  
<http://www.lakewinnipeg.org>
- Government of Manitoba Press Release February 18, 2003 (announcement of Lake Winnipeg Action Plan)  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/top/2003/02/2003-02-18-01.html>
- Government of Manitoba Press Release July 18, 2003 (announcement of LWSB membership)  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/top/2003/07/2003-07-18-05.html>
- *January 2005 LWSB interim report*  
<http://www.lakewinnipeg.org/web/downloads/LWSBInterimReportJan05.pdf>
- Manitoba Wildlands – Water pages: Manitoba Water Initiatives, LWSB  
[http://manitobawildlands.org/water\\_mb.htm#provincial](http://manitobawildlands.org/water_mb.htm#provincial)
- *Manitoba Wildlands' comments fall 2004 LWSB request for public input*  
<http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/LWSBComments-MBWild.pdf>
- *Manitoba Wildlands' comments – February 2005 LWSB interim report*  
[http://manitobawildlands.org/docs/MW\\_LWSB\\_Comments.doc](http://manitobawildlands.org/docs/MW_LWSB_Comments.doc)
- *Manitoba Wildlands' analysis and recommendations – February 2005 LWSB interim report*  
[http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/AnalysisMW\\_LWSB\\_Recs.pdf](http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/AnalysisMW_LWSB_Recs.pdf)

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