



Issue #9 Manitoba Water Protection Act

Information current as of: October 2005

Summary and Current Status:

Bill 22 *The Water Protection Act* was introduced in the Manitoba Legislature in March 2004 and received Royal Assent in June 2005. Regulations under the *Act* are currently in the process of being developed. The *Act* has not been proclaimed yet.

Elements:

The purpose of *The Water Protection Act* is to provide improved protection for Manitoba's water resources and aquatic ecosystems.

The *Act* includes provisions to:

- implement water quality standards, objectives and guidelines;
- establish water quality management zones for nutrients and to regulate activities within those zones;
- prohibit and otherwise regulate harmful non-native species;
- allow water conservation programs to be established;
- require preparation of watershed management plans, for adoption in local development plans;
- allow for declaration of a serious water shortages

The *Act* is divided into six parts:

- PART 1 - Introductory Provisions
- PART 2 - Water Protection
- PART 3 - Watershed Management
- PART 4 - Compliance and General Provisions
- PART 5 - Amendments to Other Acts
- PART 6 - Consequential Amendments, Repeal, and Coming Into Force

Water Protection Act Timeline

March 4, 2004: introduction, First Reading of Bill 22 *The Water Protection Act* in the Manitoba Legislature

June 2, 2004: 2nd reading of Bill 22 in the Manitoba Legislature

September 13, 2004: Legislative Committee hearings - presentations to the legislative committee for review of Bill 22

November 23, 2004: Social and Economic Development Committee of Cabinet report on Bill 22 filed

May & June 2005: amendments to Bill 22 debated in Manitoba Legislature

June 18, 2005: Bill 22 receives Royal Assent at the close of the Third Session of the 37th Legislature

July 20, 2005: release of consultation document on Regulation of Water Quality Management Zones for Nutrients

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The Regulation of Water Quality Management Zones for Nutrients (WQMZ) is the first of several intended regulations under the new Water Protection Act. The WQMZ consultation document proposes four different Zones to be applied to lands in southern Manitoba that provide varying restrictions on the application of nitrogen and phosphorus. This public review is currently ongoing.

Key Publication(s) & Links:

- *The Water Protection Act*
<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/2005/c02605e.php>
- Previous version of the *Water Protection Act*
<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/sess/b022e.php>
- Transcript – September 13, 2004 Social and Economic Development Committee legislative hearings regarding Bill 22 *The Water Protection Act*
http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/hansard/2nd-38th/sed_06/sed_06.html
- Manitoba Department of Water Stewardship
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/index.html>
- Consultation Document for Initial Review Respecting Water Quality Management Zones (WQMZ) for Nutrients (Manitoba Water Stewardship)
http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/reports/wqmz_2005-07-20.pdf
- Manitoba Wildlands – *Water Protection Act*
http://manitobawildlands.org/water_act.htm
- Manitoba Wildlands' September 2004 presentation to the Bill 22 legislative review committee
http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/Water_Protect_ActPRES_Sept04.pdf
- Manitoba Wildlands' October 7, 2005 comments on the Regulation Under the Manitoba *Water Protection Act - Consultation Document for Initial Review Respecting Water Quality Management Zones for Nutrients*
<http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/WilliamsonNutrientOct05.pdf>

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