

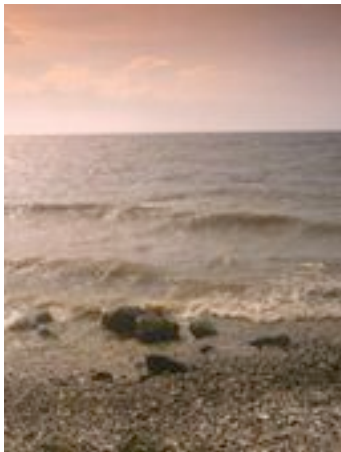
Citizens in Water Initiatives

Water For Life Conference

Southern Chiefs Organization

Winnipeg October 2005

Presented by Gaile Whelan Enns



20 October 2005



Water for Life - Decade for Action

United Nations General Assembly proclaimed
2005 to 2015 as International Decade for Action
'Water for Life'. (December 2003)

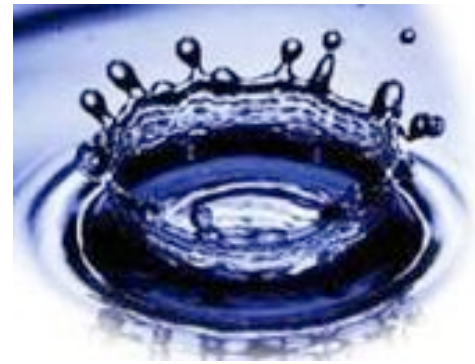


20 October 2005

Water for Life- Decade for Action

The primary goal of the
'Water for Life' Decade:

“to promote efforts to fulfill
international commitments
made on water and water-
related issues by 2015”



Water for Life - Decade for Action

Millennium Development Goals:

- Reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015
- Stop unsustainable exploitation of water resources



Water for Life-Decade for Action

Johannesburg World Summit 2002
two more goals adopted:



- Aim to develop integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans by 2005
- Halve, by 2015, proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation

Who is Manitoba Wildlands?



Manitoba Wildlands supports establishment of protected areas in Manitoba, with a special focus on our boreal forest regions.

20 October 2005



Manitoba Wildlands

- Is a non-profit environmental organization in Manitoba
- Works with Manitoba communities, industry sectors, and environmental organizations.
- Supports communities and organizations concerned with protecting lands and waters
- Fulfills public policy to establish protected areas representative of our lands and waters

Manitoba Wildlands

- Monitors, audits, participates in public processes that affect Manitoba lands and waters
- Participates in environmental proposals for use of crown (public) lands and water
- Provides information about Manitoba lands and waters through our website:
<http://ManitobaWildlands.org>
- Produces and reviews technical information about lands decisions and processes.

Manitoba Wildlands Projects

Four recent examples:

- Silver Falls – Winnipeg River sacred site
- Poplar River First Nations - lands and water management plan
- World Heritage Site nomination
- Wuskwatim Hydro project - technical work and hearings

Workshop Outline

Objectives

- Presentation - outline next slide!
- Answer questions / clarification
- Discussion – successes, concerns, stories
- Identify ENGO and Aboriginal community: things in common
- Recommendations for proceedings

Time Use

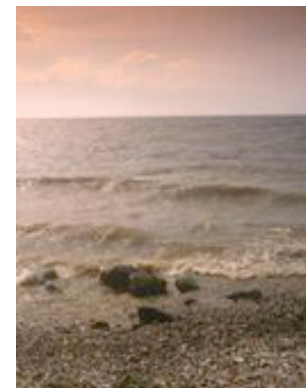
- 30 minute presentation/ questions
- 45 minutes discussion, 15 minute to identify recommendations
- water stories, connect water issues and concerns with actions

Presentation – Outline

- Introduction
- Identification of Water Issues – Manitoba
- Environmental Orgs Work on Water Issues
- Potential Common Ground / Water
- Working Together – Why Bother?
- Ways to Support Each Other / Work Together

Water Issues – Quality

- Ecosystem health / restoration
- Watershed protection/management
- Aquifer health
- Pollutants (industrial, agricultural, municipal)
- Waste water management
- Infrastructure due to nutrient load
- Conservation
- Capacity to test, monitor, report, audit



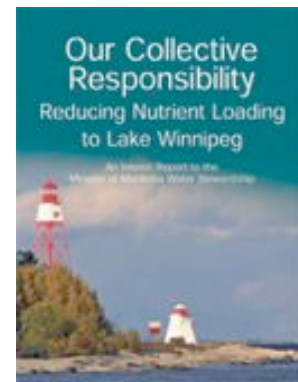
Water Issues - Supply / Quantity

- Use & allocation
- Licensing / permitting
- Access to information
- Environmental assessments
- Access to safe drinking water
- Transboundary / cross border



Regulatory / Policy Issues

- Legislation to protect water/sources
- Legislation for development and allocation
- Policy that impact water despite not being called water policies (e.g. forestry, wildlife)
- Environmental assessment may ignore water
- Need for watershed plans and management
- Post of all allocations, ie. irrigation
- Protect watersheds, ecological services
- Ensure legal & constitutional rights



Water Rights

- Right to access clean, safe drinking water
- Right to affordable, accessible water sources
- UN declaration of Rights
- Community rights to water source protection
- Public ownership of public water
- Public commons water for public use
- Aboriginal Rights, constitutional and treaty
- Difference between stated rights & reality for communities
- Canadian water and sovereignty issues



Development - Assumptions

- All developments affect water, water quality, water sources and services
- Most developments do not pay full cost of water use, effects & impacts
- All communities have water quality and quantity needs, concerns,
- All communities impact water systems

Millennium Development Goals

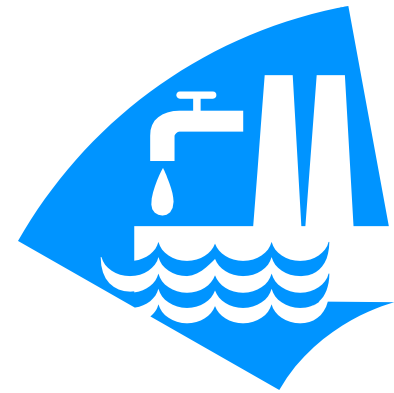
“Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability – reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water”

(<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/goals.html>)

Manitoba Highlights

Quality - Public Processes

- Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board & Implementation Committee
- Public input process into how to reduce nutrients, restore L. Winnipeg health
- City of Winnipeg waste water treatment upgrade, due to nutrients



Manitoba Highlights

Regulatory Development

- Water Protection Act
 - Development of Act, regulations
 - Watershed management planning
 - Capacity to plan and implement ?
 - Mostly southern Manitoba focus

Manitoba Highlights

Water Intensive Developments

- Hydroelectric development – e.g. dams (Wuskwatim, Gull, Conawapa, Gillam)
- Mills and Plants
- Agricultural development – e.g. potato growing, processing plants
- Meat processing operations
- Water infrastructure – Shellmouth Dam
- Interbasin Transfers – options for North Dakota water needs



ENGO Water Issue Activities: 1

- ‘ENGO’ – environmental non-government organization
- Work in the public or community interest, to ensure environmental and ecosystem health issues are heard and considered
- Advocacy / lobbying government and industry, publicize mistakes or contradictions
- Hold government and industry to regulations, licensing standards, reporting, access to information
- Assist those impacted by water issues / quality

ENGO Water Issue Activities: 2

Campaigns

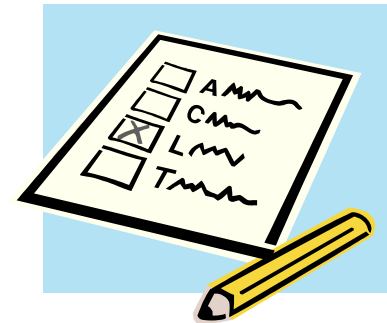
- Public awareness: provide written, web-based information, e-mail updates, etc. to raise awareness, education
- Public action (e.g. mobilize e-mail/fax, letter writing campaigns, rallies & demonstrations)



ENGO Water Issue Activities: 3

Market campaigns

direct lobbying and mobilization of public pressure (consumption and buying habits) to change corporate policy, practice, actions, and/or secure commitments and timelines for changing behavior



ENGO Water Issue Activities: 4

- Policy analysis and recommendations
- Technical reviews of development proposals scientific research and studies
- Review of legislation and environmental assessments
- Share and distribute information to affected communities
- Assist affected communities with their analysis
- Publicize all of the above

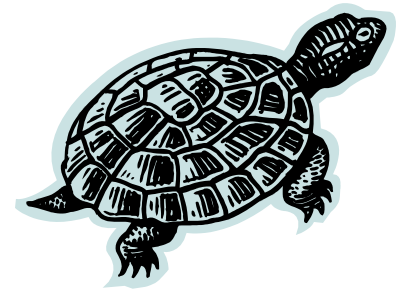
Potential Common Ground / Water

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Water Values

- Holistic and ecological view of water and water systems
- Water as connected to the rest of the land, ecosystem and all other parts of Mother Earth
- Health of water linked to overall health of the planet, all communities, all species
- Water as primary element that sustains us
- Without water there is no life on Earth



ENGO Views

- Recognize Aboriginal peoples' stewardship of water resources over time
- Recognize water is not part of Treaties; Aboriginal peoples rights to water are intact
- Recognize Aboriginal peoples' water rights not sufficiently tested, but within historic treaties, no extinguishment of First Nation/Aboriginal right or title to water
- Aware of potential for common concerns, actions



*“Since water is the source of all life -
lifeblood of Mother Earth - virtually all
rights of aboriginal peoples are dependent
on a viable and sufficient quantity and
quality of water.”*

(Kate Kempton)

Manitoba Water Issues

- Lake Winnipeg water quality
- Lake Winnipeg fishery –important to many First Nation communities; (health of fishery indicator of health of Lake)
- Wastewater discharge (City of Winnipeg) –flows north to Lake Winnipeg and impacts Lake Winnipeg communities
- Protected waters adjacent or within protected areas : provide certainty for spawning, water sources, traditional access, waters services
- Hydro alteration of water ways, flooding, and whole system effects from reservoirs etc.

Working Together? Why ?

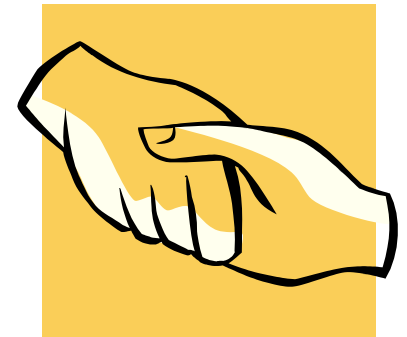
- Strength of collaboration and collective voice about water issue or decision
- Strengths of each group / community combined
- Reinforce messages for more audiences
- We are all affected spiritually, socially, economically, ecologically
- We share risk today and for future generations
- Manitobans all share hydro debt, legacy
- Urban populations take water for granted
- Climate change makes all water issues / risks more urgent

Working Together - How

- Identify common ground / water issues !
- Collaborate on issues based on common concerns, objectives
- Share knowledge, information
- Respect and appreciate cultural, social, economic differences
- Respect each other, each community
- Listen to each other
- Learn from each other

Working Together - How

- Ask, rather than assume
- Agree on communication & language, decision-making, accountability
- Benefits to all parties
- Use each others' strengths
- Agree to transparency, sharing information



Tools and Mechanisms

- Information sharing (maps, documents, reports)
- Co-development of strategy, actions
- Joint media , correspondence, communication products
- Coalitions – many voices, single message
- Statements re: Indigenous rights, universal rights
- Apply both traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge



Water Rights Statements - 1

- Indigenous People Kyoto Water Declaration, Third World Water Forum, Kyoto, Japan, March 2003:

We Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right we have the right to freely exercise full authority and control of our natural resources including water. We also refer to our right of permanent sovereignty over our natural resources, including water

- (<http://www.indigenouswater.org/user/IPKyotoWaterDeclarationFINAL.pdf>)

Water Rights Statements - 2

- Indigenous Peoples Earth Charter, 1992:

Traditional Indigenous territorial boundaries, including the waters, must be respected.

(http://www.tebtebba.org/tebtebba_files/finance/susdev/earthcharter.html)

Water Rights Statements - 3

- United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

Article 26

Indigenous peoples have the right to own, develop, control and use the lands and territories, including to total environment of the lands, air, waters, coastal seas, sea-ice, flora and fauna and other resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. This includes the right to the full recognition of their laws, traditions and customs, land-tenure systems and institutions for the development and management of resources, and the right to effective measures by States to prevent any interference with, alienation of or encroachment upon these rights (<http://www.usask.ca/nativelaw/ddir.html>)

Common Issues

First Nations /Aboriginal peoples, and
ENGOS are working on threats to
Canada's waters:

- Devils Lake
- Great Lakes Annex
- Lake Winnipeg's future
- Water contamination and boil orders



Getting Started

... help the group to develop recommendations on how these **lessons** can be applied and identify **opportunities** for communities to get involved.

Post Presentation Activity / Ideas

- **Open discussion:** visioning, dream session about values and objectives, successes, things people would like to work on / work together on
- **Bridge to get people talking** – invite someone to come up to talk for a few minutes
- **Sharing success stories**, lessons, and opportunities to expand projects and ideas will end the conference on a positive note.

