

Strengthening Water Management in Manitoba

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2019 PPWB COH-COFF Workshop

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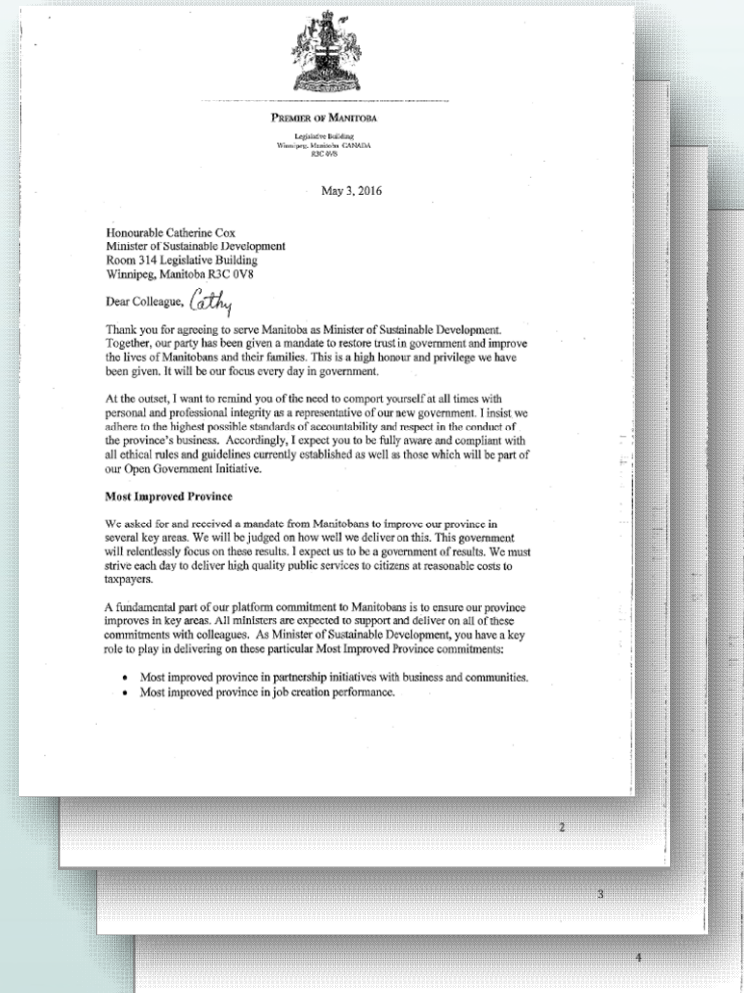
Manitoba



What is the motivation?

Premier issued mandate letters to departments in 2016, Sustainable Developments letter included:

- Watershed based planning for drainage and watershed management
- Establish an ecological goods and services program
- Reduction of “red tape”



Outline

- The Sustainable Watersheds Act
- The Water Rights Act
 - New regulations and registration process
 - No net loss of wetland benefits
 - Water licensing portal
- Watershed Management
 - Modernization of MB Conservation Districts Program
 - Integrated Watershed management Planning
 - “GROW” EG&S program



Bill 7 - The Sustainable Watersheds Act was the key piece of legislation to strengthen water management in Manitoba

- Introduced November 2017, received royal assent June 2018
- Amended four existing pieces of legislation
 - Water Rights Act
 - Conservation District Act
 - Manitoba Habitat Heritage Act
 - Water Protection Act
- Since June 2018, changes to acts are in the process of being proclaimed with new regulations

The Water Rights Act states that no person shall control water or construct, establish or maintain any water control works unless he or she has a valid and subsisting licence to do so.

“Water control works” means any dyke, dam surface or subsurface drain, drainage, improved natural waterway, canal, tunnel, bridge, culvert borehole or contrivance for carrying or conducting water, that

- (a) temporarily or permanently alters or may alter the flow or level of water, or may change the location or direction of flow of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage.
- (b) changes or may change the location or direction of flow of water, including but not limited to water in a water body, by any means, including drainage.

Revamped Water Rights Act highlights and outcomes

- Modernized inspection and enforcement tools and penalties
- Reduced red tape for low risk and low impact projects (registration process), including exemptions for some projects
- New requirements to offset wetland loss and alteration
- Increased flexibility of requirements for downstream approvals, and
- Provided stronger linkages between watershed plans and land use decision-making



Streamlined Registration versus Licensing



Registration Process

A project is registered if it meets the criteria and associated requirements for the six classes of works:

- A. Minor surface drain construction
- B. Agricultural subsurface tile drain construction
- C. Water control works for new crossings
- D. Minor culvert changes
- E. Wetland enhancement and restoration
- F. Small dams
- G. Small dry dams

- ✓ Focus on lower risk projects
- ✓ 14 day approval
- ✓ Application Fee \$100 (can bundle projects)

Licensing Process

If a project does not meet the criteria of a registrable project or requirements of one of the six classes.

- ✓ Focus is on higher risk projects
- ✓ Drainage of Class 3 wetlands
- ✓ Shorter wait times as lower risk projects are fast-tracked
- ✓ Application Fee \$500 (can bundle projects)

Exemptions in Regulations

The following projects would not require authorization under The Water Rights Act:

- Culvert replacements with no change in culvert size or invert elevation
- Drainage and water retention projects that require a license under The Environment Act
- Water control works in urban areas where the proposed works do not:
 - drain Class 3, 4, or 5 wetlands or
 - outlet to outlying rural areas

No Net Loss of Wetland Benefits Approach



- New provision in the Act requires restoration of wetland benefits where a licensee is authorized to drain a prescribed class of wetlands (The Sustainable Watersheds Act – Section 5)
- Requirements to compensate for prescribed wetland drainage in the regulation
- Amount of offset required varies depending on the type of restoration or enhancement work being done
- The approach is based on mitigation hierarchy of avoidance, minimization, compensation



Wetland Classification



Classes 1 and 2 - Ephemeral and temporary wetlands

These wetlands usually hold surface water caused by snowmelt or precipitation for less than one month during years with normal moisture conditions. Land may be cultivated and seeded in drier years.

Classes 3, 4 and 5 – Seasonal, semi-permanent, and permanent wetlands

These wetlands usually hold surface water caused by snowmelt or precipitation for one month or more during years with normal moisture conditions. Land may be dry by midsummer or hold surface water throughout the growing season.

Class 3 are prescribed and therefore require compensation if altered or lost. Class 4 and 5 wetlands remain protected.

Compensation Methods and Ratios



Restoration

- Restore a previously existing wetland

Enhancement

- Increase the size of a wetland
- Improve the benefits associated with a wetland (including upland habitat) and provide permanent legal protection
- Provide permanent legal protection of a wetland

Ratios indicate the required surface area of wetland restoration or enhancement compared to the surface area of wetland loss or alteration.

Action	Restore or enlarge an existing wetland	Enhance an existing wetland (including upland habitat) (*includes permanent protection)	Permanent protection of a wetland
Ratio	2:1	3:1	3:1

Improved technology is streamlining the application and review process

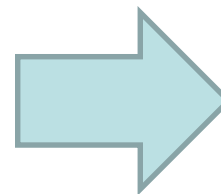
Manitoba has implemented a new provincial database called “WaLLAS”

- Includes a new online portal to replace hard copy applications
- Tracks applications and complaints from acceptance to conclusion
- Includes necessary forms and a mechanism to monitor progress



Water Use Licensing System “WaRMS” (1996)

Drainage/Water Control Works Licensing Access System (1996, 1999)



Water Licensing Portal



SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS



Water Licensing Portal

Login on behalf of an External User

Search for a User

Applicant Name

Account ID

Create External User

Search

Show entries

Account ID

Company Name

Full Name

Address

Phone Number

Account Status

Login

No data available in table

Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries

Previous Next

User Guide

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MAP VIEWING CAPABILITIES



The screenshot displays a web-based map application interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Home', 'Map', and 'Tools', along with a 'Tool Labels' toggle. Below these are icons for 'Search Map Reference', 'Layer List', 'Filter', 'Upload Data', and 'Export'. The main map area shows a grid of land parcels with various colors and patterns, overlaid with red lines representing water control works. A search bar at the top left contains the text 'I want to...'. The left sidebar contains a 'Layers' panel with a search filter and a list of layers, including 'Water Control Works', 'Complaints', 'Reference', and 'World Imagery'. The map view includes a scale bar at the bottom, showing 0, 100, and 200 meters. The map is divided into sections labeled with parcel identifiers such as NW-15-13-10W1, NE-15-13-10W1, SW-15-13-10W1, SE-15-13-10W1, NW-14-13-10W1, and SW-14-13-10W1. A blue dot is visible on the SE-15-13-10W1 parcel, labeled 'Westlake Christian'. The bottom right corner of the map area contains the text 'Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus...'

PRODUCE LICENCE



Generate Licence Conditions

Licence Template: Water Use Reporting Template:

Number of Signature Lines:

Conditions		Standard Code	Order	
Standard Condition populated from TL-1123 template	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	▼	<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude?
Second standard Condition populated from TL-1123 template	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	▲▼	<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude?
Third standard Condition populated from TL-1123 template	<input type="checkbox"/>	103	▲▼	<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude?
First custom condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	▲	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove?

Attachments

Name	File Type	Document Type	Related Task	Author	Upload Date	Action
<input type="text" value="2016-034.pdf"/>	PDF	<input type="text" value="Licence"/>	Prepare Licence	John Doe	2016-10-10	<input type="button" value="Remove"/>

Manitoba's Conservation Districts Program

- ✓ A land and water management partnership program between the Province of Manitoba and member municipalities
- ✓ Creates healthy and sustainable watersheds
- ✓ Led by locally-appointed boards



Manitoba's Current Conservation Districts Program

18 Conservation Districts

Four Infrastructure Districts

104 Municipal Members

80+ employees (40 full time)

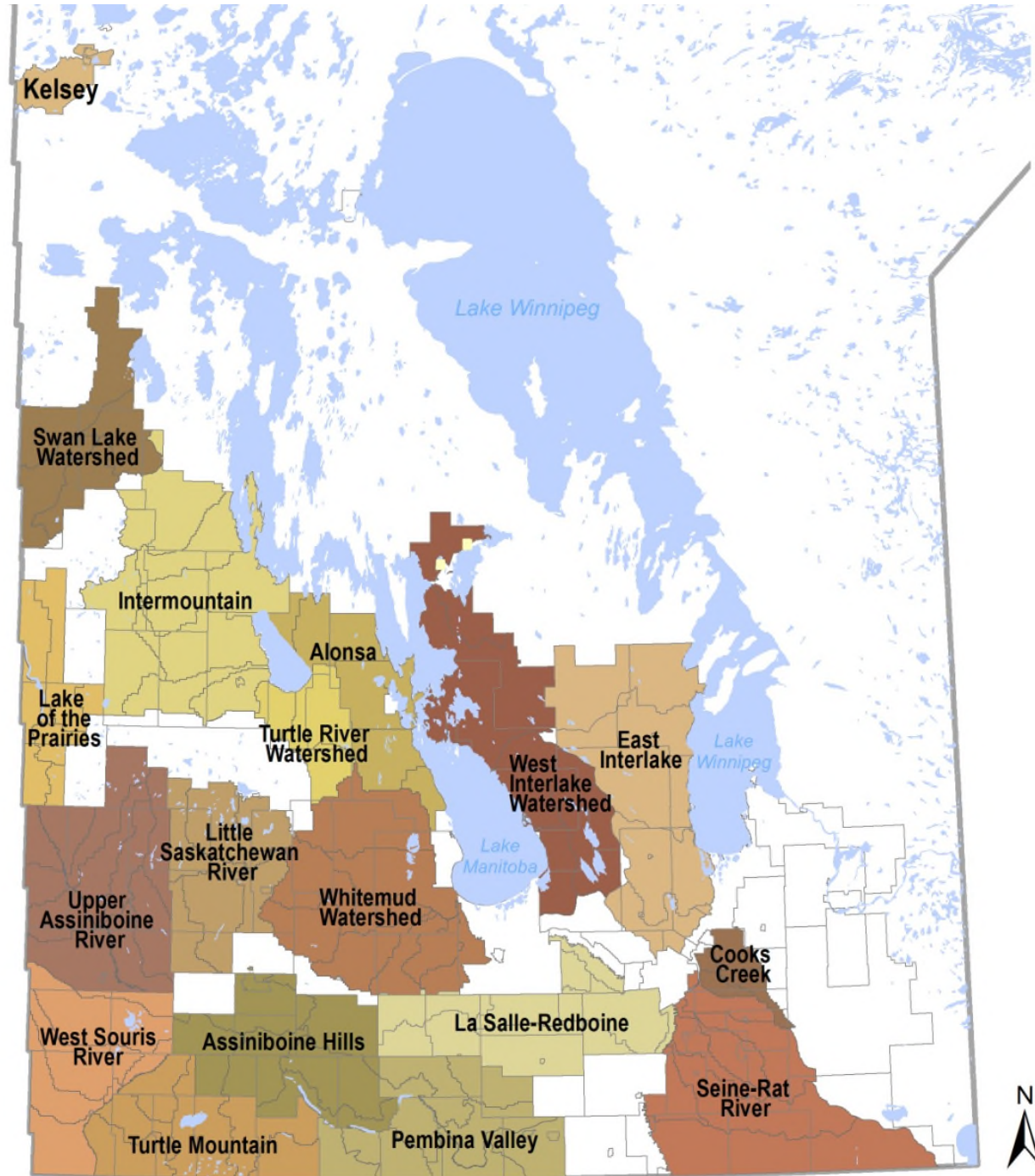
2018/2019 Funding:

\$5.3 M Provincial Grant

\$1.8 M Municipal Levy

\$3.3 M External- NGO, federal

\$10.4 M Program Budget



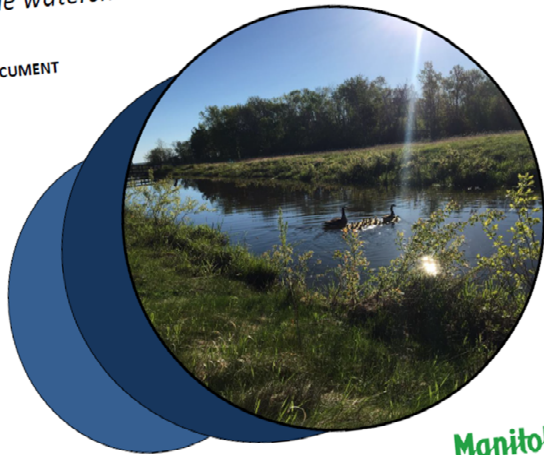
Modernizing Manitoba's Conservation District Program

MODERNIZING MANITOBA'S CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROGRAM

A roadmap to true watershed-based governance

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

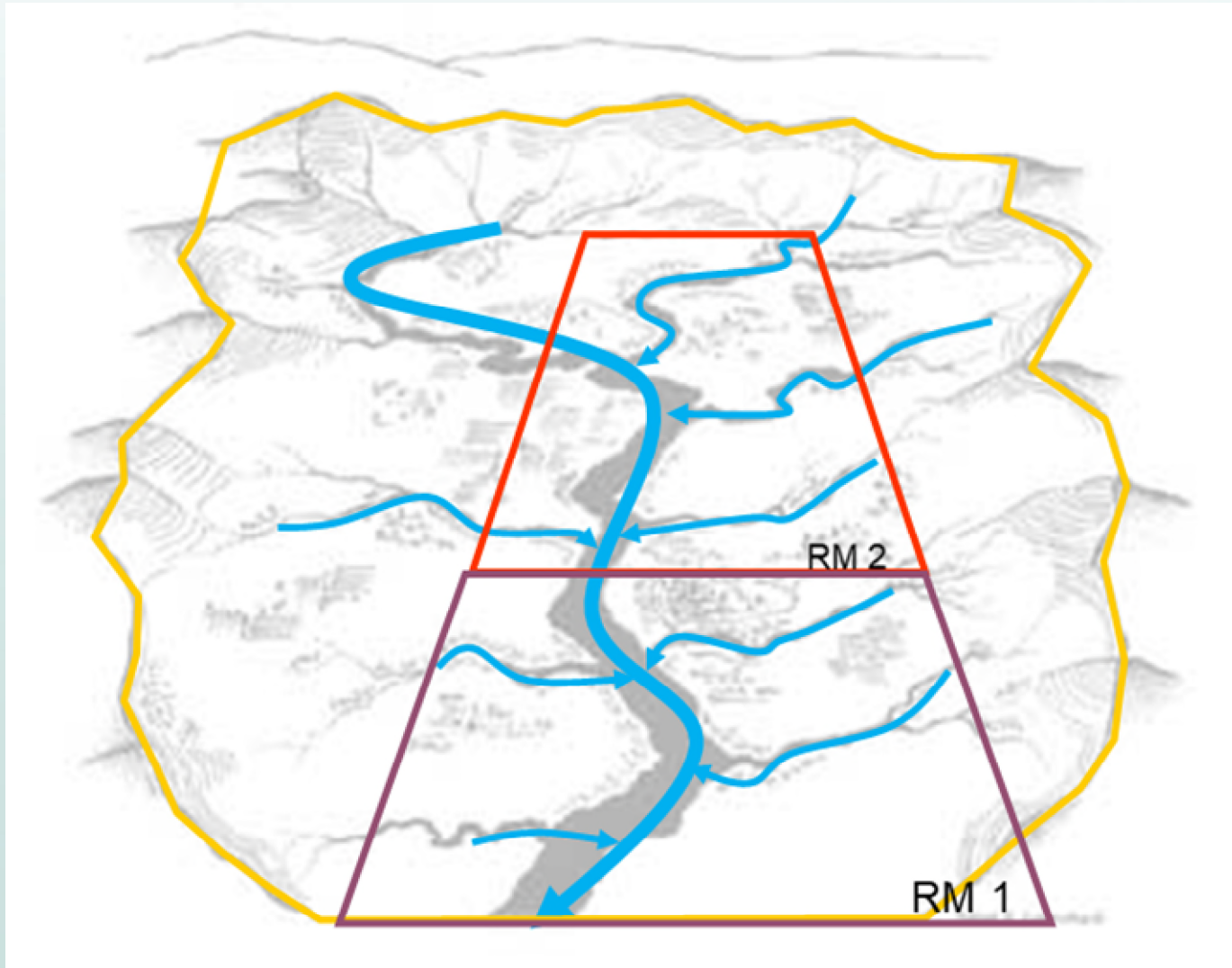
AUGUST 2017



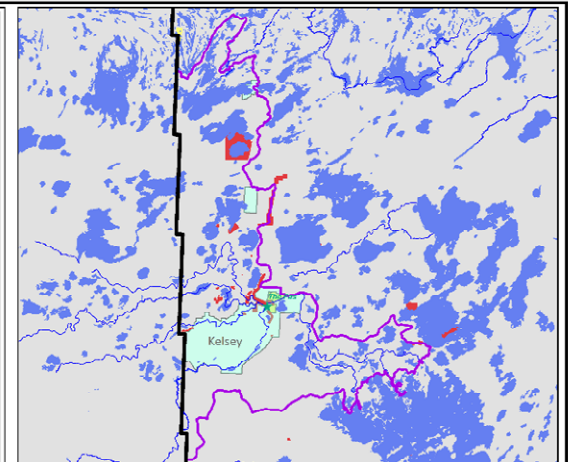
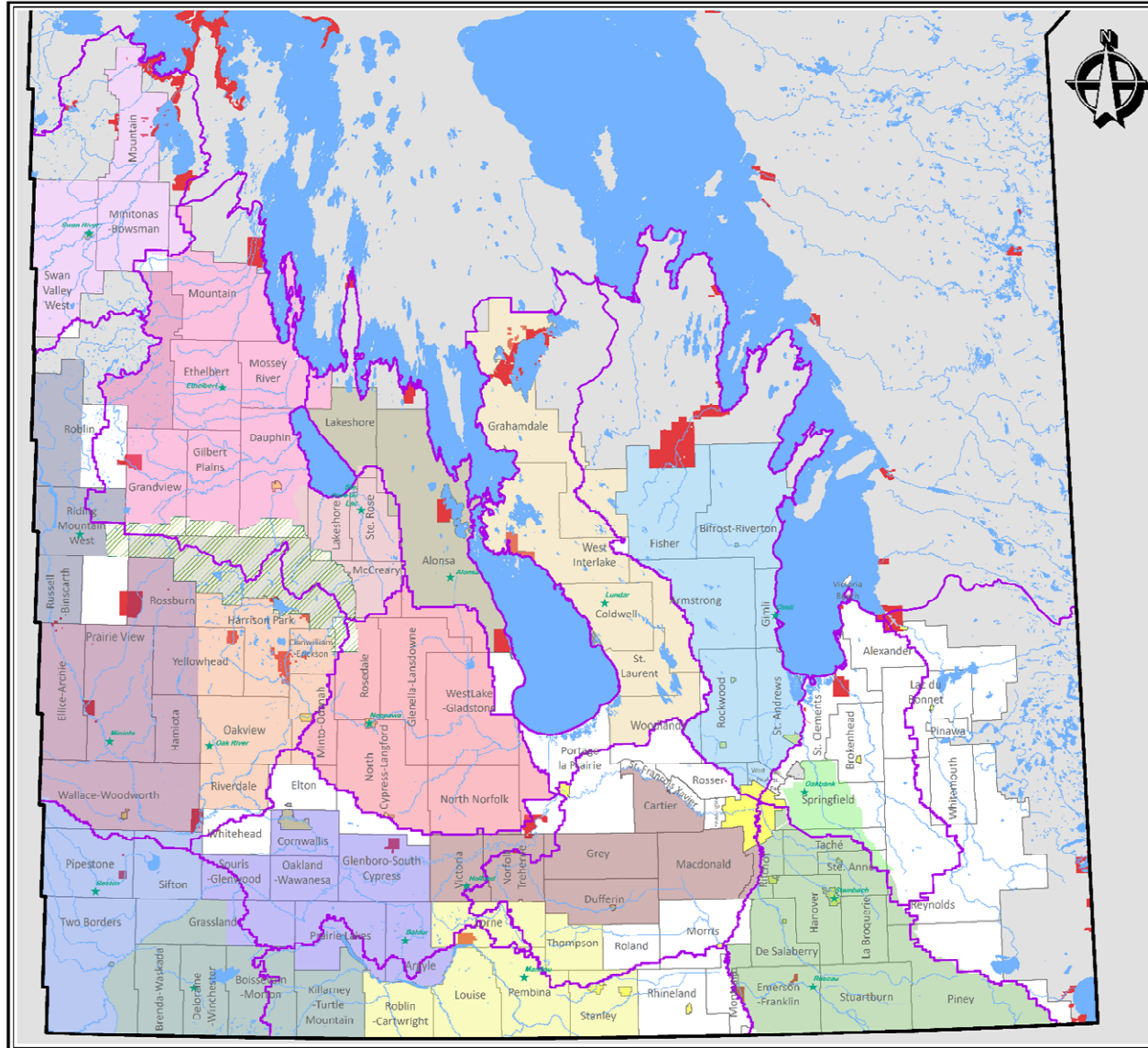
Manitoba 

1. **Align districts to watersheds**
2. **Refresh the program mandate**
3. **Amend legislation**
4. **Modernize funding models**
5. **Enhance watershed planning**

Why align to Watersheds?



Aligning Districts to Watersheds



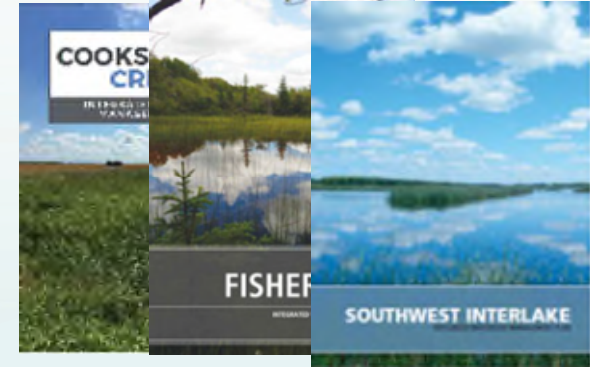
PROPOSED WATERSHED DISTRICTS

- ★ CD Offices
- Provincial Boundary
- ⬭ Proposed Watershed Districts
- ▨ Riding Mountain National Park
- First Nation Lands
- ⬭ Municipal Boundaries
- Urban Areas

Current Conservation Districts

- Alonsa
- Assiniboine Hills
- Cooks Creek
- East Interlake
- Intermountain
- Kelsey
- La Salle-Redboine
- Lake of the Prairies
- Little Saskatchewan River
- Pembina Valley
- Seine-Rat River
- Swan Lake Watershed
- Turtle Mountain
- Turtle River Watershed
- Upper Assiniboine River
- West Interlake Watershed
- West Souris River
- Whitemud Watershed

Evolution of Integrated Watershed Management Plans



Initial Plans

Higher level actions

Some site specific projects

Plan to plan

Early Plans

More site specific actions

Source Water Protection Plans

Surface Water Management Plans

Linking to development planning

Later Plans

More detailed SWM

Distributed Water Storage Studies

Drought Preparedness and
Vulnerability Assessments



GROW
GRowing Outcomes
in Watersheds

A Made-in-Manitoba
Climate and
Green Plan



GROW is a made-in-Manitoba initiative to deliver an ecological goods and services (EG&S) program

- promotes the conservation of natural areas or changes to land uses by helping agricultural producers implement projects that maintain or improve local watershed health and work for their operations
- focuses on “farming the best, conserving the rest.”



GROW
GRowing Outcomes
in Watersheds

A Made-in-Manitoba
Climate and
Green Plan



Priority outcomes anticipated are the reduction of flooding and drought vulnerability and improvement of water quality and nutrient management in Manitoba.

GROW will be delivered by Manitoba's Watershed Districts through local GROW Committees



GROW
*GRowing Outcomes
in Watersheds*

A Made-in-Manitoba
Climate and
Green Plan



What does GROW look like on-farm?

- GROW will support projects in working landscapes that meet priority outcomes. Types of projects may include:
 - water retention
 - wetland conservation, restoration or enhancements
 - riparian area management
 - buffer establishment (e.g., shelterbelts, multi-species buffer strips)
 - upland area conservation, restoration, or enhancement (e.g., woodlot management, grassland conservation, soil health improvements)
- Other projects that propose or develop innovative ideas to conserve or enhance ecological goods and services in Manitoba will also be considered.



GROW
GRowing Outcomes
in Watersheds

A Made-in-Manitoba
Climate and
Green Plan



Where is the money for GROW?

- In 2018, Conservation Trust with a \$100M investment announced
- June 2019, Province invested another \$50M to establish a fund that allows for annual payments for EG&S – The GROW Trust.
- November 2019, Throne speech promised another \$50M towards The GROW Trust
- Other external funding partnerships

Final thoughts....

- Manitoba has made significant progress on key water related mandate items
 - Watershed based planning for drainage and watershed management
 - In the process of establishing an ecological goods and services program, GROW
 - Reduction of “red tape”



QUESTIONS?

