

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

West Souris River Conservation District Programs

Note: Application forms exist for programs and rental equipment. Please consult with the WSRCD office for details on application forms as the forms may change from year to year.

2011-12 Budgeted Programs

Soil

Salinity Seed Program

Objective is to seed forages on saline soils throughout the WSRCD to address the growing concerns associated with salinity.

- The WSRCD will bulk order saline seed
- One mixture will be available
- Forage Mixture – Tap Rooted Alfalfa, Tall Fescue,
- Sweet Clover, Creeping Alfalfa, Slender Wheat Grass.
- Limit of 10 acres per applicant
- WSRCD will cover 100% of the cost.

Forage in Rotation Program

Objective is to use alfalfa in a crop rotation to increase soil nitrogen, improve soil texture and control erosion.

- Forage to Annual Crop - \$10/acre (50 acre maximum)
- Forage to Forage - \$5/acre (50 acre maximum)
- Maximum annual assistance will be \$500.00 for each producer

Forage for Program Soils

The objective of this program is to assist landowners in the establishment of forages on soils that may be unproductive under annual cereal cropping due to one or more of the following conditions: Salinity, Flooding, and Drought.

- Applicant is eligible for \$10.00/acre to a maximum of \$400.00/farm with a minimum of 10 acres enrolled
- Applications must be in landowners name and applicants are only eligible to apply every 3rd year.

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Field Shelterbelt Program

The objective is to establish yard and field shelterbelts to act as a barrier to reduce and redirect wind, absorb excessive moisture, trap snow, and remove carbon dioxide from the air.

- Field or Yard Shelterbelt \$750.00/ mile
- Shelterbelt will be maintained over three years with replants
- A minimum charge of \$250.00 dollars

Rotational Grazing Assistance

The objective is to assist landowners in the development of a rotational grazing system on pastures to increase productivity and ensure sustainability of pastures. Benefits will include reduced run-off, increased infiltration, and a build up of organic matter.

- Provide 80% assistance toward the cost of materials for the development of a fencing system to a maximum of \$1000.00

Water

Abandoned Well Sealing Program

Objective is to protect quality of groundwater, eliminate the safety hazard to humans and livestock and promote the importance of water quality within the WSRCD.

- WSRCD will pay 100% of the cost of sealing each well to a maximum of \$200.00.

Well Shock Chlorination Program

The objective is to help maintain the groundwater quality and improve drinking water quality.

- WSRCD will perform the work and the cost is \$100.00 per well.

Remote Watering Demonstration

The objective is to provide landowners to temporarily use a remote watering system in an effort to increase the number of systems within the conservation district. The program will help improve livestock health and productivity and to protect surface water.

- The landowner will be provided with a remote water system for weeks with a possibility of extension depending on demand at no charge.

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Water Storage Program

The objective of the water storage program is to promote water conservation through the construction of dams or weirs. Multi-purpose projects will be encouraged, whenever feasible. Benefits derived may include water storage for livestock, irrigation, flood control, or wildlife habitat.

- Projects may include: water storage for back flooding and/or flood control.
- Modified drop inlets or control gates on culverts
- Small Dams for multiple uses
- Projects are cost shared the landowner contribution is 15%.

Livestock Watering Improvement Program

The objective is to demonstrate the values of riparian and water management by cooperating with producers to deliver program options to meet their goals. Such options included fencing of buffer strips to improve existing vegetation through limited grazing, provision of alternative watering systems and stabilization of streambanks to reduce siltation caused by erosion.

- 50% of costs (material & labour) to a maximum of \$1000.00.

Grassed Waterway Program

Objective of this program is to stabilize existing water channels to encourage the establishment of grassed waterways to prevent channel erosion, prevent erosion on adjacent lands, and protect water quality.

- WSRCD will pay 50% of the total project costs up to a maximum of \$1000.00.

Souris River Enhancement Program

The objectives are to improve the quality of water provided to livestock through the use of remote watering systems, to protect surface water quality, and protect fish and wildlife habitat.

- The WSRCD will pay 100% of the total cost of remote watering system materials and fencing.

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Education

Conservation in the Classroom

The WSRCD provides \$1,000 for each school in the District to be used towards conservation education materials and activities.

Southwest Manitoba Water Festival

A joint water education festival offered cooperatively by the Assiniboine Hills, Turtle Mountain and West Souris River Conservation Districts which informs students about different aspects of water (use, contamination, forms, safety, etc) through various activity stations.

Mission: to educate and engage youth in the importance of healthy watersheds.

Oak Hammock Marsh

WSRCD sponsors the “On-the-Go” Program put on by the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Center for all the schools in the District on an annual basis.

Canupawakpa Trail – A self-Guiding Nature Trail

- This self-guided 1km trail was developed from 1998-1999 just north of Reston along the Pipestone Creek. More than 400 visitors signed the guest book in the first summer that the trail was open. Tourists from around the world visit. Staff provides guided tours to school classes and this is a favorite with 4-H members during annual rallies.

Malaher Wildlife Management Area

- 4.5KM of trails which wind throughout this management area. Located 1.6KM west of Melita.

Pipestone-Sifton Conservation Award

- Scholarship bursary awarded to students continuing their education in Agriculture or Resource Management. Must be residents or have family owned land in the Pipestone or Sifton municipalities.

Computer Mapping

- WSRCD has recent aerial imagery of the conservation district and can provide printed images and acre counts.

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Miscellaneous Education

- Coordinate and promote conservation tours, activities and workshops for the youth, landowners, general public and other interest groups. These activities are organized as required and as opportunities arise. Various examples of these activities include: woodlot management workshop, extended grazing season tour, salinity workshop, riparian workshop, low-stress livestock handling workshop, holistic resource management workshop, etc.

Equipment Rentals

Broadcast Seeders

- A PTO operated broadcast seeder; electric broadcast seeder and hand broadcast seeder are available for use within the WSRCD for seeding. Seeders are available at no charge to landowners; however there is a \$50.00 refundable deposit required.

Pipeline Plow

- A pipeline plow is jointly owned between the TMCD and WSRCD for use to plow shallow burial pipeline for remote watering purposes. There is a cost of \$100 / day for use and landowners must supply a tractor.
- WSRCD staff will deliver and pick up plow.

PTO and Gas Water Pumps

- PTO and Gas water pumps are available for use within the District for filling dugouts.
- Pumps and hose are on a trailer with either 3 inch or 4 inch hose
- WSRCD staff is responsible for delivery and setup unless informed otherwise.
- Call WSRCD for pumping equipment prices

Tree Planters

- WSRCD owns a tree planter that trails behind a tractor.
- Tree planter is free to rent, however there is a \$50.00 refundable deposit required. Deposit will be refunded upon return of the planter. Availability is dependant on use by WSRCD staff for tree planting program.

West Souris River Conservation Member Handbook

What is a Conservation District?

A Conservation District (CD) is composed of local people managing the resource concerns of their area for the long-term benefit of everyone. Since 1972, CDs have been bringing local people together to manage resources across political boundaries and are commonly based on watershed or sub-district boundaries. Emphasis is placed on integrated soil and water resource management and source water protection with strong educational components. The program continues to grow as a direct result of local people working together building successful partnerships with all levels of government

Purpose of a Conservation District

Conservation Districts are established under the authority of The Conservation Districts Act. There are currently 18 Conservation Districts in Manitoba covering over 70% of Agro Manitoba. District boundaries may be based on the drainage basin, or watershed, of the major river in the area or on municipal boundaries and may include part of all of several municipalities. The West Souris River Conservation is based on the RM boundaries as well as watershed on the eastern side following the Souris River. The extreme North West of the conservation district follows the Gopher Creek through the RM of Wallace into the RM of Pipestone.

Conservation Districts are organized to manage natural resources within a drainage basin or watershed. Resources such as soil, water, forests, and wildlife are all inter-related. Altering any single resource may indirectly or directly affect the management of other resources.

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common point. All land within a watershed is connected by the water that moves over it. Large tracts of agricultural land and small puddles, like those in your backyard, are connected by flowing water. These areas are part of a watershed. Water moves downstream through a watershed, so when puddles fill and water spills over, it eventually ends up in a wetland, creek, river or lake.

West Souris River Conservation Member Handbook

West Souris River Conservation District History

The West Souris River Conservation District (WSRCD) was officially incorporated as Manitoba's seventh Conservation District on January 1, 1995. The West Souris River Conservation District (WSRCD) was formed in partnership with Pipestone, Albert, Sifton and Edward municipalities and the Province of Manitoba.

On April 1, 1999 the R M of Cameron was added. A second expansion in April, 2002 brought part of the R M of Wallace into the district. A total of seven sub districts were formed on the basis of the watersheds and several creeks within the district.

Boundary alignment with the Turtle Mountain Conservation District (TMCD) in 2004 saw the Souris River utilized as the boundary between the two districts. Six sub districts now make up WSRCD. The West Souris River Conservation District (WSRCD) now covers approximately 4208 square kilometers (1625 sq. miles) of south western Manitoba and includes part or all of the municipalities of Albert, Arthur, Cameron, Edward, Pipestone, Sifton and Wallace.

Vision

The West Souris River Conservation District Board envisions a landscape where the land, water and related natural resources exist in a healthy sustainable state and are capable of supporting a healthy and economically viable watershed over the long term.

Mission

The West Souris River Conservation District recognizes the important links between human health and watershed health. WSRCD through education, innovative leadership, community input and partnerships will strive to manage the watershed as a complex sustainable system emphasizing prevention and protection programs.

West Souris River Conservation Member Handbook

Population

Populations for the West Souris River Conservation District are broken down by rural municipalities and towns/villages from 2006 census data.

RM of Albert	339
RM of Arthur	440
RM of Cameron	433
RM of Edward	621
RM of Pipestone	1419
RM of Sifton	796
RM of Wallace	1501
Town of Melita	1051
Town of Oak Lake	396

The other towns/villages population data is combined with RM's

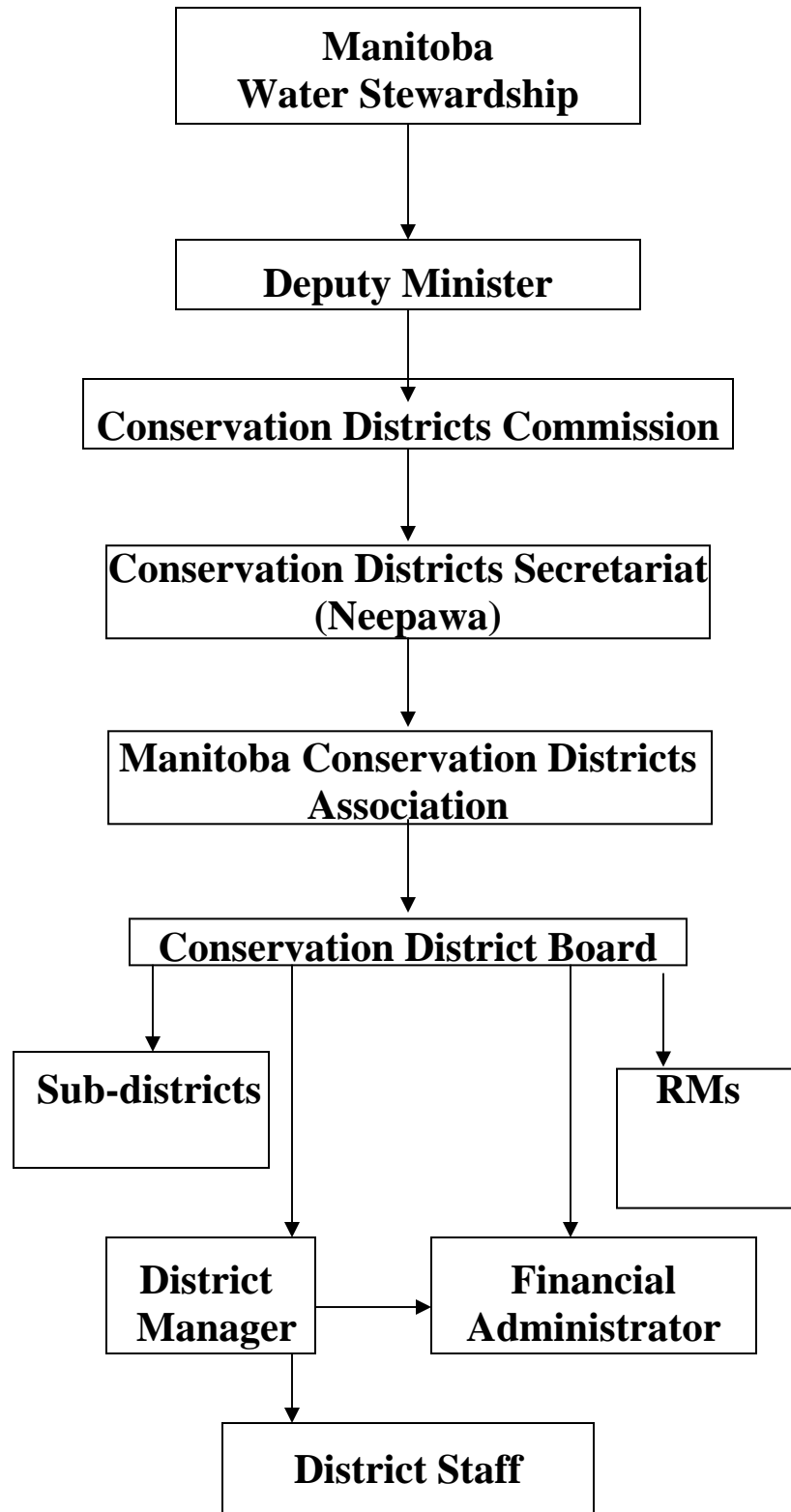
WSRCD Physical Features

The WSRCD is part of the Souris River Basin, a 29,650 sq/km area of land which drains to the Souris River. The Souris River Basin spans two Canadian provinces and two American states.

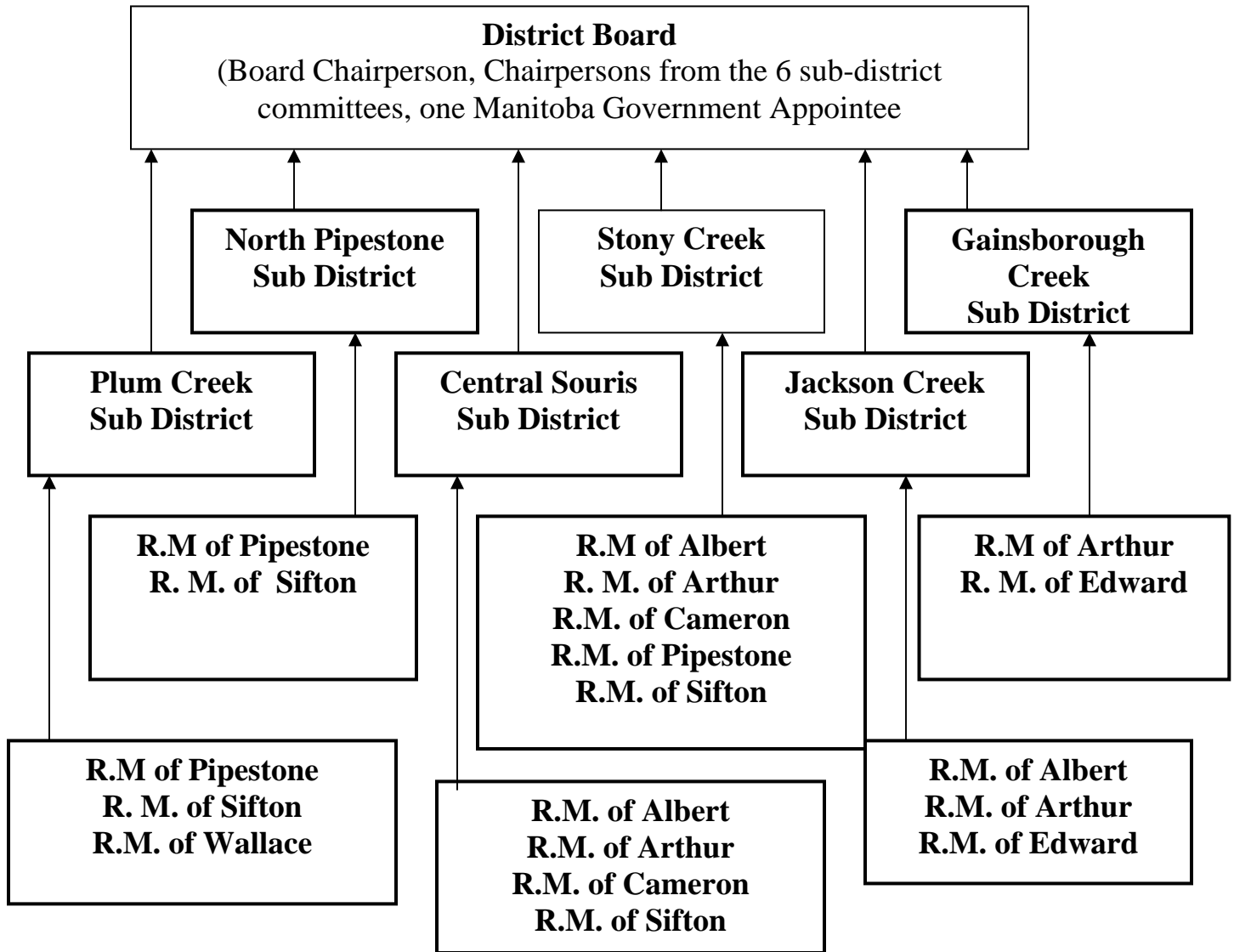
The WSRCD watershed is topographically flat to gentle rolling plains with an elevation change of only 125 metres. There are two physiographic regions within the study area; the Oxbow Till Plain (to the northwest) and the Souris Plain (south and east). The Oak Lake aquifer is a significant sand and gravel aquifer in the watershed and is the primary water source of drinking water as well as supporting various industries with the study area.

A number of water bodies fall within the WSRCD boundaries: Oak Lake, Plum Lakes, Maple Lakes, Pipestone Creek, Gopher Creek, Jackson Creek, Graham Creek, South Antler Creek, Stony Creek, Plum Creek, Gainsborough Creek and the Souris River.

Conservation Districts Organizational Chart



WSRCD Board and Municipal Representation



West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

West Souris River Conservation District

Board

Lloyd Atchison, Board *Chairperson*
Perry Hendry, Jackson Creek Sub District
Richard Thiry, North Pipestone Sub District
Alex Grieve, Plum Creek Sub District
Tim McMechan, Gainsborough Creek Sub District
Gord White, Central Souris Sub District
Wilson Davis, Stony Creek Sub District
Dave Dickson, Provincial Appointee

Full Time Staff

District Manager – **Dean Brooker**
Administrator – **Ina Cook**
GIS/Resource Technician – **Tim Gompf**
Seasonal & Part Time Staff
Work Supervisor – **Mike Herbert**
Admin Assistant – **Carman Martin**

Sub-District Members 2011

***Sub-District Chairperson**

**** WSRC D Board Chairperson**

Stony Creek Sub District

* Wilson Davis	854-2989
** Lloyd Atchison	854-2947
Randy Henuset	854-2523
Karen Jones	686-2358
Ron Rutherford	854-2586
Claude Martin	858-2754
Randy Duthie	522-3769
Dexter Jones	851-2503

Plum Creek Sub District

* Alex Grieve	748-6595
Jack Robson	858-2445
Bob Duncan	556-2348
Jim Pringle	877-3855
Greg Penner	556-2340
Rick Plasier	855-2207

*Richard Thiry	855-2917
Jack Forsyth	748-2659
Russell Thiessen	851-0795
John Galvin	748-3596

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Jackson Creek Sub District	* Perry Hendry	686-2383
	Mel Irwin	662-4591
	Brian Sterling	686-2324
	Kevin Martin	662-4402
	Gordon Dell	522-3606
	Bruce Wheelans	686-2343
	Ron Vanbeselaere	522-3556
	Vacant Poistion	
Gainsborough Creek Sub District	* Tim McMechan	649-2359
	Carey Murray	649-2345
	Jeff McKinney	673-2606
	Delnor Davies	634-2236
	Todd Daniels	634-2525
Central Souris Sub District	*Gord White	858-2006
	Scott Phillips	858-2718
	Roland Peloquin	858-2454
	Greg Barrows	858-2687
Provincial Appointee	Dave Dickson	686-2410
WSRCD Board Chairperson	Lloyd Atchison	854-2947

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Manitoba Conservation Districts Association

Representatives

Murray Seymour , Chairperson, PVCD	822-3365
Heather Dagleish , Vice-Chairperson, AHCD	763-4952
Cornie Goertzen , Finance Chair, SRRCD	326-3105
Harold Foster , EICD	378-2129
Kathy Joyal , KCD	623-3909
Roy Wood , LSRBCD	745-2447
Ron Turetsky , LPCD	546-3290
Ray Frey , LSRCD	848-2610
Richard Sexton , TMCD	747-2972
Paul Brunel , TRWCD	447-2721
Ron Kostecky , UARCD	859-2558
Ernie Bayduza , IMCD	638-0392
Danny North , ACD	
Arnold Coutts , WWCD	386-2444
Doug Oliver -WIWCD	383-5887
Marc Ross - CCCD	392-7111
Lloyd Atchison -WSRCD	854-2947
Walter Pacamaniuk -SLWCD	525-4818
Sharla Boychuk , Executive Director, MCDA	570-0164

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Watershed Planning and Projects

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Brandon Office

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Suzanne Smith
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Vacant
Watershed Planner
david.jones@gov.mb.ca
Phone: 622-2069

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Manitoba Conservation Districts – Managers

Alonsa	Harry Harris	767-2101	Alonsa
Assiniboine Hills	Neil Zalluski	535-2139	Baldur
Cooks Creek	Colin Gluting	777-2223	Winnipeg
East Interlake	Armand Boulanger	642-7578	Gimili
Intermountain	Jody Tucker	742-3764	Ethelbert
Kelsey	Shawn Sexsmith	623-3353	The Pas
LaSalle	Justin Reid	526-2578	Holland
Redboine			
Lake of the Prairies	Adam Kerkowich	564-2388	Inglis
Little Saskatchewan	Colleen Cuvelier	566-2270	Oak River
Pembina Valley	Cliff Greenfield	242-3267	Manitou
Seine-Rat River	Kristy-Layane Carr	424-5845	LaBroquerie
Swan Lake	Brent Erlendson	734-9550	Swan River
Turtle Mountain	Yasemin Wruth	747-2530	Deloraine
Turtle River	Bobby Bennett	447-2139	Ste. Rose du Lac
Upper Assiniboine	Ryan Canart	567-3554	Miniota
West Interlake	Linda Millar	762-5850	Lundar
West Souris River	Dean Brooker	877-3020	Reston
Whitemud	Chris Reynolds	476-5019	Neepawa

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Conservation District Commission Members

Don Norquay, Deputy Minister – Water Stewardship
Chairperson
314 Legislative Building, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Phone: 945-0982 Fax: 948-2519

Fred Meier, Deputy Minister – Conservation
332 Legislative Building, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Phone: 945-3785 Fax: 945-2403

Doug McNeil, Deputy Minister – Infrastructure and Transportation
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Email: dmmitt@leg.gov.mb.ca
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Barry Todd, Deputy Minister – Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives
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Jan Sanderson, Deputy Minister of Health Living, Youth and Seniors
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John Clarkson, Deputy Minister of Innovation, Energy and Mines
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Hugh Eliasson, Deputy Minister of Finance
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Phone: (204) 857-8666 Fax: (204)856-2370

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Budgeting Process

- Budgets are prepared annually by the Board
- Draft Budget must be prepared by August 15th
- Budget must be sent to the CD Secretariat Office by October 1st and approved by Board Resolution
- A budget review workshop is recommended with other agencies for input into District Programming
- Commission/MCDA Finance Committee meet in early December
- The budget will be considered by the Commission before April 1st
- Board to approve a final program and budget once provincial grant funding is approved and a copy must be sent to the CD Secretariat by July.

Surplus Local Funds

The actual expenditures of a district in a given year will vary somewhat with the estimated costs. There can be a surplus of funds in any given account. These funds generally remain in the account for which they were originally raised. The balances of these accounts may then be applied against projected expenditures in the next year's program.

Sometimes accounts will end up in a negative position at year end. These over expenditures are generally temporary in nature and can be offset by surpluses in other accounts. The deficit is normally rectified as part of the next year's budget process or the board may approve a permanent transfer of the funds to cover the over expenditure.

West Souris River Conservation District Member Handbook

Generation of Funds

Funding for the WSRCDC is provided by four sources:

- 1.) Provincial Grant (Core Funding)
 - 2.) Municipal Levy (Core Funding)
 - 3.) External Agencies/Sources
 - 4.) Private Sources
- The Province endeavors to match the municipal levy funding on a 3:1 basis.
 - Municipal Levy requests are based on the annual budget requirement. The CD's annual levy requirement is based on the portioned land assessment. (Portioned land assessment x mill rate determines levy required.)
 - Where External Agency funding is acquired to carry out a program, the overall program cost will be reduced by that amount and the balance will be cost-shared 75% Provincial Grant/ 25% Municipal Levy.
 - Other private sources such as landowner contributions or municipal grants are often received to carry out projects. The overall program cost will be reduced by that amount and the balance will be cost shared 75% Provincial Grant/ 25% Municipal Levy. These funds are not eligible for matching provincial grant funding.
 - The WSRCDC obtains considerable amount of external funding each year to carry out programs.