

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
for the  
**DESIGNATION OF A WATER PLANNING AUTHORITY**  
and for the  
**DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN**  
**INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
for the  
**SEINE RIVER WATERSHED**

**UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN**

The **PROVINCE OF MANITOBA** represented by the Department of Water Stewardship as empowered by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and

The **SEINE-RAT RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**UNDERSTANDING PREAMBLE**

**INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS**

The Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) planning process uses the watershed boundary and a local approach to protect and manage natural resources, ecosystems and the environment. The process engages all stakeholders and local leadership to address watershed issues and to work cooperatively toward a vision for the watershed. It is an ongoing, cyclical process that utilizes the latest knowledge and technology to deal with new and ongoing watershed issues.

The planning process adapts the standard four-step, repeating resource planning cycle (plan, implement, monitor, evaluate) to the requirements of the *Water Protection Act*. The process is designed to be stakeholder-driven and to provide a comparable level of planning for all of Manitoba's watersheds. Each IWMP is to be locally designed to meet local needs and to fit a standardized framework in order to support appropriate development and a comparable level of resource protection throughout the province.

## VISION

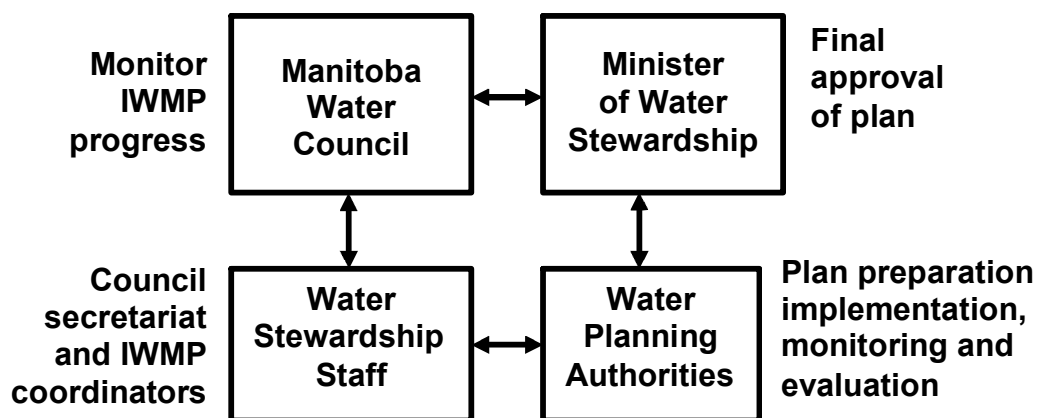
To have in our watershed the best possible water for all people, the environment, and our economy.

## GOAL

To protect our water and ensure the social, environmental and economic health of our watershed is preserved. This will require the effective participation of all watershed stakeholders in a broad discussion of watershed issues and to define a plan of action to protect our water. In doing so, it is important to connect water and land planning, and to use local and scientific knowledge.

## KEY PLAYERS

The three key players in the planning process are the local Water Planning Authority (WPA), Manitoba Water Stewardship and the Manitoba Water Council. The roles and working relationships of these three groups are displayed in the following figure.



## PLANNING PROCESS PRINCIPLES

By this Understanding, we agree to support the following IWMP principles:

- **Planning on a watershed basis:** The WPA will plan on a watershed boundary, consulting all those affected by the IWMP.
- **Empowered local water planning authority:** The most effective means of protecting water, aquatic ecosystems and drinking water sources is to

empower those most directly affected. This process will be locally-driven by the WPA.

- **Public participation:** Active public participation and education will be sought throughout the planning process.
- **Provincial laws / policies / guidelines:** All provincial land and water laws, policies and guidelines will be adhered to in the planning process.
- **Science:** Science-based information will be the foundation of our IWMP.
- **State of the watershed:** Planning begins by assessing the current state of the watershed. This information is to be shared with all watershed stakeholders with the goal of actively engaging them in the discussions and planning process.
- **Source water protection plans:** These plans are integral to the protection of our drinking water sources.

### **PARTICIPANTS CODE OF CONDUCT**

By this Understanding, we agree to incorporate the following behaviors throughout the planning process:

- **Support:** We agree to support the vision and goals of the planning process.
- **Cooperation:** We agree to cooperate and constructively support the planning process.
- **Participation:** We agree to encourage the participation of all watershed stakeholders.
- **Equity:** We agree all stakeholders should have an equal opportunity for input to the IWMP and all voices and interests are to be heard and considered.
- **Integration:** We agree that a successful IWMP is dependent on comprehensive planning with respect to the interdependence of water, land and ecosystems.
- **Honesty:** We agree to be honest in all aspects of the planning process.
- **Open and informed decision making:** We agree to an open public process.

- **Adaptability, caution, and transition:** We agree to be adaptive in the process, not rigid, to exercise the precautionary principle where there is uncertainty and to recognize that transition takes time.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

**WHEREAS** the Seine-Rat River Conservation District has submitted a proposal dated March 24, 2005 (Appendix 1) to act as the Water Planning Authority and to develop and implement an IWMP for the Seine River watershed as per the map (Figure 1); and

**WHEREAS** the Seine-Rat River Conservation District agrees to the planning approach detailed in the understanding preamble; and

**WHEREAS** the Province of Manitoba has accepted, in principal, the request to develop and implement an IWMP for the Seine River watershed; and

**NOW THEREFORE** the parties hereto agree to the following terms and conditions:

### **I. Province of Manitoba**

The Province of Manitoba, upon signing section V of this document, agrees to:

1. Designate the Seine-Rat River Conservation District as the Water Planning Authority for the Seine River watershed as authorized by the *Water Protection Act*, Sections 14(a) and 14(b).
2. Act as the IWMP coordinators.
3. Provide financial support from the Water Stewardship Fund to the WPA as authorized by Section 29(3) of the *Water Protection Act*.

### **II. Seine-Rat River Conservation District**

The Seine-Rat River Conservation District, upon signing section V of this document, agrees to:

1. Become the Seine River Water Planning Authority.

2. Submit to and endorse with Manitoba Water Stewardship a Terms of Reference for the preparation of the IWMP that covers the following information; reasons for preparing, objectives or desired outcomes, participants and their roles, process, timeline, and budget. Submit any other terms or conditions that the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary.
3. Ensure that all provisions for preparing the IWMP, contents of the plan, consultation and public meetings, and plan review, revision and approval process are completed in accordance with the *Water Protection Act* (Sections 15-22).
4. Ensure all watershed stakeholders are provided the opportunity for input to the planning process.
5. Ensure that the IWMP reflects the provincial priority interests of drinking water source protection and a state of the watershed report.
6. Ensure that the following planning process steps are completed:
  - a. Background / history / scope
  - b. Characterize the watershed (State of the Watershed)
  - c. Identify and prioritize Issues (Challenges and Opportunities)
  - d. Watershed Vision and Mission Statement
  - e. Action plan (Goals and Objectives)
  - f. IWMP approval, publication and distribution
  - g. Implementation
  - h. Monitoring, evaluation and public reporting
  - i. IWMP update
7. Seek to complete steps “a” through “f” and to initiate step “g” of the planning process by April, 2008.
8. Begin a Source Water Protection Plan and Integrated Watershed Management Plan evaluation and update process by April, 2016 to be completed by April, 2018.

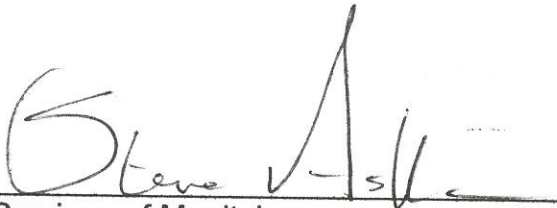
**III. Both parties agree to the following IWMP Task Schedule**

<b>IWMP Task Schedule</b>	<b>Date Started</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
Establish Water Planning Authority (WPA)	February 2006	April 2006
Form IWMP Project Management Team (PMT)	March 2006	April 2006
Form IWMP Watershed Planning Advisory Team (WPAT)	March 2006	April 2006
Complete and distribute a State of Watershed Report	April 2006	January 2007
Public consultations – Comment on and identify watershed issues	January 2007	March 2007
Complete and distribute a Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP)	April 2006	January 2007
Complete the Draft IWMP	March 2007	September 2007
Public consultations – Comment on the Draft IWMP	September 2007	January 2008
WPA complete the Final IWMP and obtain provincial approval	January 2008	March 2008
Implement the SWPP and IWMP	April 2008	April 2016
Monitor the SWPP and IWMP	April 2008	April 2016
Evaluate progress of the SWPP and IWMP and update the IWMP	April 2016	March 2018

**IV. Duration**

The Understanding shall commence from the date of signing below. It is expected to be ongoing with an updated IWMP submitted at least every ten years.

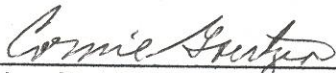
**V. IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this Understanding has been executed on behalf of the Province of Manitoba and the Seine-Rat River Conservation District.



Province of Manitoba  
Minister of Water Stewardship

MAY 29 2006

Date



Seine-Rat River Conservation District  
Board Chairman

March 8, 2006

Date