

Manitoba Water Council

Board Members

Chairperson

Dr. Gordon Goldsborough, Winnipeg

Vice-Chair

Don Sexton, Winnipeg

Members

Alice Bourgouin, Grosse Isle

Albert Dohan, Ethelbert

Loretta Mowatt, Norway House

Wes Williamson, Alexander

Wayne Hildebrand, Neepawa

Kristine Koster, Winnipeg

Don Forfar, St. Andrews

Mandate:

Established by Section 24 of *The Water Protection Act* (the Act), the Manitoba Water Council is a senior advisory body to the Minister of Sustainable Development. It coordinates and oversees the work of all provincial advisory bodies on water protection, watershed planning and management. It is an important consultative mechanism for government on province-wide water issues and assists in building consensus among Manitobans on sustainable solutions to the province's water quality and quantity challenges.

Responsibilities:

The Manitoba Water Council has, subject to the direction of the Minister, the following responsibilities:

- to monitor the development and implementation of watershed management plans in the province;
- to review regulations respecting water quality management zones, and provide advice to the Minister;
- to advise the Minister about matters relating to water generally;
- to coordinate the activities of advisory boards and similar entities that perform functions relating to water, including advisory boards and other entities specified by regulations;
- to assist in reporting sustainability indicators relating to water;
- any other duties assigned to it by an Act or regulation;

Membership:

The Water Council is to consist of at least five members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who are representative of the regional diversity of Manitoba and of local government, agricultural and environmental perspectives. The Lieutenant

Governor in Council must designate one of the members of the water council as chair and may designate another member as vice-chair.

Length of Terms:

The term of a member is as specified by the Lieutenant Governor in Council in the appointment, and a member continues to hold office until he or she is reappointed, a successor is appointed or the appointment is revoked.

Desirable Expertise:

Experience in the field of environmental science, water and wetland science, agriculture, local government and First Nations is desirable. Council members need to have a broad understanding of water related environmental issues.

An effective council member must be able to analyze complex written and verbal information in order to ascertain facts, and apply relevant policy and legislation to this information.

Council members must:

- have a clear understanding of water protection, conservation, and environmental stewardship
- have the ability to provide advice to the Minister on various water related issues
- have the ability to read and interpret various levels of documents both technical and policy
- have good analytical problem-solving skills
- have the ability to make decisions in a fair and unbiased manner
- have strong verbal communication skills including asking questions using non-judgmental language
- adhere to a high degree of confidentiality
- have active listening skills

Time commitment:

Generally, the Council meets bi-monthly for a full day, sub-committee meetings are held as dictated by relevant issues which arise.

Meetings:

Meetings are held throughout the province as to accommodate public access to present regional issues to members and are determined on rotation.

Remuneration:

Chair: \$256 per meeting up to 3 ½ hours; \$446 per meeting over 3 ½ hours
Members: \$146 per meeting up to 3 ½ hours; \$255 per meeting over 3 ½ hours

In addition, council members are reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses as per the general manual of administration.