

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

DESIGNATION OF WATER PLANNING AUTHORITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST SOURIS RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is between:

GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA
as represented by Manitoba Water Stewardship –
Watershed Planning and Programs
(hereinafter referred to as Manitoba)

and

WEST SOURIS RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to designate a Water Planning Authority for the development of the West Souris River Watershed Management Plan.

2. VISION

The vision is that watershed stakeholders, municipalities and government agencies will work through the planning process cooperatively, identify the priority issues and concerns of all groups, utilize local knowledge and scientific information to develop objectives and actions, reach consensus on funding and implementation, and develop a West Souris River Watershed Management Plan.

Manitoba realizes that effective and sustainable watershed management must include local involvement in the planning and management of the natural resources and be the shared management responsibility of all stakeholders and watershed residents.

3. AGREEMENTS

Manitoba agrees to:

1. Designate the West Souris River Conservation District as the Water Planning Authority for the West Souris River watershed (Figure 1), as authorized by the *Water Protection Act*.
2. Provide a Watershed Planner from Manitoba Water Stewardship – Watershed Planning and Programs to assist with the planning process.
3. Provide a watershed management plan grant of \$25,000 to the West Souris River Conservation District.
4. Provide additional in-kind financial and technical support from other provincial staff through the provision of information necessary for the development of the watershed management plan.

West Souris River Conservation District agrees to:

1. Become the Water Planning Authority for the West Souris River watershed.
2. Play the lead role in the development and implementation of the West Souris River Watershed Management Plan, with an understanding of the value in developing the plan as a document that identifies and focuses on priorities and provides direction on watershed management efforts over the next 10 years.
3. Use the watershed management plan grant of \$25,000 only for items and activities as listed in Appendix 1.
4. Commit financial and staff resources to the planning process and the development of the West Souris River Watershed Management Plan.

Both Parties agree to:

1. Work together to develop a Terms of Reference for the development of the West Souris River Watershed Management Plan.
2. Strive to complete the Plan within two years of signing this MOU.
3. Provide watershed stakeholders with meaningful opportunities to participate in the planning process.

4. Develop the West Souris River Watershed Management Plan in accordance with the *Water Protection Act*.

4. DURATION

This MOU becomes effective on the date of signatures below.

This MOU is ongoing unless it is terminated by either Party upon written notice to the other Party.

This MOU may be amended at any time by mutual accord.

Signed:

APPENDIX 1

Manitoba Water Stewardship - Watershed Management Plan Grant

Eligible expenses:

- Advertising and promotion directly related to the completion of the plan
- Design, printing and photocopy expenses related to documents developed during the planning process and for discussion at public consultations
- Printing expenses for final plan
- Facilitator or consultant expenses
- Expenses (hall rental, refreshments) associated with hosting meetings

Ineligible expenses:

- Water Planning Authority, Project Management Team or Conservation District staff remuneration and salary expenses
- Administrative and operational (general office) expenses
- Assets including office or field equipment

Reporting:

- A summary of grant expenditures for the fiscal year must be submitted annually. The report must show all related expenses incurred as a result of the development of the Watershed Management Plan.