

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

**DESIGNATION OF WATER PLANNING AUTHORITY**

**FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE**

**RAT RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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**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 the

**SEINE-RAT RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MOU is to designate a Water Planning Authority for the Rat River Watershed and to develop the Rat River Watershed Management Plan.

**2. VISION**

The vision is that watershed stakeholders, municipalities and government agencies will work cooperatively to identify the watershed issues, suggest solutions, determine priorities and develop goals, objectives and actions for the Rat River Watershed.

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

### **3. AGREEMENTS**

#### **Manitoba agrees to:**

1. Designate the Rat River Watershed, as authorized by *The Water Protection Act* and as shown in Figure 1, as the planning area for the Rat River Watershed Management Plan.
2. Designate the Seine-Rat River Conservation District as the Water Planning Authority for the Rat River Watershed as authorized by *The Water Protection Act*.
3. Provide a Watershed Planner from Manitoba Water Stewardship – Watershed Planning and Programs to assist with the planning process.
4. Provide a watershed management planning grant of \$25,000 to the Seine-Rat River Conservation District.
5. Provide additional in-kind financial and technical support from other Provincial departments / branches.

#### **Seine-Rat River Conservation District agrees to:**

1. Become the Water Planning Authority for the Rat River Watershed.
2. Play the lead role in the development and implementation of the Rat River Watershed Management Plan, with an understanding of the value in developing the plan as a document that identifies and focuses on priorities and direction for watershed management programming and activities for a 10 year period.
3. Use the watershed management planning grant of \$25,000 for eligible items and activities as listed in Appendix 1.
4. Commit financial and human resources throughout the planning process.
5. Provide Manitoba with an update on IWMP grant related expenditures, when requested.

#### **Both Parties agree to:**

1. Work together to develop a Terms of Reference for the development of the Rat River Watershed Management Plan.

2. Strive to complete the plan within two years of the date the plan is initiated.
3. Provide watershed stakeholders with meaningful opportunities to participate in the planning process.
4. Develop the Rat 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honourable Christine Melnick  
Minister of Water Stewardship  
Government of Manitoba

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Hildebrand, Manager  
Manitoba Water Stewardship  
Watershed Planning and Programs

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cornie Goertzen, Chairman  
Seine-Rat River Conservation District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Manitoba Water Stewardship - Watershed Management Planning 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

#### Unexpended Funds

- Any unexpended planning grant funds must be returned to Manitoba

#### Reporting:

- A short summary report of grant and related expenditures for the fiscal year must be submitted annually