

**REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 24, 2025**

AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES
 - REGULAR – JANUARY 16, 2025
 - SPECIAL – JANUARY 21, 23, 27, FEBRUARY 3, 20, MARCH 17, 18, 2025
3. BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES
 - WATER/SEWER PROJECT • SPEED SIGNS • HIGHWAYS
 - CWPP • HYDRO RE TREES • CURRIE DRIVE DITCHING
 - RICE LAKE DAM • COMMUNITY MEMBER PASSING POLICY
 - CEMETERY CARVING • WTP UPGRADE
4. FINANCIAL REPORTS and ACCTS RECEIVABLE
 - JANUARY 2025
 - FEBRUARY 2025
5. UNPAID BILLS
 - MARCH 20, 2025
6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. LAND USE
 - MORATORIUM ON LAND SALE PURCHASES
8. BISSETT EMERGENCY SERVICES
9. RECREATION PROGRAM
 - A. MOVING FORWARD...
10. NEW BUSINESS
 - NEW FISCAL YEAR REQUIREMENTS
 - AUDITOR SELECTION 2024/25 AND 2025/26
 - NACC
 - "CAMP" INITIATIVE
 - SAN ANTONIO SCHOOL
 - OFFICE ACCESSIBILITY
 - DRILLING CLEAN UP TIME FRAME
 - NEXT REGULAR MEETING

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 24, 2025

10:00PM

MEMBERS: Carla Nicholson-Spence
Doug McPherson
Larry Johnson
Gordon Arndt
James Baldwin

GUESTS: Reece Kihn/Public Works Supervisor
John McPherson/WTP Operator in Charge

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

RESOLUTION #176 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Adoption of the Agenda – March 24, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Agenda be adopted as presented.

M/S by Gordon Arndt and James Baldwin

All in favour

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

RESOLUTION #177 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Adoption of the Regular Meeting Minutes January 16, 2025 and Special
January 21, 23, 27, February 3, 20, March 17, 18, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Minutes be adopted as presented.

M/S by James Baldwin and Larry Johnson

All in favour

3. BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES:

A) WATERWORKS PROJECT: The project related invoice sent to MNR in the amount of \$2137.33 was received; Commissioning and meter training date has yet to be determined; Council to inquire with MNR as to who is paying for necessary operator training regarding the meters as council does not feel it should be them; Invoices submitted for reimbursement claim Jaques/Whitmore; The Waterworks Project Deficiencies Plan as requested from Earthmax was received and reviewed and has not been approved by council for lack of detail and an unrealistic completion date of May 31, 2025. Council will request a properly detailed project plan to be submitted prior to the next Regular Meeting and until such time as it is received, reviewed and approved by council no deficiency work will be permitted to be carried out.

RESOLUTION #178 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Waterwork Project Deficiencies Plan.

WHEREAS: The deficiency plan submitted by Earthmax as per council request has been received, reviewed and has not been approved by the Bissett Community Council.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Earthmax submit a properly detailed project plan to be submitted no later than the day prior to the next set Regular Meeting of council.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Until such time as the plan has been approved by council no deficiency work will be permitted.

M/S by James Baldwin and Gordon Arndt

All in favour

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A) WATERWORKS PROJECT:

RESOLUTION #179 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Waterworks project – meter training.

WHEREAS: Required training of operators for the water meters is pending.

WHEREAS: The Bissett Community Council does not feel that they should be responsible for payment of training time.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: MNR pick up the costs of required training component as part of the Waterworks Project.

M/S by Gordon Arndt and Larry Johnson

All in favour

B) COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS PLAN (CWPP):

AS SCHEDULED: AT 10:30 A.M. COUNCIL JOINED A TEAMS MEETING WITH THE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS PLAN COMMITTEE. THE MEETING WAS ONE HOUR IN DURATION. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE AN IN-PERSON MEETING BETWEEN THE ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE AND STAKEHOLDERS AND IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 1ST IN BISSETT AT 10:30A.M.

GUESTS: REECE KIHN/PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:

Reece attended the meeting to request a partial leave of absence with a component for gaining knowledge from John McPherson on the water/sewer works of the community and assisting in public works when necessary. Reece will continue to carry out scheduled water treatment plant monitoring that is shared with John. Further details of how this will be managed will be discussed at a later date. Reece was thanked for attending and the following decision was made:

RESOLUTION #180 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Partial leave of absence – Reece Kihn – effective May 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Reece Kihn be granted a partial leave of absence for the above stated period.

M/S by Doug McPherson and Larry Johnson

All in favour

JOHN MCPHERSON: John was invited to attend the council meeting that provided the council the opportunity to express their sincere gratitude for going above and beyond on the Waterworks Project. The council recognizes John's incredible knowledge and invaluable assistance and his dedication to ensure that the project was carried out in the best interest of the community. Johnny cannot be thanked enough for all of the time and effort he put into the project and after much negotiating with MNR council was able to present Johnny with at least some payment for his time. **THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU!!!**

C) RICE LAKE DAM: Council has been advised that as it stands MNR confirms that the Rice Lake control structure is under the jurisdiction of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) however the municipal authority is responsible for the feasibility study/assessment that is required prior to any pending alterations – to be approved by MTI. Northern Affairs Branch (NAB) has committed to fund the study. The scope of work is currently being drafted and will be shared with council.

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C) RICE LAKE CONTROL STRUCTURE...con't

RESOLUTION #180 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Rice Lake Control Structure.

WHEREAS: The Northern Affairs Branch (NAB) has committed funding for the feasibility study/assessment as per the email from Stewart Sabiston/North Central Regional Director NAB dated February 18, 2025 on the Rice Lake control structure and is preparing the draft scope of work for the project.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Bissett Community Council must be kept fully involved in the project in every and all aspects of it.

M/S by James Baldwin and Gordon Arndt

All in favour

D) CEMETERY CARVING: It has been decided that due to the foreseeable costs associated in this project and until such time as some of the other required and needed projects in the community are completed, the cemetery carving will be considered at a later date.

E) SPEED SIGNS: Council has received the necessary application for the placement of speed signs in the community. An engineer will assist in placement. Areas of concern will be pointed out to the engineer for consideration. The signs are being purchased by the council through monies received from MNR. Council will endeavor to have the speed signs placed prior to the summer traffic.

RESOLUTION #181 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Digital speed signs – community of Bissett.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Bissett Community Council has committed to the purchase of 2 digital speed signs for placement on PR #304 in the community of Bissett.

M/S by James Baldwin and Gordon Arndt

All in favour

H) HYDRO – RE TREES: Information received from HYDRO advises that it is the responsibility of the community to submit a TREE SAFETY ASSESSMENT on all public properties including those on PR #304 through the community for trees and vegetation near overhead lines or hydro poles that pose a safety concern. The application requires photos and additional information such as pole numbers to reference locations. From there Hydro will process the request. Council will carry out a review with the assistance of Public Works of trees/vegetation posing a safety concern on community public property and submit a Tree Safety Assessment where applicable. There will also be an opportunity for community members to submit information to council on private property that can be submitted through the council office. **NOTICES WILL BE POSTED WITH FURTHER INFORMATION *CONDITIONS WILL APPLY**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO:

www.hydro.mb.ca/service/permits/tree-safety-assessment/

I) COMMUNITY MEMBER PASSING POLICY: The Bissett Community Council has passed the COMMUNITY MEMBER PASSING POLICY to come into effect immediately. See Attached.

RESOLUTION #182 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: The Bissett Community Council has established a Community Member Passing Policy.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Policy was read, discussed and passed this 24th day of March, 2025 and;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Will take effect immediately.

M/S by Doug McPherson and Gordon Arndt

All in favour

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J) WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP) UPGRADE: Council has followed up with MNR and have been advised as per the email received from Stewart Sabiston/North Central Regional Director dated February 18, 2025 that there are no significant funds earmarked for the Bissett WTP for the next 5 years. However, in the meantime funding in the amount of \$50,000 has been identified to address critical repairs and issues to ensure the existing facility continues to operate. Of this funding the computer component is a priority. Other areas of concern are: Distribution pump replacement, reservoir cleaning and epoxy requirements, ladder safety and foam issue.

RESOLUTION #183 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Letter of Understanding – BISSETT WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Bissett Community Council has received, reviewed and signed the L.O.U. for the above noted project.

M/S by Gordon Arndt and James Baldwin

All in favour

I) HIGHWAYS FOLLOW UP: In a strong and on-going effort to ensure our voices continue to be heard and to keep pursuing the serious safety concerns of those travelling on PR#304, council authorizes writing to the Minister of MTI and other Ministers, staff and/or departments on the condition of PR #304.

RESOLUTION #184 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: In a strong and on-going effort to ensure our voices continue to be heard and to keep pursuing the serious safety concerns of those travelling on PR#304;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Council write letters to the Minister responsible for MTI, other Ministers, staff and/or departments on the condition of PR#304.

M/S by Gordon Arndt and James Baldwin

All in favour

J) DITCHING CURRIE DRIVE:

In an effort to address the ditching requirements on the north side of Currie Drive the council will:

- Send letter to property owners on the N side of Currie Drive to ensure the ditch is kept clean of debris
- Look at getting a quote from a recommended contractor
- Look at what can be done locally utilizing public works and available equipment
- Look at the feasibility of re-defining the ditch

4. FINANCIAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE:

RESOLUTION #185 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: January and February Financial Report.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The January and February Financial Report and Accounts Receivable be accepted as presented.

M/S by Doug McPherson and James Baldwin

All in favour

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AS AT JANUARY 31, 2025

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| MNR | 2,937.33 | Tipping Fees/Reimb Waterworks project |
| SHARED HEALTH - ERS EAST | <u>525.00</u> | Bay/Clinic rental |
| Total outstanding: | <u><u>3,462.33</u></u> | |

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5. UNPAID BILLS AS AT NOVEMBER 25, 2024

RESOLUTION #186– 2024/25

WHEREAS: Unpaid bills as at March 24, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Unpaid bills as at March 24, 2025 for a total amount payable of \$9599.34 be approved for payment.

M/S by Doug McPherson and Gordon Arndt

All in favour

UNPAID BILLS AS AT MARCH 24 2025

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| AIRMASTER SALES LTD. | 377.25 | Signs - approved | |
| CLEARTECH INDUSTRIES INC | 1,292.85 | Chemicals Garb bin hauling | |
| D & D Excavating & Hauling | 2,299.07 | x 2 | |
| DURACAN | 170.10 | Water Testing | |
| JAQUES, Orion | 1,375.00 | Reimb Sewer Pump/Mileage | *Receipts submitted |
| LINDE CANADA INC | 33.04 | Accetelyne HWYS | |
| MINISTER OF FINANCE C/O | 225.27 | clearing/sand | |
| Powerview Auto Supplies Ltd. | 283.06 | Misc Supplies Public Works | |
| STRADA RECYCLING INC | 315.00 | Approved Tran Stn clean up | |
| WBM TECHNOLOGIES INC | 132.13 | Copier U/F | |
| WYNNE, Gail | 2,898.57 | Chemical pumps/Nets/Keys/Starlink office | |
| WYNNE'S PLACE | <u>198.00</u> | Misc Supplies/Water Samples x 3 | |
| Total outstanding: | <u><u>9,599.34</u></u> | | |

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

A. The MNR Regional Workshop will be held in Winnipeg on May 13 and 14th. Three (3) members of council and the CAO are invited to attend:

RESOLUTION #187 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: MNR Regional Workshop May 13 – 14, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Carla Nicholson-Spence, Gordon Arndt, Larry Johnson and Gail Wynne attend.

M/S by Gordon Arndt and Larry Johnson

All in favour

B. Information on the release of the 2025 Provincial Budget on March 20, 2025 and the positive impact on Northern Affairs Communities was received. See Attached.

C. MNR (NAB) advised that Chris Riedle Senior Analyst has left the department. His position will be filled as soon as possible.

D. MNR (NAB) has advised that they have hired a new Water Operations Consultant for the Northern Affairs Branch – Tyler Hay and will be located in the Winnipeg office.

E. Minutes of the Regional Waste Disposal Site meeting February 26, 2025 were received as information.

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6. CORRESPONDENCE...con't

F) Frontier School Division will be hosting their 46th Annual School Committee Conference in Winnipeg in late April and has invited council to attend the Conference Opening/Banquet and Celebration of Achievements. Carla Nicholson-Spence will be attending as part of the San Antonio School Committee and no other delegates from council will attend.

G) Letters were received from MB Environment and Climate Change specifically the Environmental Approval Branch addressing the important topic of Manitoba Hydro's licences under The Water Power Act and further to the short-term extensions. Received as on-going consultation with council.

H) A letter was received from MB Hydro in respect to the Short-Term Extension Licence – Pointe Du Bois and Slave Falls Generating Station. Received as on-going consultation with council.

I) Shaun Heinrichs/President and CEO of 1911 Gold Corp provided council will drill results as per their web page that can be found at: www.1911gold.com

NOTE: A letter was received suggesting Council consider involving the community in the decision making when allowing in-community drilling including a presentation by the Mine and that every effort should be made to protect areas where in-community drilling is permitted.

J) Water usage from 1911 Gold (True North Gold Mine) for the month of January and February were received.

K) The Minutes from the meetings of the Bissett and Area Historical Society January 14, 2025 and February 11, 2025 were received. Attached.

L) The Northern Affairs Newsletter – Community Contact – was received. These newsletters are posted.

M) The NACC Winter 2025 Newsletter was received and posted.

7. LAND USE:

A) MORATORIUM ON CROWN LAND SALES: It is imperative that the council take action to address the lengthy moratorium on Crown Land sales whereby the province is not accepting land sale applications as it is apparently under review. The review that was tentatively scheduled to last only a few short months in and around 2019 is still in effect. This is an absolute deterrent for anyone wanting to establish residency in the community and does not support community growth.

RESOLUTION #188 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Moratorium on Crown Land sales.

WHEREAS: The province of Manitoba implemented a moratorium on Crown Land sales in or around 2019 and;

WHEREAS: The lengthy review appears to have no foreseeable completion and;

WHEREAS: The moratorium on Crown Land sales is detrimental to the growth of communities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Manitoba Government take immediate action to lift the moratorium on Crown Land sales.

M/S by James Baldwin and Doug McPherson

All in favour

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8. BISSETT EMERGENCY SERVICES:

A. The January and February 2025 Monthly reports were received.

9. RECREATION PROGRAM:

A. The council will once again post for the Recreation Directors position and keep it open-ended until such time as a suitable candidate is selected.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. NEW FISCAL YEAR REQUIREMENTS:

RESOLUTION #189 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: 2025/26 fiscal year requirements.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Bissett Community Council has reviewed and approved the New Fiscal Year Requirements for the period April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

M/S by Doug McPherson and Gordon Arndt

All in favour

B. AUDITOR SELECTION 2024/25 AND 2025/26:

Council sent out the Scope of Work to 3 accounting firms, 2 were received.

RESOLUTION #190 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Auditor selection for 2024/25 and 2025/26 fiscal years.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: R. M. Ellingson Chartered Professional Accountant be awarded the contract for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 audit services as per quote received dated February 11, 2025.

M/S by Doug McPherson and Gordon Arndt

All in favour

C. NORTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS (NACC):

Carla Nicholson-Spence and Gail Wynne shared with council the letter they received from Andrea Kwasnicki/Executive Director NACC over her displeasure of being asked questions by us at the NAB Town Hall forum on February 4, 2025. There was a response made by Carla and Gail that is fully supported by Northern Affairs as there was no misconduct in the questioning, and it was read to council. Correspondence is available to be read at the council office during normal business hours.

Over the past 2 years the council has been discussing, in much detail the benefits of being a member of NACC who is mandated to be the voice of all 48 NA communities, which has been lacking.

In the opinion of the Bissett Community Council, who strongly act as their own advocates, feel that at this time, there is no benefit in continuing to be a member of NACC therefore the council has decided to withdraw their membership effective immediately.

As membership is paid on the community's behalf by MNR the council has been advised that the funding amount to NACC for that community would not change should a community no longer hold its membership. Previously this funding component was paid to council by way of a grant in the amount of \$800 and if the council wished to continue its membership, they would pay this fee to NACC. If they chose not to be a member the \$800 remained in the community. Council will advocate with MNR to change the funding component whereby the councils are granted the equivalent membership dollars if they are not members of NACC.

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10. NEW BUSINESS...con't

C. NORTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS (NACC)...con't

RESOLUTION #191 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Bissett Community Council membership to the Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Bissett Community Council withdraw their membership to NACC effective immediately.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Bissett Community Council requests that the department advocate on behalf of the communities who are not members of NACC so that their portion of the membership fees paid to NACC by MNR be sent to those communities to be used at their discretion.

M/S by Gordon Arndt and James Baldwin

All in favour

D. "CAMP" – COTTAGE ADMINISTRATION MODERNIZATION PROJECT:

CAMP is a Manitoba government directive led by MNR. CAMP provides an opportunity for cottagers to help MNR modernize the administration of cottage areas in Northern MB, outside municipalities and parks. CAMP will address inequality in taxes/levies, inconsistent service delivery and lack of a compliance mechanism for cottage administration in northern Manitoba.

MNR/NAB is responsible for approximately 40 cottage areas outside municipalities and parks. For our area this includes: Wanipigow East and West and that portion of Wallace Lake that is within the boundary of NA. Engagement session with these 40 cottage associations launched in August 2022 and closed in November 2022 and were held via on-line input, Town Hall (virtual) and in person meetings.

The councils in proximity of the cottage subdivisions were not made aware of this until May 2023 and although they strongly advocated for an opportunity to engage and be consulted with, there has been no opportunity to date to do so.

With many unanswered questions the council is requesting a meeting with the Manager of the Cottage Program that will be set up in the near future.

E. SAN ANTONIO SCHOOL: The council has been informed that it is the intention of Frontier School Division to hold a public meeting in early April to discuss the impending decision to close the school with a decision being made on April 22nd.

NOTICES HAVE BEEN POSTED AND THE DATE OF THIS MEETING IS APRIL 8 AT 6:00PM AT THE SCHOOL.

A decision to close the school will be detrimental to the community and will be a huge deterrent for community growth and cause some families to relocate.

It is imperative that the council, community members (past and present), stakeholders, Minister of MNR and NAB staff take action to ensure this does not happen!

Council will post a notice in conjunction with the Notice of Public Meeting from Frontier School Division to encourage attendance at the meeting as well as writing personal letters of support to Tyson MacGillivray/Chief Superintendent Frontier School Division. Council will be inviting stakeholders i.e. 1911 Gold Corp President and CEO – Shaun Heinrichs and Bissett Fire Base Manager, Lee Kemball to make verbal presentation and will also look for the support of the Minister of MNR and Northern Affairs Branch.

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10. NEW BUSINESS...con't

E. SAN ANTONIO SCHOOL...con't

RESOLUTION #192 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: It is the intention of Frontier School Division to close the San Antonio School.

WHEREAS: The closure of the school will be detrimental to the Community of Bissett and will result in a deterrent for community growth and force families to relocate.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Every effort be made by the Bissett Community Council to inform the community members (past and present), the Minister of MNR and NAB, stakeholders namely 1911 Gold Corp President and CEO Shaun Heinrichs and Bissett Fire Base Manager Lee Kemball to attend and make verbal presentation in support of the school staying open.

M/S by Gordon Arndt and Larry Johnson All in favour

F. OFFICE ACCESSIBILITY: The Bissett Community Council will strongly advocate to the department that as essentially the 'care takers' of Northern Affairs property in the community of Bissett, immediate action be taken to provide safe and accessible access to the Council Office.

RESOLUTION #193 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Access to the Bissett Community Council Office is unsafe, dangerous and does not provide accessibility for those with mobility issues.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: As essentially the 'care takers' of Northern Affairs property we make the urgent request to the department to immediately provide safe and accessible access to the Bissett Community Council Office without any further delay.

M/S by Gordon Arndt and James Baldwin All in favour

G. DRILLING CLEAN UP: 1911 Gold Corp in-community drill program should be wrapping up at the end of April. It will be necessary for 1911 Gold to cleanup the drill sites that has the commitment of the Mine. The council will inform them that they would like all areas cleaned up to the satisfaction of council no later than June 30, 2025 including sand at the beach.

RESOLUTION #194 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: 1911 Gold Corp in-community drill site clean up.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Clean up efforts at all authorized, in-community drill site locations be carried out to the satisfaction of council and completed by no later than June 30, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Acceptable beach sand be placed at the beach area.

M/S by James Baldwin and Gordon Arndt All in favour

ADDED:

CLIMATE ACTION FUND: Council has been approved for a \$15000 grant from the Climate Action Fund to carry out a wildfire feasibility assessment of the community.

RESOLUTION #195 – 2024/25

WHEREAS: Climate Action Fund – Wildfire feasibility assessment.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Bissett Community Council work on a clear and concise Scope of Work for the above noted with project to be completed no later than March 31, 2026.

M/S by James Baldwin and Doug McPherson All in favour

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I. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025
7:00PM
*SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 2:18pm

CARLA NICHOLSON-SPENCE/MAYOR

GAIL WYNNE/CAO

**COMMUNITY MEMBER PASSING POLICY
PASSED BY RESOLUTION #183 – 2024/25
DATED THE 24 DAY OF MARCH, 2025**

OBJECTION: In order to be consistent and fair the Bissett Community Council pass a Policy with the purpose of guiding the procedure when a community member as defined passes away.

COMMUNITY MEMBER DEFINITION:

- 1) A current permanent resident of the community of Bissett is defined as;
 - a) Someone who has been a resident for at least 6 months
 - b) Relocated due to work but still maintains a home in the community
 - c) Relocated due to health reasons
- 2) A former community resident of Bissett is defined as;
 - a) Being a permanent resident of the community for a minimum 10 years

INELIGIBILITY:

- 1) Recreational or seasonal residents as defined by someone who has a recreational dwelling but does not permanently reside in the community

IN THE EVENT OF A COMMUNITY MEMBER AS DEFINED, PASSING:

- 1) A card will immediately be sent to the spouse and/or family
- 2) A letter will be written with a monetary donation of \$500.00 made by way of cheque as it applies:
 - a) the deceased spouse or;
 - c) the deceased family
- 3) In the event there is no surviving spouse or family
 - a) A donation in the amount of \$500.00 be made to the stated charity or a charity of council's choice

FUNERAL VENUE/FOOD AND DECOR:

- 1) The Bissett Community Council will offer to community members as defined;
 - a) The Hall for a funeral venue at no charge
 - b) Hall must be booked through the Bissett Community Council office
 - c) Use of non-disposable items ie: real plates, cutlery, drinkware and any other non-disposable items that are available at the Hall
 - d) Set up, take down and cleaning services will be the responsibility of the funeral host
- 2) The Bissett Community Council will not provide:
 - a) Costs associated with the luncheon or any food purchases including any and all beverages
 - b) Décor costs ie: disposable table cloths, napkins, plates, drink ware that are the responsibility of the host and cannot be used from the stock at the Hall

COMMUNITY MEMBER PASSING POLICY

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CEMETERY:

- 1) The Bissett Community Council will offer at no charge;
 - a) A plot at the Bissett Cemetery
 - b) Plot must be defined by family
 - c) Council must be advised of plot location for final decision
 - d) Council will provide services to dig out CREMAINS plot only
- 2) The Bissett Community Council is not responsible for;
 - a) Sourcing out or providing equipment to dig grave
 - b) Grave markers

COMING INTO EFFECT:

AS PER RESOLUTION #182 – 2024/25

DATED THE 24TH OR MARCH, 2025

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

CARLA NICHOLSON-SPENCE/MAYOR

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

GAIL WYNNE/CAO

To Northern Affairs Community Councils and Contact Persons:

With the release of the 2025 Provincial Budget on March 20, 2025, I am pleased to provide details on funding and initiatives for Northern Affairs Communities in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

Budget 2025 reinforces and delivers on the priorities we, as a listening government, have heard from Manitobans. We are following through on our promises to build a shared future by delivering our core election commitments within a fiscally responsible budget. As the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations, I will continue to recognize local governments as serious partners and work with them to deliver results for the people of the province.

Budget 2025 provides key investments that will benefit Northern Affairs Communities, taking into account your unique geographical, cultural and demographic considerations. Through Budget 2025, we continue to advance One Manitoba.

Supporting Core Municipal Operations

The Manitoba government remains committed to supporting municipal and community efforts to address the continued challenges of inflation and rising operating costs to deliver essential municipal services and key programs.

Municipal and Northern Relations distributes the annual Municipal Operating Grant (MOG) to Manitoba First Nations and Northern Affairs communities. In 2025, an additional 3.3 per cent or \$235,574 inflationary increase will be distributed on a per capita basis. This includes the provision of base funding up to \$25,000 for all local governments with populations of 5,000 people or less, including Northern Affairs Communities and First Nations. In 2024/25, a total of \$7.05M was provided to Northern Affairs Communities and First Nations.

In November 2024, the Government of Manitoba announced the One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund, worth \$62M over five years (or \$12.4M per year). First year funding under this commitment will begin in 2025/26 on a per capita basis using the 2021 Census information. Northern Affairs Communities and First Nations will be receiving an additional \$650,459 through this new fund, netting a total operating grant commitment of \$7.95M in 2025, which is a 12.5% overall increase in operating funding from 2024.

A 2 per cent annual increase escalator continues to apply to core community Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding, resulting in an additional \$223,000, from \$11.1 M in 2024/25 to \$11.3M in 2025/26. Northern Affairs reviews the O&M funding provided to communities on an annual basis and adjusts for population change and supports for new costs (e.g. community employee wages or new assets) and removal of costs no longer required (e.g. decommissioned assets). Communities are notified of any O&M funding changes annually from their regional office in April.

The table below outlines the overall increase in funding:

| Item | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | Increase |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Municipal Operating Grant | \$7.07 Million | \$7.21 Million | \$235,574 (3.3%) |
| Community O&M | \$11.1 Million | \$11.3 Million | \$223,000 (2%) |
| One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund | - | \$650,459 | \$650,459 (100%) |
| Total | \$18.17 Million | \$19.16 Million | \$1.11 Million |

Investing in Safe Drinking Water

We will make strategic investments as we prioritize safe drinking water to increase compliance with environmental regulations, including levels of operator certification. Our new Water Operator Consultant positions will assist with building capacity in the regions and continue to reduce the number of long-term boil water advisories as well as the frequency and duration of short-term advisories. We will execute compliance plans to address all remaining long-term boil water advisories and focus on compliance issues relating to wastewater and solid waste management. We are reviewing and updating policies and programs associated with municipal service delivery.

In 2025/26, reviews will focus on solid waste management, public works employees, and planning for implementation of drinking water quality testing for lead at household taps. We will also continue the circuit rider water program, improving water operator certification and training as well as working with communities to attract and retain water operators and other public works employees.

Investing in Strategic Infrastructure

Budget 2025 includes \$3.8M in capital project delivery. The budget commitment will support key infrastructure such as:

- Water supply, distribution, and/or treatment in Berens River, Bissett, Camperville, Cormorant, Crane River, Cross Lake, Dawson Bay, Duck Bay, Gods Lake Narrows, Mallard, Manigotagan, Nelson House, Norway House, Pelican Rapids, Pikwitonei, Seymourville, Sherridon, Thicket Portage, and Waterhen;
- Solid Waste Management in Ilford and Matheson Island; and
- Wastewater treatment and management in South Indian Lake, Herb Lake Landing.

We continue to collaborate with other departments such as Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure for roads and Public Service Delivery for water and wastewater projects. We will continue to work with neighbouring First Nations communities and will make ongoing efforts for shared infrastructure when and where it makes sense.

Ensuring Communities are Protected

The department will use funding of \$2.4M for the acquisition of critical fire equipment, apparatus and training for Northern Affairs communities. We are working with the Manitoba Emergency Services College to coordinate basic firefighting training in summer/fall 2025. Northern Affairs will be implementing recommendations of the community fire program review in 2025.

Northern Affairs has \$1M approved for smoke detectors and fire prevention public education, and is currently working with the Office of the Fire Commissioner to develop a smoke detector program.

Northern Affairs is conducting a community safety officer program review that will inform decision-making on the feasibility of the revised Manitoba Justice community safety officer program.

Additionally, the Climate Change Preparedness Fund (CCPF) continues in 2025/26. This fund intends to alleviate the impacts of climate change by connecting communities with additional dollars to purchase equipment and create programs that will help with climate change impacts.

Support for Policy and Regional Operations

In 2025/26, the department will also be hiring a new director and policy analyst to support compliance, capital and community engagement. This enhanced policy capacity will allow for legislative and policy updates and closer work with Northern Association of Community Councils as we work collectively to deliver needed services and identify new partnership opportunities with First Nations and northern municipalities.

Collaboration with other Departments

We understand the challenges your communities are continually facing to deliver vital services, maintain essential infrastructure, and advance key initiatives that promote healthy and sustainable communities. Our department is working closely with our partners in Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure maintenance and snow clearing of key community roads as well as a longer-term plan to support road rehabilitation projects.

Communication Improvements and Advancing Service Standards

We are committed to strengthening communication and service standards to foster collaborative and respectful relationships between provincial staff and local governments. The Northern Affairs Branch is working to enhance engagement by implementing strategies such as community surveys to inform interactive workshops for council members, contact persons, and staff. Communities are the foundation of our collective efforts to support residents, the economy, and the environment, and we look forward to another successful year of partnership and growth.

Our government is dedicated to working with and listening to communities to deliver results for the people of Manitoba. With mutual respect and shared goals, we look forward to continuing to work hard on our commitments through Budget 2025. Thank you for your continued critical efforts.

Sincerely,



Honourable Glen Simard
Minister of Municipal and
Northern Relations

BISSETT & AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Present: Daisy McTaggart, Willard Anderson, Seija Dittmar, Joan and Bob Bjornsson, Pat and Don Unger, Josette Lukowycz, Eleanor Stardom

Treasurer's Report (Joan): Our current balance is \$8,056.13. There is a cheque outstanding for \$117.12 and a deposit of \$100 so when these last two items clear we will have \$8049.01. The 2024 newsletter has been completely paid for. We received a generous donation from Diane Seewald in memory of her husband, Brian and Josette will send a thank you note.

Membership (Josette) We have 16 Honorary members and have received 23 renewals bringing the total membership to 39. This is not counting the membership renewals that Joan brought to the meeting today. Jack Gillespie had previously made a donation in Monty's memory. There was some discussion as to how this money could be used.

Motion: That the BAHS donate to the Diabetes Association in Monty's memory.
(Pat/Willard) Carried.

Josette mentioned that in a previous edition of the annual newsletter we printed a list of donors' names and asked if we wanted to reinstate this practice. After some discussion it was decided not to continue.

Newsletter (Bob): We already have a short article from Wilda and another member had been asked if he would contribute to the next issue. Josette will do her annual member profile.

Passages: Miles Bell at Matheson Island, MB; Bev Suknacki (Bryan) from Selkirk, Wesley Anderson in Winnipeg, Bernice Hilts (Pruden) from East Selkirk and Richard McPherson in Nanaimo.

Secretary's Report (Eleanor): A birthday card was sent to Honorary Member Gwen Rousseau Jefferies. Sympathy cards were sent to Barbara Campbell, Jim Campbell and Doris Campbell Brown; John and Cheryl McPherson; and Willard Anderson and Daisy McTaggart. Several members attended Bev's funeral in Selkirk.

December lunch: The feedback had been positive and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was a good location with lots of parking. We will continue to have our lunch there next year. There was some discussion as to whether or not to continue the gift draw but a decision was put off to a future meeting.

Monty's Archives: They are currently split between Bob's garage and Eleanor's basement. Eleanor is cataloguing them so we will have a record of what we have to donate. She gave a boxed set of Art Branson's electrical manuals dating back to the 1930s to Bob who will look into donating them to the Manitoba Electrical Museum. We again discussed where to finally donate the material Monty had collected. Willard noted that good security was important. The collection would probably go to the Winnipeg River Heritage Museum in St. Georges but we have a choice

whether to loan the material or donate it outright. Daisy pointed out that the museum was in a relatively remote location and she wondered how many people would visit it. The question was raised whether it would be feasible for a scanning company to scan some of the binders. Don will look into the price of purchasing a scanner. The quality of the printing is of utmost importance.

Website: Josette was in discussions with James Dykstra of CJNU who was willing to teach her about websites so that she can teach others. He had requested no pay so Josette suggested a gift certificate in the range of \$50-\$75 as an honorarium which was agreed on. Josette also thanked Joan for booking the Smitty's location for the coming year.

New Business: At our November meeting we forgot to make our usual charitable donation so it was proposed that we make a donation this year to Harvest Manitoba. This would be a good time to donate in the future as their donations usually drop after Christmas and they were in particular need this year because of the postal strike.

Motion: That we donate \$500 to Manitoba Harvest. (Pat/Don). Carried

Member updates: Josette had contacted Jo'Anne Kelly who had spent some time in hospital but was now home. She would appreciate receiving a note or call. Josette had also contacted Bob Shindruk who was having some health issues but the Gimli hospital was nearby. He will be turning 93 this year and noted that he had been living at his current Gimli address for 20 years. He encouraged anyone traveling through Gimli to look him up. Notes and phone calls are always appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned

Next meeting: **Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 12:00 noon
at Smitty's restaurant (St. James and Ellice)**

Everyone is welcome

BISSETT & AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING
Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Present: Bob Bjornsson, Rob Falk, Daisy McTaggart, Willard Anderson, Eleanor Stardom, Josette Lukowycz, Seija Dittmar, Joan Bjornsson

Treasurer's Report (Joan): We have \$6,961.92 in the bank with approximately \$800 in outstanding cheques. These include donations to the Diabetes Association and Manitoba Harvest as well as renewal of our membership with the Lac du Bonnet Historical Society.

Membership (Josette) We currently have 62 renewed members including the Honorary Members and Joan had passed along 11 more renewals today bringing the total to 73. There are approximately 30 members who have yet to renew. We are also receiving numerous donations.

Note: if you have yet to renew, a renewal form was included in the last newsletter or can be printed from our web site. Otherwise, you can just send a cheque payable to the Bissett and Area Historical Society for \$15 to Joan Bjornsson, 45 Hindley Ave. Wpg, MB R2M 1P5.

Newsletter (Bob): Bob will be asking Jo'Anne Kelly to design the cover again. Several suggestions were made with regard to asking people for submissions.

Monty's Archives (Josette): Don Unger was going to look at prices of scanners that could handle the size of some of the albums.

Web Site (Josette): Josette had been in touch with James Dykstra of CJNU. He will be at Grant Park for the next two months with the radio station and they have agreed to meet some time after the March meeting.

New Business: Diane Seewald's donation in memory of Brian was discussed. Margaret (Wozny) McCarthy had mentioned that her Senior's Group in Tehkummah, ON sponsored a bursary for a local high school graduate and something similar might be one idea. We could also make a donation to the school. Josette will give Diane a call as we want to make a meaningful gift. One of Brian's loves was fishing so another suggestion was to provide fishing equipment to children.

Monty's CDs: Included in Monty's Archives is a box of approximately 20 CDs which were produced for one of the Bissett reunions. They contain selections from Barney Gray's orchestra, an interview with George Reynolds regarding his early days in Bissett and songs that feature mining or San Antonio. Several were handed out at the meeting, they will be made available at our next Christmas lunch and some will be saved for the museum.

The meeting was adjourned

Next meeting: **Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 12:00 noon**
at Smitty's restaurant (St. James and Ellice)

Everyone is welcome