13TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL

LEGISLATORS FORUM

JUNE 26-28, 2013 - WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

MANITOBA | MINNESOTA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA

13th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATORS FORUM

Wednesday, June 26 - Friday, June 28, 2013

Winnipeg, Manitoba

The International Legislators Forum (ILF) is an annual meeting of legislators from Manitoba, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota. It provides an opportunity for delegates to share information, understand problems, build relationships, and develop collaborative agreements on a wide variety of issues relevant to the participating jurisdictions. Forums have been hosted in Winnipeg and Gimli, Manitoba; St. Paul and Moorhead, Minnesota; Brookings and Pierre, South Dakota; and Fargo, Bismarck and Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The Legislators Forum grew out of the International Flood Mitigation Initiative (IFMI), which developed agreements to mitigate flooding in the Red River Basin following the 1997 flood. However, through its annual meetings, the Legislator's Forum has considered many other issues of a much broader range that have directly impacted the region. These discussions have addressed water quantity and quality, regional energy production and transmission, renewable fuels, human and animal health and food safety, methamphetamines, rural access to health care, broadband technology, outmigration and immigration, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), tourism and other public policy issues.

Over the years, the delegates have found that their jurisdictions have mutual concerns and similarities (even across an international boundary) and that programs and efforts that originate in one jurisdiction to deal with public policy issues can be useful in other jurisdictions.

The discussions during the annual meetings have transcended politics and ideology and have been practical and common sense in their approaches. Additionally, the delegates have formed long-lasting friendships that have enabled them to stay in touch and to help each other deal with their shared challenges.

On June 26-28, 2013, twenty-nine legislators (see sidebar) representing Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota participated in the 13th Annual International Legislators Forum (ILF). Hosted this year in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the Forum provided three very busy days filled with working and social events designed to provide the delegates with opportunities to be informed, share ideas and concerns, develop and expand working relationships and develop agreements, proposed solutions and approaches to common challenges. This year's focus was on Energy, Water and Cross-border Trade.

In an effort to be environmentally sensitive, reduce printing costs, utilize available technology, and provide a document array that is concise and user-friendly, the final report of the 2013 International Legislators Forum will be presented in a summary format with all supporting and resource materials available online at: www.agree.org.

General event and presentation information, including the delegates' conclusions and recommendations will be offered in the printed publication while all ancillary materials including:

- *Biographical and contact information on delegates, dignitaries and presenters;*
- *Specific presentations, handouts, related materials*;*
- *Links to related documents; and*
- *Key points and notes from the follow up discussions;*

will be posted by topic on the Consensus Council's website: www.agree.org.

**Actual presentation materials are displayed according to the track/issue (Water, Energy, Trade) in files identified by the name of the presenter. These files include copies of the actual PowerPoint presentations, a brief synopsis of the presentation (if provided by the presenter), and any additional handout materials related to the topic/presentation.*

Wednesday, June 26, 2012

Although not technically an official part of "the Forum," the first day offered those delegates who were able to arrive early some unique activities and opportunities.

Pre-Meeting Activities

•Pre-Meeting Tour – *"CentrePort Canada"* – A Tour of Canada's First Foreign Trade Zone and Tri-modal Inland Port"

Diane Gray, President and CEO of CentrePort Canada *(website D1.0)*, Inc. provided a group of nearly 30 delegates, spouses and staff with a presentation on and guided tour of the CentrePort headquarters and facilities *(website: PMT 1.0)* - Note: Ms. Gray had been a presenter in the Trade and Technology track during the 2011 Forum in Brookings, SD.

• **ILF Steering Committee Meeting**

The attending members of the Forum's Steering Committee (see sidebar) met to review and finalize the agenda, logistics and arrangements, and continue the planning processes for the 2014 Forum *(website: SC1.1).*

• **Opening Reception**

A reception, hosted at the Manitoba Hydro Headquarters Building in downtown Winnipeg, provided a networking and social interlude and a firsthand perspective on the practical application of the modern conservation practices utilized in the construction and management of this facility (http://manitobahydroplace.com/). Delegates, spouses, presenters and special guests were honored with a visit and welcome provided by Manitoba Premier **Greg Selinger**. Greetings from the Honourable **Peter Bjornson**, MLA for Gimli and Minister of Entrepreneurship, Training & Trade and **Dennis Smook**, MLA for LaVerendrye (Manitoba's representatives on the Steering Committee) highlighted an enjoyable evening. **Ken Adams**, Senior Vice-President/Power Supply from Manitoba Hydro spoke to the group about the history and significance of the Headquarters Building and guided tours of the facility were provided.

Thursday and Friday, June 27 and 28, 2013

• **Opening**

The Honourable **Peter Bjornson** and **Dennis Smook** provided a warm and friendly Manitoba welcome to the delegates, spouses, special guests and presenters. They noted the mission and work of the ILF and offered their hospitality, assistance and support throughout the event.

The participants completed a round of self-introductions *(see sidebar and website: D1.1)* and expressed their support for and acceptance of the consensus-based decision-making process for use throughout the Forum. A series of housekeeping, process and meeting agenda *(website: A1.1)* details were addressed, with special note of the "Spouses Program" *(website: A1.2)*, and the 2013 International Legislators Forum was officially opened.

• **Plenary Sessions – The Inn at the Forks**

The plenary sessions were organized with an emphasis on information and discussion. The featured presenters were recruited and enlisted based upon their recognized knowledge and expertise relative to a respective topic within a track. Each presentation was followed by an opportunity for the delegates to make comments, ask questions and engage the presenters in a flexible and interactive dialogue. Discussion points are summarized in this document immediately following each topic section. The specific materials from each presentation are referenced and posted on the Consensus Council website (www.agree.org).

CROSS-BORDER TRADE; WATER; AND ENERGY

Cross-border Trade

"The International Legislators Forum 101" – Background and History:

A perspective on regional history, governmental structure and the political and cultural aspects of our people that challenge and foster the efforts and activities of the Legislators Forum.

"Never a Final Word: a History of Change in the Four Jurisdictions of the Red River Basin"
- *(website: T1.1 and T1.1a)*

Presented by: **Gerald Friesen**, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Manitoba

Professor Friesen delivered a presentation on the history of Canadian-American relations, comparative political systems, and the responses (Left and Right) to contemporary global change. The intent of the presentation is to provide context for discussions by Legislators during the Forum, to highlight the common history and interests between our countries and regions, and to provide awareness of our differences.

Discussion Points:

- "Midwestern attitudes" shape the similarities between and among the people from our region.
- The region and its people have a varied and extensive expertise (including at world-class levels) in many areas. Realizing that and sharing that knowledge and those capabilities helps the entire region.
- The Forum was founded because of water issues (Red River/Devils Lake) and it really didn't matter where we were from because we were able to identify some common/shared goals. Demographics and geography can make a difference, but we focus on working across party lines.
- It is not uncommon in our region that the majority of state representatives are of one party and the national/federal representatives are from the other party. These countervailing forces can be positive.
- Native/First Nations/Aboriginal/Indigenous Peoples make up key segments of our respective populations. This should be a future ILF topic (Suggested reading: "The Presence of the Past.")

"Cross-Border Trade - Agriculture" – Opportunities and Challenges

"Perspectives on current and proposed U.S. and Canadian farm policies, the respective processes for the development and implementation of such policies and updates and information on the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) regulations."

"USA Federal Farm Bill and Country-Of-Origin-Labeling (COOL)" – *(website: T1.2 and T1.2a)*;
Presented by: **Mike Traxinger,** Legislative Director, South Dakota Farmers Union

"Canadian Farm Policy and COOL" - *(website: T1.3)*
Presented by: **Andrew Dickson**, General Manager, Manitoba Pork Council

Mr. Traxinger and Mr. Dickson offered background information on the processes and governmental philosophies regarding the development and implementation of agricultural policies in their respective countries. They also offered and discussed their perspectives and provided updates and information on the Country of Origin Labeling regulations.

Discussion Points:

- The original intent of COOL was linked to consumer concerns that surfaced a number of years ago and an attempt to limit imports to develop and support a niche market. There continues to be support for the regulations among US producers, consumers and retailers (the regulations do not affect restaurants – a possible accommodation to help the bill through the process).
- Currently, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and its regulations also govern livestock trade.
- Following complaints by Canada and Mexico, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body has ruled that existing US mandatory COOL regulations are not compliant with the international trade obligations

that the US has adopted. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has since made changes to COOL to require more stringent labeling. Canada has stated that it does not believe these changes will bring the US into compliance, and has announced that it will pursue the issue further at the WTO, including by seeking retaliatory measures if the new USDA rule is still deemed non-compliant. It is expected that legislation will be required to accomplish the corrections sought by Canada and several US producer and processing groups. The most likely vehicle for such changes would be the Farm Bill, but the status of that legislation is unclear at this time.

- There are no genetically modified organism (GMO) requirements within the COOL regulations and there are no known groups pursuing that requirement.
- Retaliation by Canada and Mexico regarding the implementation of the COOL regulations is a real possibility. Such action could have very damaging effects on a trade system and process (especially with Canada even if they utilized a very focused response). COOL could cost upwards of 10,000 jobs by causing the closing of US slaughterhouses (Note: some of these closures will occur as a result of other market factors, technology and other improvement costs). A consensus solution is desirable/should be pursued.
- Support for the "value added" initiative would seem to support the importation of piglets from Canada.
- Consumers will move the market in the direction they wish regardless of what the government does. If they want certain types of goods/products, they will find them. The real issue becomes, "What can you afford to eat?"
- There is growing support (recently 33 states supported a resolution) for a regional - US/Canada - North American approach.
- It was suggested that "... most people would have no concerns if they knew that their meat products came from Canada."
- The industry has changed a great deal in the past 10 years. The original intent (protection) of COOL may not be such a motivating factor especially as it relates to the Canadian relationship. Because of agriculture's lack of "clout" in Washington, it may have been that consumer protection issues were over emphasized as a strategy.

Water

"Water Availability" - Facts and Data

"A foundational (facts and data) overview of the climate and supply information regarding the region and the Red River Basin." - (website: T2.1)

"Climate Change: Droughts and Floods, The Future is Now!" – *(website: T2.2 and T2.2a)*
Presented by: **Mark Ewens**, Data Acquisition Program Manager, the National Weather Services

"Water Supplies and Sources" – *(website: T2.3 and T2.3a)*
Presented by: **Harvey Thorleifson**, Ph.D., Director, the Minnesota Geological Survey

Mr. Ewens and Dr. Thorleifson provided a factual, scientific and data based review of the regional climatic and weather patterns, and an overview of the available (ground, surface, etc.) water in the Red River Basin.

Discussion Points:

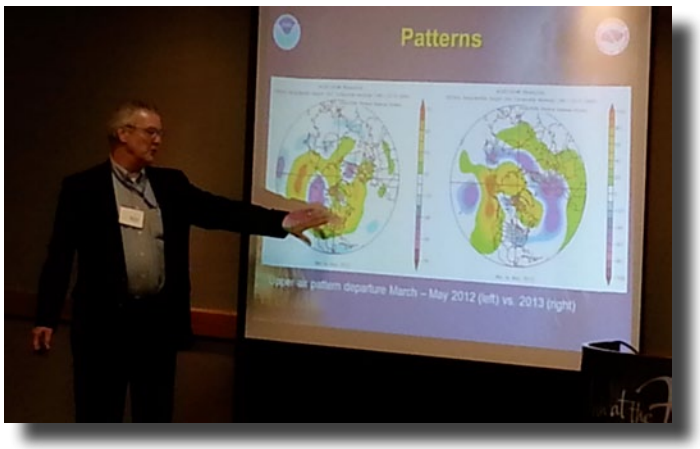
- Costs are becoming more of a factor in both the monitoring of conditions and the implementation of responses. Volunteers (farmers, etc.) have and continue to be an important factor and more information is being gathered through automated stations for that data they can collect (wintertime precipitation measurements must be done by people).
- Some of the data being collected is "new" but all of it is being plugged into the system and is being utilized and integrated as appropriate.
- Water quality and volume predictions, especially as they relate to manufacturing and industrial use and demands are not overly optimistic, but we are working on these issues and making improvements. This will take time ... and money. There will always be droughts and floods, but generally there will be accommodations and situations will stabilize. However, climate will rule.
- Nutrient contents (Red River and Lake Winnipeg – Note the 2009 Forum was held in Gimli, MB, and this was the primary focus) are being monitored and corrective measures are being approached in a spirit of collaboration.
- The impact of tiling on groundwater recharging is still being actively researched. Agriculture is supportive of tiling and it does its job – receiving and removing water swiftly. This and other tools need further research.
- The impact, use and demand for water is critical and increasing relative to all industries. Approaches need to be researched and developed that support water availability and use in industry (mining, manufacturing, agriculture, etc.) that are sensitive to a wide variety of concerns. This includes the appropriate disposal of heavy metals.
- Climate is difficult to define and explain. To use a baseball analogy; weather is your RBIs in today's and tomorrow's games. Climate is the multi-year, cumulative RBIs. This would be weather data over decades, millennia and eons. We have only been systematically gathering this data in the recent past. To this point, proxy data (tree rings, ice core samples, etc.) have been necessary and used to fill in the blanks before records were kept.

"Water Availability" – Approaches, Alternatives and Options

"Information regarding the current laws and regulations; current activities; and ideas and suggestions regarding the potential of a long-term, collaborative, basin-wide approach to water appropriation."

"Jurisdictional Approaches" – *(website: T2.4 and T2.4a)*
Presented by: **Lance Yohe**, Executive Director, the Red River Basin Commission

"Water Soft Paths – An Innovative Community Approach to Managing Water Availability" – *(website: T2.5 and T2.5a)*
Presented by:**Rhonda McDougal**, Ph.D., Director, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship



"Existing and Future Options for Collaboration on Water Apportionment" – *(website: T2.1, T2.6 and T2.6a)*
Presented by: **Morrie Lanning**

Mr. Yohe, Dr. McDougal and Mr. Lanning offered information regarding how current jurisdictional laws impact water use and limitations on cross-jurisdictional water appropriation; promising techniques for water conservation and management; and potential, long-term, collaborative options to address basin-wide water apportionment.

Discussion Points:

- Various entities and bodies from each jurisdiction have developed, and own, processes for coordinating their plans. What's missing is the "connecter" of those systems.
- Flow reduction is a key component of management, but is not the only or necessarily the best approach for supply retention. These options are limited by topography.
- Reservoirs/Dams have multiple functions and those purposes sometimes become blurred – recreation vs. retention

vs. supply, etc. There is no uniform, coordinated, long-term strategy for holding large amounts of water. All of these issues need to be studied.

- Conservation is definitely a critical component and needs to be emphasized. Society will eventually realize what a valuable resource water is, but it would be best if we could change the way the public thinks about it before there is a crisis. Price may eventually become the determining or motivating factor.
- Flow level requirements vary along the Red River (100 CFS at Fargo/Moorhead and 10 CFS in Manitoba). The pipeline from the Missouri River to the Red River would support 113 CFS.
- The Missouri River is/will be a factor in the future. The available water may be contested throughout the system. How much water can be "pulled" from the Missouri River before it causes problems with the downstream states? What is the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers? How can/will this be monitored and regulated?
- What policies/work needs to be done among the jurisdictions? Should we collaboratively study the quality issues? What about retention structures? How do we move forward without taking decades to do the studies?
- There are many issues that need to be considered and studied and it will be necessary for all of the jurisdictions involved to support (politically and financially) the effort. The timing is right for getting all 4 jurisdictions working on this together.
- Agricultural (precision farming) and industrial uses and practices are changing and these changes will have broad and far-reaching impacts (supply, nitrate levels, residential use, etc.). Basically, we need to learn how to live on the bottom of a lake. And we need to learn how to manage the chemicals and nutrients being deposited into Lake Winnipeg.
- Drought is most often a basin or basins wide event. Drought in the Red River basin usually means drought in the Missouri River basin.
- There is no silver bullet. These are issues we need to figure out together. Otherwise there may be no option other than suing each other down the road.
- Involve the scientists and experts. They can help with many of these questions.
- The conversation about developing a long-term plan was begun several years ago – we really need to attend to these issues.

Energy

"Electricity – The Regional Picture " – Compatibility and Challenges

"A regional overview of the electrical energy picture and a review of the current regulatory structure."

"Hydro Development & US Midwest - Manitoba Electricity Trade" – *(website: T3.1)*

Presented by: **Ed Wojczynski**, Division Manager, Manitoba Hydro

"Electricity: The Regional Picture: A Policy Maker's Perspective" – *(website: T3.2 and T3.2a)*

Presented by: Representative **Michael Beard** (R/MN)

Mr. Wojczynski and Representative Beard provided their perspectives on the current regional electrical generation, supply and transmission structure and offered their insights into the challenges, barriers and opportunities regarding the regulatory overlay.

Discussion Points:

- Manitoba hydro production is growing and it is projected that the production levels can double. However, populations and demands are also growing. Current contracting is generally no longer than 20 years. It is difficult to project or contract beyond that point, but needs, transmission and production options are ongoing components of the planning equations.
- All new projects are required to and do address environmental concerns. They are designed to mitigate ecological risks.
- Projects costs are included in establishing and setting product and unit prices.
- The net Manitoba electricity export numbers are somewhere between 300 and 500 million (at this time, obviously selling more electricity than buying). Price, demand, regulations and availability are factors that affect these numbers.
- The transmission grid allows for "banking" electricity and moving it back and forth depending upon the needs and levels of production. The grid system has historically averted several potentially serious events.
- Consistent use of the numbers ("comparing apples to apples") is critical to understanding and planning. Investments are based on these numbers and sometimes they may be confusing or even misused.
- Mandates, inconsistency in regulations, lack of long-term strategies and political whims can and do cause uncertainty and affect prices, investment and supply options. There are ongoing concerns about overbuilding and long-term policy directions.
- Energy must be clean and sustainable. Regulations (EPA) and long-term planning (local, national and international) should support the premise that there is not one, single solution to our energy concerns. Long-term, stable policies support the energy industry.
- Net metering is an example of the issues and perspectives about which there are varying positions and concerns. All sides want their opinions to be heard and to feel that they have been treated fairly.

"Energy Booms" – Impact, Management, and Best Practices

"A look at the impacts of energy booms from the community perspective including the innovative approaches being developed and utilized to address the challenges in a collaborative manner, at a county-by-county level."

"Vision West North Dakota" – *(website: T3.3)*
Presented by: **Mark Resner**, Vision West ND Consortium Chair

Mr. Resner offered a grassroots/community-based view of the impacts of energy booms and provided ideas and thoughts on the problems including some of the approaches being developed and utilized in the Bakken to address the challenges in a collaborative manner, on a county-by-county level by the Vision West North Dakota project.

Discussion Points:

- The tax structure has a significant impact upon the (in this case oil) business. The only reason oil companies exist (and are in North Dakota) is to make money. They will go wherever the most money can be made. Currently, the tax structure in North Dakota is not hurting Bakken development, but it could be a factor in the future.
- Tax structure is a moving and variable target. As the industry and the Bakken continue to develop, there may be a greater need for flexibility and responsiveness (North Dakota's legislature meets every two years).
- Staying competitive is going to be important. There may be exemptions and adjustments that will keep North Dakota competitive (wellhead and production taxes, extraction taxes, rebates to production counties, and graduated scales based on the forecasts and performance of the market).
- Workforce and labor demands (skilled and credentialed) are a real issue. The numbers of jobs that require skilled or credentialed workers is increasing and the number of people trained and licensed who are available is not meeting the need.
- Some of these issues could be addressed if there were a reciprocal or standardized licensing/credentialing process between states and the U.S. and Canada. Examples of best practices regarding this topic are the work done by

Manitoba with the other provinces as well as the efforts of the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) with respect to schoolteachers.

- The "boom" is affecting and impacting the entire region. Smaller town housing is impossible to find (or afford) and this has spread to the larger communities bordering the energy patch. Communities are growing faster than their infrastructure (real and social) can handle.
- Manitoba is experiencing impacts similar to North Dakota (housing, jobs, social and infrastructure needs). Recently, representatives of the MB economic development community sponsored a conference in Winnipeg that focused on the regional impacts of the Bakken development.
- South Dakota is feeling its share of the peripheral impact, also - economically, socially and with respect to infrastructure.
- With the advances in technology (fracking and horizontal drilling) the "play" is expected to continue.
- Because of the nature of the boom, there are many policy and financial challenges that must be addressed. The long-term and regional nature of the situation suggest the need for regional cooperation and support.

OTHER EVENTS:

The delegates, spouses, guests, presenters and dignitaries attended a number of events designed to offer them opportunities to socialize, engage in discussions, interact, share information and build relationships throughout the Forum. These events included:

Luncheon

A luncheon on Thursday featured some thoughtful and inspiring remarks offered by Paul Robson, CEO of Canad Inns *(website D1.0)*. Mr. Robson, a "proud" graduate of the University of North Dakota (who played some football for Bud Grant) and husband of a North Dakota native, shared some of his personal and professional experiences and observations relating to and emphasizing the unique relationship between the countries and the peoples of Canada and United States. He referenced Winston Churchill's description of the "Great Canadian Frontier" and the "importance of neighborly respect and honorable obligations."

Reception & Dinner

Thursday evening the participants and guests gathered at "Jane's" – the restaurant operated by the Red River Community College's Culinary Arts School – to enjoy a reception and dinner (great food and fellowship). Guests were welcomed by Minister Peter Bjornson and were honored by a presentation from **Timothy Cipullo**, Consul & Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate, Winnipeg, Manitoba *(website D1.0)*. Consul Cipullo shared some interesting, informative and cogent facts relating to the economic and trade and social "partnership" between the United States and Canada and emphasized the opportunities that lie ahead *(website: TC1.1)*

Manitoba MLA **Mavis Taillieu (Wilf** - who were both unable to attend) was recognized for her nine years of distinguished service on the ILF's Steering Committee; Former Minnesota Representative **Morrie Lanning (Ruth)** was recognized for his ten years of outstanding service on the ILF Steering Committee; and Former South Dakota Senator and Representative **Paul Dennert (Peggy)** was recognized for his record tenure, support and participation (twelve consecutive years) as a delegate to the ILF.

The remainder of the evening was filled with opportunities to meet and make new friends, renew acquaintances, visit with students, staff, and instructors and tour the facilities of the Culinary School.

Legislators Breakfast - Discussions and Reflections

On Friday morning, the delegates were provided with a private, unscripted and un-facilitated opportunity to share breakfast and visit with each other regarding topics and issues of their choice.

FROM THE FLOOR: Conclusions and Recommendations

The final session of each Forum is an opportunity for the delegates to engage in an open and flexible discussion of their "takeaways" from the event. This included the development of agreements, statements of support, and specific recommendations or plans to address concerns and problems. The delegates were cognizant that the relevance of the Forum is anchored not only in the information they receive, but also in how they use the knowledge they gain in making policy decisions for their constituencies and the region. This year, the delegates agreed on the following issues and points:

TRADE

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The delegates of the 2013 International Legislators Forum:

- ***Recognize*** the significant relationship between Canada and the United States (including the partner ILF jurisdictions) and support the development and implementation of policies, practices and initiatives that promote coordinated and collaborative efforts to strengthen that relationship and enhance its mutual benefits.
- ***Stress*** the historic, current and continued importance of international and inter-jurisdictional trade; and recognize and support the integrated nature of the "supply chain" mechanics that serve that relationship so well.
- ***Recommend and support*** the modification of the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) regulations, specific to Canada and the United States, that emphasize collaborative food safety and security practices while removing unnecessary barriers to commerce.

WATER

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The delegates of the 2013 International Legislators Forum:

- ***Agree*** that all water management practices (flood control, retention, quality and apportionment, etc.) should be viewed and addressed at all governmental levels accepting and utilizing the "watershed/basin-wide" philosophy and approach (Note: the terms "watershed" and "basin-wide" are understood to include the financial, environmental and social factors).
- ***Recommend*** that legislators, water boards, joint boards and commissions continue to discuss drought issues, affirm the existing activities of states and provinces, explore, research and promote the development of apportionment agreements for surface and ground water, including the review of existing models (revised and reiterated from the 2012 Forum).
- ***Recommend*** that conservation models, techniques and practices be researched, evaluated, promoted and implemented at all governmental levels.
- ***Recommend*** the initiation of talks between affected partner jurisdictions that may precede the development of agreements for the management and apportionment of water in the Red River basin.
- ***Recommend***, based on the recognition of the current, growing and future importance of the Missouri River basin on regional water supply and availability, that partner jurisdictions initiate discussions and dialogue regarding the development of collaborative management and allocation policies and practices.
- ***Request and support*** comprehensive efforts and activities that will monitor the health of the water sources throughout the region, including the development of a database, the identification of existing and potential problems (their causes and potential remedies), nutrient management and other environmental concerns.

ENERGY

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The delegates of the 2013 International Legislators Forum:

- ***Support and recommend*** the development of clear, consistent, and stable energy policies and regulations that integrate all energy supply options and are market-driven, efficient and technologically sound – such policies should consider and include;
  - Certainty – allow the energy industry to establish long range investment and planning strategies;
  - Careful Consideration – evaluate policies, regulations and mandates for their broader effects, including neighboring jurisdictions and the potential of unintended consequences;
  - Attainability – identify and promote those initiatives and activities that are reasonably attainable;
  - Harmonization – consider and address the potential of compatibility to existing laws, policies and regulations, and support consistency, collaboration and cooperative efforts to remove barriers wherever possible;
  - Environmental Responsibility – seek a balance between the environmental concerns and the social, economic and financial impacts;
  - Affordability – support efficiency through cost/benefit considerations;
  - Sustainability – assess the long-term potential of policies and the likelihood of their ability to be maintained into the foreseeable future;
  - Conservation – promote the sensible, integrated use of energy conservation methods and practices in all aspects of planning and policy development; and
  - Technology – explore and support the identification, development and use of readily available and potential technologies.
- ***Recognize*** the inter-connection/dependence of the energy system, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally and support the need to collaborate and plan together on all of those levels.
- ***Reiterate*** their support for the recognition of hydro as a renewable energy source.
- ***Recommend*** and promote a study of the systems and methods necessary to remove the barriers and implement reciprocal recognition of workforce certifications, licensures and qualifications.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS & SUGGESTIONS:

The delegates of the 2013 International Legislators Forum made the following suggestions regarding follow-up activities and topics for future Forums:

- Workforce qualifications, licensing and reciprocity;
- Waterfication (bringing potable water to rural areas) issues;
- Mineral rights;
- Immigration – concerns and options;
- Water needs and uses related to industry;
- Precision agriculture practices and effects;
- An International Joint Commission (IJC) presentation on (international) water laws, regulations and concerns;
- The history and current role of Native People in the region;
- Economic security issues (low-income and poor);
- Transportation issues (statistics, infrastructure, regulations, etc.) – truck, pipeline and rail; and
- Updates on the coal industry – clean coal.

Adjourn – 2014 in Minnesota!!!

• Delegates were asked to complete an evaluation form and provide any observations and suggestions they may have for future issues/topics.

•Minister **Peter Bjornson** and MLA **Dennis Smook** offered their appreciation to the delegates for their attendance and participation and encouraged everyone to continue their involvement in the annual Forums.

• Senator **Tom Saxhaug** and Representative **Dan Fabian** (the Minnesota members of the ILF Steering Committee) announced that the **2014 International Legislators Forum** will be hosted by Minnesota and invited everyone to attend. They noted that a specific venue has yet to be identified and the dates at this time (June 25-27, 2014) are tentative, but promised to keep the delegates advised and informed.

• It was noted that an annual ILF publication would be produced under the supervision of the Steering Committee and copies would be provided to all participants, all legislators in each of the four jurisdictions, presenters, sponsors and any other interested parties. The printed iteration would be supplemented by all of the reference and resource materials posted on the Consensus Council website. Delegates are encouraged to discuss and promote the Forum, its process, conclusions and recommendations, with their respective legislative colleagues.

• The tentative Steering Committee meeting date (Saturday, September 14, 2013 – Fargo/Moorhead) was announced.

• Sponsors, staff, presenters and others were recognized and thanked for their support, hard work and efforts on behalf of the Forum and the **2013 International Legislators' Forum** was officially adjourned.

2013 International Legislators Forum Jurisdictional Delegates

Manitoba

- Hon. Peter Bjornson*, Minister of Entrepreneurship, Training & Trade MLA for Gimli*
- Hon. Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship MLA for St. Johns
- Matt Wiebe, MLA for Concordia
- Bidhu Jha, MLA for Radisson
- Cliff Graydon , MLA for Emerson
- Larry Maguire, MLA for Arthur-Virden
- Ron Schuler, MLA for St. Paul
- Dennis Smook*, MLA for LaVerendrye

Minnesota

- Senator Kent Eken (DFL) – District 04 (Unable to Attend)
- Senator Tom Saxhaug* (DFL) -District 05
- Senator David Tomassoni (DFL) District 06 (Unable to Attend)
- Representative Dan Fabian* (R) - District 01A
- Representative Ben Lien (DFL)- District 04A
- Representative Jason Metsa (DFL) - District 06B
- Representative Chris Swedzinski (R) - District 21A

North Dakota

- Senator Joan Heckaman (D) - District 23
- Senator Larry Luick (R) - District 25
- Senator Philip Murphy (D) – District 20
- Senator Ronald Sorvaag* (R) - District 45
- Representative Lois Delmore* (D) - District 43
- Representative Curt Hofstad (R) - District 15
- Representative Dennis Johnson (R) - District 15
- Representative David Monson (R) - District 10

South Dakota

- Senator Jason Frerichs (D) - District 01
- Senator Larry Tidemann* (R) - District 7 (Unable to Attend)
- Senator Chuck Welke (D) - District 02
- Representative Spencer Hawley (D) - District 7
- Representative Scott Parsley (D) - District 08
- Representative Jim Peterson (D) - District 04
- Representative Lee Qualm (R) - District 21
- Representative Roger Solum (R) - District 05
- Representative Susan Wismer* (D) - District 1

** Identifies Members of the Steering Committee*

LEGISLATORS' FORUM ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS/FOCUS

During all annual meetings of the Legislators' Forum, water issues have been a topic of conversation in the context of flooding, drought and water quality. In addition, each year has had a specific focus and at least one highlight issue. Those issues include:

MB 2001 - Sponsorship of 2 Nations Tours, a program among the four jurisdictions.

MN 2002 - Memorandum of Understanding among legislative leaders in the four jurisdictions to meet annually and provide substantial support for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs (and analogous programs in Canada) in order to address flooding, drought and water quality issues.

SD 2003 - Establishment of a regional renewable fuels working group called Powering the Plains (PTP) and beginning efforts to bring emergency management officials from the four jurisdictions together to enhance cooperation and coordination across borders.

ND 2004 - Beginning of significant efforts to study methamphetamine and pharmaceutical issues across borders in order to address addiction issues and alternatives to incarceration.

MB 2005 - Building on the agreements to address methamphetamine issues across borders, broadened the discussion to include addressing all inter-jurisdictional criminal justice issues together.

MN 2006 - Emphasized the importance of basing water related public policy issues on sound science. Supported the efforts of the four jurisdictions' Attorneys General to address methamphetamine and criminal justice issues and their signing of an inter-jurisdictional Amber Alert MOU to enhance mobilization in the case of child abduction.

SD 2007 - Provided broad support for the Regional Energy Roadmap that had been developed by the PTP participants, supported the enhancement of broadband technology, especially in rural areas of the four jurisdictions and expressed significant concerns to the US Department of Homeland Security and other relevant US and Canadian entities about the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI).

ND 2008 - Highlighted issues related to rural community development, health and infrastructure issues, including the need for further enhancement of broadband technology in the region and continued the ongoing discussions of water (LIDAR mapping), energy and cross-border identification issues.

MB 2009 - While specifically focusing on Lake Winnipeg, the delegates developed agreements to address regional water quality and quantity issues, regional energy issues and cross-border security, identification and tourism.

MN 2010 - Discussions centered on water issues in the Red River basin and included recommendations and requests from the Red River Basin Commission regarding management, impoundment, retention and diversion. Energy, commerce, border security and the media were also highlighted.

SD 2011 - In addition to updates and discussion on the developments in the Red River Basin, the focus of the Forum was on research and development efforts within the four jurisdictions and the existing and potential opportunities for collaborative initiatives.

ND 2012 – The Forum focused on energy (integrated regulations); water (basin-wide collaboration); and trade (coordination and harmonization of regulations and policies).

2013 Legislators Forum "headquartered" at the Inn at the Forks

Spouses Program: Some of the delegate's spouses on the steps of the Manitoba Legislative Building

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LEGISLATORS' FORUM (LF) 2001-2012

The Legislators' Forum (2001 through 2012) has discussed, developed agreements and taken action on:

• ***Secured*** a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from respective legislative leaders in all four jurisdictions to continue the annual meetings.

• ***Learned*** about differences in structure and process in the respective states and provinces.

• ***Learned*** that the delegates share many of the same issues and values and wish to learn more from each other about best practices for addressing them together.

• ***Interacted*** annually with the Canadian Consul General, based in Minneapolis, and the US Consul and Principal Officer in Winnipeg, both of whom have been significant supporters of the LF efforts.

• ***Shared*** information and agreements reached at the LF meetings with the federal governments in both countries through the respective Consuls.

• ***Sponsored*** and helped initiate what became "2Nation Tours," involving the travel and tourism agencies of all four jurisdictions.

• ***Supported*** the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), especially in the states because it is aimed at enhancing the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the US.

• ***Supported*** the establishment of a 600-mile "Greenway" from the source of the Red River and on its tributaries to its termination in Lake Winnipeg. The efforts to develop it have expanded and continue today.

• ***Supported*** the Prairie Public Television/Radio "River Watch" program, which was linked to the Greenway and other flood control and mitigation efforts throughout the region and helped to secure multiple years of funding for that program, as well as the Greenway, from the Otto Bremer Foundation.

• ***Discussed*** mutual water quality issues and the many water quality problems that are shared among the jurisdictions and agreed that it will be essential to work together to address those issues.

• ***Advanced*** the discussion about the enhancement of renewable fuels and energy transmission capacity in the region, which was responsible, in significant part, for the work done by the Great Plains Institute (GPI), Powering the Plains (PTP) process and the work of the Midwest Governors Association.

• ***Encouraged*** agricultural harmonization legislation and regulation at the national levels in both countries and contacted the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in support of the work of the Agriculture Harmonization Working Group and broadening, expediting and prioritizing that work.

• ***Supported*** pilot projects for pesticide labeling applicable across US and Canadian borders - now applied to 3 pesticides.

•***Authored*** letters of support to appropriate agencies in the US and Canadian federal governments to encourage the adoption of a regional inter-jurisdictional action process in case of disease outbreak to ensure the containment and quick eradication of these outbreaks in the region. These included handling food safety and security in an economical and efficient manner by using inter-jurisdictional expertise and scientific technology and brought responsible agency people from all four jurisdictions together between several annual LF meetings to begin their work together in this area.

• ***Supported*** an emergency management mutual aid agreement and emergency management experts working together across borders.

• ***Facilitated*** a meeting of the three Attorneys General and the Justice Minister to provide updates on inter-jurisdictional criminal justice issues, progress on dealing with methamphetamine, and to sign an agreement to develop an "Amber Alert" system throughout the four jurisdictions to assure quick, coordinated service in the event of child abductions.

• ***Supported*** inter-jurisdictional sharing of best practices in "healthy living."

• ***Supported*** greater rural access to medicine to ensure access to appropriate health care for all citizens in the region.

• ***Encouraged*** the public and private sectors in this region to work together to enhance broadband technology and other infrastructure, especially in rural areas.

• ***Supported*** a regional effort to enhance rural and community development, beyond simply economic development and including support for immigration.

• ***Contacted*** the Department of Homeland Security, other relevant agencies and states' Congressional offices and requested that they do all they can to ensure border crossings for citizens in the US and Canada remain as seamless as possible. Emphasizing the belief that the two countries share so much in terms of history, culture, mutual relations and issues that: "Whatever decisions are made with regard to implementation (of cross-border identification requirements), there needs to be sufficient time to develop a thorough, comprehensive and accurate cost-benefit analysis of all proposed solutions; sufficient time to implement the regulations; and sufficient time to ensure that all privacy concerns are adequately addressed. Finally, the regulations need to be affordable by states and provinces and their citizens." The delegates share a belief that their input has had a significant impact on achieving the delay and reconsideration of many border-crossing identification regulations.

• ***Recommended*** the development of mutually supportive research and development initiatives and agreements that would clarify and enhance collaborative efforts.

• ***Agreed*** that water issues relative to the Red and Missouri rivers be considered and addressed from a "basin-wide" perspective

• ***Acknowledged*** and supported trade and border policies that foster cooperation, coordination, collaboration and are efficient, effective and economical.

PHOTO GALLERY

More 2013 ILF Photos available at the website: www.agree.org/ilf

THANK YOU!!

A number of individuals, agencies, groups, businesses and organizations provided assistance, sponsorship and expertise to support the many aspects and components of the 2013 International Legislators Forum.

Although it is not possible to identify everyone, the Steering Committee would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who provided support and assistance in so many ways. They helped to make this year's Forum a reality and a success.

2013 International Legislators Forum Sponsors:

Sponsors and Events:

- Pre-meeting (Steering Committee) Dinner- **SD Soybean Processors**
- Breaks – **Moore Engineering and Daktronics, Inc**.
- Luncheon – **Barr Engineering**
- Box Lunches – **ND Blue Cross/Blue Shield**
- General
  - **Consul General of Canada**
  - **Brookings Area Economic Development Corporation**
  - **Touch Stone Energy**
  - **Missouri River Energy Services**
  - **Red River Basin Commission**
  - **Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries**

A special thanks to all of our planning group partners, the presenters and their staffs, who shared so graciously and patiently of their expertise and knowledge, and who took time from their very busy schedules to assist in planning, preparing, developing and providing information and materials.

THE CONSENSUS COUNCIL, INC.

Facilitated by:
Consensus Council, Inc.
1003 East Interstate Avenue - Suite #7
Bismarck, ND 58503-0500
701-224-0588
www.agree.org