
The Lake Winnipeg Basin Summit: Synthesis and next steps

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The Lake Winnipeg Basin Summit 2010 was a gathering of creative minds from government, business, civil society and academia.

Together, this group identified the need for a bold vision for the Lake Winnipeg Basin, based on the most innovative management concepts emerging from within Manitoba, Canada and around the world.

The group explored ways to turn an environmental challenge into a sustainable development opportunity.

Foreword

The Lake Winnipeg Basin Summit hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development's (IISD) Water Innovation Centre (WIC) ended with a shared understanding of the challenges and the need to work together.

At the conclusion of the summit, IISD agreed to facilitate a stakeholder group tasked with producing a five-year action plan that incorporates innovative approaches and economic benefits for Manitobans.

Summit co-facilitator John Fjeldsted, Executive Director of the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association, said the strong representation of the business community at the summit has brought a fresh perspective to dealing with Lake Winnipeg issues. "We are looking for ways to reduce the nutrient loading within the Lake Winnipeg Basin in a way that creates economic opportunities rather than costs."

Red River Basin Commission Executive Director Lance Yohe said participants left the summit with a feeling of accomplishment. "This conference was a gigantic step forward in addressing Lake Winnipeg problems from a basin perspective. This summit has moved us closer to a unified effort under the umbrella leadership of IISD. Recommendations that are already being acted upon will include a leadership core, a leadership voice, and actions for short- and long-term solutions. These outcomes move us closer to creating a 'Healthy Lake Winnipeg.'"

Ducks Unlimited research biologist Shane Gabor said disregard for wetlands has significantly contributed to the plight of lake Winnipeg. "The summit symbolized the nature of the coordination, cooperation and innovation that will be required if we hope to avoid the collapse of ecosystems that we all take for granted."

Anne Lindsey, Executive Director of the Manitoba Eco-Network, said, "It is critical that the effort be non-partisan and inclusive of all sectors, not only in Manitoba but in the other provinces and states concerned."

Keystone Agricultural Producers President Doug Chorney said, “The agriculture sector often struggles to have our issues heard and addressed because of the increasing disconnect between the farm and urban life. We hope that as a result of these discussions, both industry and public policy-makers will be able to act to address the problems affecting Lake Winnipeg in a way that is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable for all stakeholders.”

Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger said, “The message of this conference is clear. We all have a role to play in the cleanup of Lake Winnipeg. We all need to take a more aggressive path in reducing nutrient loading into our waterways. We all contributed to the problem and I am glad we came together to work on real, tangible solutions.”

Acknowledgements

Summit Participants

Our sincere thanks go out to all the summit participants for making this initial process a success. A list of summit participants is included at the back of this document.

Lead Partners and Funders

Special acknowledgement goes to the generous support of our sponsors and funders:

Manitoba Hydro
Lake Winnipeg Foundation

RBC Blue Water Project
Assiniboine Credit Union

Summit Steering Committee

The Steering Committee contributed countless hours of volunteer time to help make this event a success.

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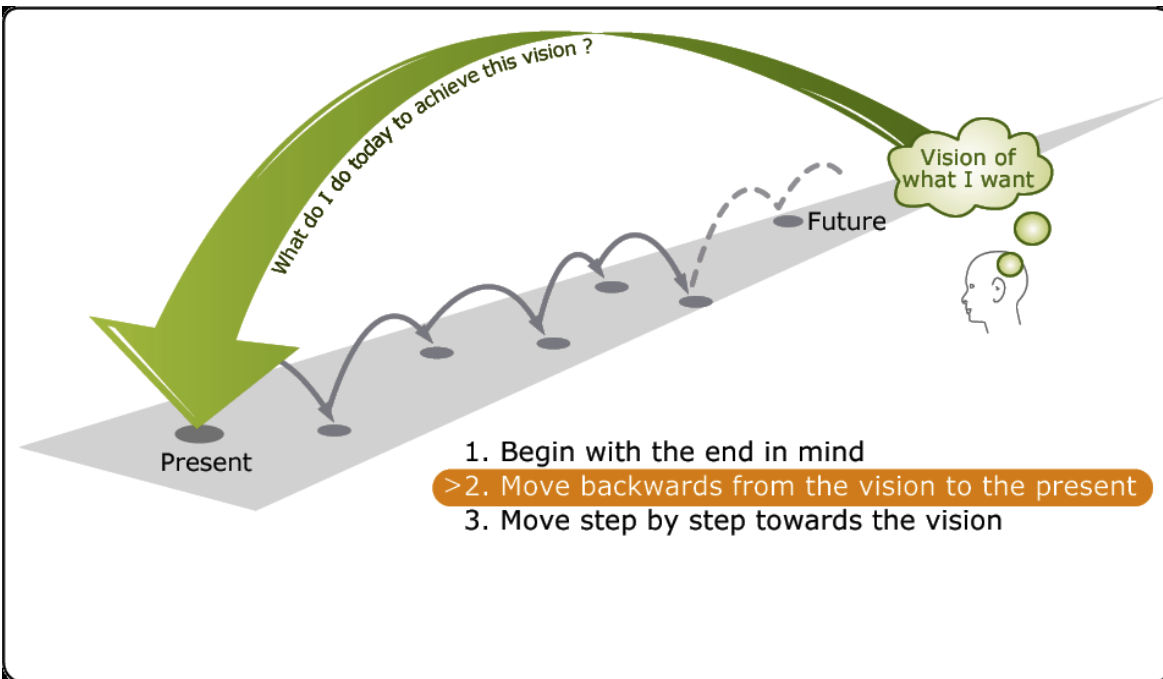
Summit Overview (Session 1)

The Lake Winnipeg Basin Summit, organized and hosted by IISD's Water Innovation Centre (WIC), brought together approximately 150 scientists, policy-makers, business leaders, civil society members, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOs) and others to discuss long-term management of the Lake Winnipeg Basin. WIC worked closely with a dedicated Summit Steering Committee,¹ representing a range of organizations in Manitoba, to frame the focus question posed at the summit: "How do we create and take advantage of opportunities for Manitoba's economy while reducing nutrient loading within the Lake Winnipeg Basin?"

A key concept introduced by Hank Venema, Director of IISD's Water Innovation Centre, is that phosphorus, the nutrient believed responsible for Lake Winnipeg eutrophication is, like potash, in fact a scarce and strategic resource that will become ever more valuable in the 21st century. Furthermore, although the Lake Winnipeg Basin straddles four provinces and two U.S. states, as the downstream jurisdiction and the source of 50 per cent of the nutrient loads on the lake, Manitoba has every reason to seize the opportunity to develop a visionary strategy that embraces innovation and the opportunity for sustainable development.

The summit was structured as a "back-casting" exercise, which is based on the concept that stakeholders first construct a positive vision of the future, and then establish the direction and critical steps towards that future vision. Presentations by representatives of WIC and the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium helped seed a series of discussions to help: (i) provide a historical and scientific perspective of the basin; (ii) identify a set of guiding principles for creating opportunity and reducing nutrient loading in the basin; (iii) articulate key elements that should be part of a future vision for how the basin is managed in Manitoba; and (iv) develop next steps for achieving that vision.

¹ Al Tyrchneiwicz, Darren Fast, David Lobb, Don Flaten, Dwight Williamson, Greg McCullough, Ian Wishart, James Battershill, John Fjeldtsted, Karen Scott, Pascal Badiou, Ray Hesslein, Rick Lawford, Scott Stothers, Shane Gabor, Tim Sopuck.



Historical and Scientific Perspective (Session 2)

A key principle for the planning and management of large, complex systems like the Lake Winnipeg Basin is that social, economic and physical history be respected. Consistent with this principle, the Water Innovation Centre presented a selected historical review of innovation in the Lake Winnipeg Basin. This reflection on the history of the Lake Winnipeg Basin revealed that people have adapted to living on the Prairies through the development of important technological, social and policy innovations. It also seeded the notion that the current nutrient loading of Lake Winnipeg can be viewed as yet another call for the creative spirit, ingenuity and ability to cooperate that people in the Lake Winnipeg Basin have demonstrated repeatedly in the past.

A presentation by the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium synthesized the key dynamics in the lake and its basin, and highlighted the state of scientific research on lake issues in general, and nutrient management issues in particular. The presentation highlighted aspects of the lake science that are known, including key pressures on the basin and impacts on the lake ecosystem. A key message from this presentation was that, despite the magnitude of unknown factors, the key to the future of a healthy Lake Winnipeg lies in managing the basin and its component watersheds, with specific emphasis on the Red River Basin.

Guiding Principles for Creating Opportunity and Reducing Nutrient Loading (Session 3)

One purpose of the Lake Winnipeg Basin Summit was to present possibilities, spark ideas and generate discussions among participants. To that end, a variety of case studies were presented from Manitoba and around the world that exemplified some “key principles” that can help ensure a sustainable future. WIC representatives presented key principles derived from innovation case studies from Manitoba and around the world, which were then deliberated and expanded upon. The resulting list is shown in Box 1.

Box 1: Guiding principles for creating opportunity and reducing nutrient loading

- **Systems approach:** In addition to the presented concepts, discussions led to the addition of: long-term (inter-generational) perspectives; watershed/ecosystem-based decision-making; coordination among departments/jurisdictions; more research to inform decision-making; assessing positive and negative impacts from a sustainability perspective (ecological, social [equity and transparency] and environmental); source-water emphasis in addition to end-of-pipe; carrying capacities respected; and net energy analysis.
- **Strategic investment:** In addition to the presented concepts, discussions revealed that a key investment criterion is the potential “scaling up” by replication throughout the basin; it is important to understand the associated risks.
- **Enabling policies:** In addition to the presented concepts, discussions led to the addition of: clarity of vision at the front end of the process, a mix of policy instruments, policy coherence and avoidance of perverse policies.
- **Innovative technologies:** General agreement with the principle as presented.
- **Participatory planning and implementation:** The original principle of communications and outreach was to include discussion feedback that highlights the importance of collaboration and engagements with stakeholders *including* communications and outreach. Citizens and stakeholders must be informed and included in any process based on the fact that we need a common vision of the future if we are to be effective. Effective communications and outreach should include social marketing.
- **Leadership and commitment from the top down:** Vision, leadership and resources for the planning, management and implementation of any initiative, as well as adequate political will and support, are necessary.
- **Adaptive management:** An iterative process of decision-making in the face of uncertainty, based on ongoing monitoring and learning. This process includes a plan-do-check model of management to continuously monitor and improve upon programming. Summit participants also suggested regional frameworks with clear performance management, and periodic review to assess emerging issues and evolving science.
- **Human rights and equity:** The importance of inclusion and equity for all relevant stakeholders, aiming specifically at inclusion and consideration for traditionally overlooked groups such as First Nations and other marginalized groups.
- **Accountability:** The notion of accountability has been gaining momentum in environmental management and builds on principles such as adaptive management and monitoring and evaluation. It prescribes that any vision and implementation plan be transparent and demonstrate a net benefit to be continued over a long term.

Articulating a Vision of the Future – 2040 (Session 4)

To stimulate a creative discussion around a positive future vision, IISD presented a conceptual vision of the “Watershed of the Future” for the year 2040. The Watershed of the Future illustrates how the bioeconomy—an economy in which the basic building blocks for industry are obtained from renewable sources—can be developed and linked to Lake Winnipeg management. The Watershed of the Future integrates ecological watershed management with innovative technology for nutrient management and economic development through new agricultural value chains. A working example that was presented is IISD’s research project demonstrating how biomass from wetlands can be used for bioenergy production, nutrient recycling and water quality improvements. The IISD analysis indicates that the Watershed of the Future concept has the potential to greatly reduce nutrient loading in Lake Winnipeg, as well as enhance habitat, while generating substantial revenues for investors and farmers—between CAD\$1 billion and \$42 billion annually, depending on the level of biotechnology investment.

In the next session, summit participants discussed and articulated the following key elements for a vision that could create opportunity and reduce nutrient loads in the Lake Winnipeg Basin through sustainable development and bioeconomy approaches (see Box 2).

Box 2: Key elements for creating opportunity and reducing nutrient loading through sustainable development and bioeconomy approaches

Environmental Aspects

- Nutrient loads reduced
- Cleaner energy sources secured
- Wetlands restored
- Improved sewage treatment
- Riparian zones conserved
- Water retention networks leveraged
- Carrying capacities respected
- Biodiversity enhanced
- An ecosystem approach applying beneficial management practices (BMPs) to improve ecosystem services for multiple social, ecological and economic benefits

Social Aspects

- Rural communities revitalized
- Equity achieved through greater emphasis on recycling nutrients within the watershed and providing revenue streams back to farmers
- Youth engaged
- Cultural benefits related to water conserved and enhanced
- Food security achieved

Economic Aspects

- Harnessing excess nutrients and waste biomass for bioeconomy opportunities to revitalize rural economies
- Bioeconomy opportunities leveraged through local small-scale biorefineries
- Electricity generated locally via bioproducts and sold back to the central power grid
- Market for ecological goods and services thriving and active in rural and urban settings

Governance Aspects

- Adaptive management is the standard governance approach; continually identifying, testing monitoring and improving BMPs, technologies and policies
- A toolbox of approaches available for use in different watershed settings
- Sub-watershed-level monitoring to adaptively manage progress toward a vision
- Rural and urban approaches integrated

The principles of a desired future (Session 3) and key elements of a future vision (Session 4) are anticipated to be the key building blocks of any future process of strategic management in the Lake Winnipeg Basin.

Based on presentations and discussions on day one of the summit, participants collaborated on developing a vision statement for the Lake Winnipeg Basin in 2040. The vision statements that were generated are listed in Box 3.

Box 3: Group Vision Statements

1. Our healthy Lake Winnipeg watershed nurtured by a thriving society and sustainable ecosystems
2. Culture that replaces wasteful practises with engagement of the public in improvements to our natural and social environment. In upholding the lake as a cultural and economic treasure, we are committed to the changes necessary to sustaining a healthy and productive lake.
3. As the health of Lake Winnipeg and its watershed have reached a critical condition, everyone must help ensure environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability. The time is now!
4. Sharing responsibility to improve socioeconomic vitality by enhancing ecosystems within the Lake Winnipeg Basin
5. To create a healthy Lake Winnipeg Basin through an integrated approach among environmental, social and economic stakeholders. Just do it!
6. Clean water means healthy living. Let's all do our part!
7. 2020 Vision – Our Clean Lake Winnipeg
8. A Lake Winnipeg Basin in which its component watersheds are vying to be the most sustainable communities in the basin, resulting in a world-class example of ecosystem restoration
9. We can make Lake Winnipeg a world-class example of ecosystem restoration. The time for change is NOW.
10. Lake Friendly Manitoba – Steering our ship immediately to a standard of no harm to build a culture that ensures an enhanced existence for all
11. An environmentally, socially and economically healthy Lake Winnipeg Basin achieved by 2040 through a stakeholder-driven, government-enabled and monitored approach
12. The Lake Winnipeg Basin is our home – Everyone working together to create and implement adaptive, fair and equitable solutions to achieve a long-term quality of life
13. A basin in which innovations and opportunities have been harnessed through an empowered and engaged society with strong environmental leadership and cooperative partnerships resulting in environmental, economic and personal health and well-being
14. “To drink the water from the lake” – A healthy and productive lake ecosystem supported by responsibly behaving humans
15. Our Lake ... Our Life
16. To create and implement a collaborative strategy that defines, measures and achieves targets for a sustainable Lake Winnipeg Basin, and improves the livelihood of residents and the health of the lake

Some analysis of the vision statements was undertaken following the summit in order to identify some of the commonalities among the statements. This analysis is summarized below.

used both as a means and as an end in different vision statements, indicating that, for some, sustainable development is the destination and for others it is the journey.

Collaboration, Action and Health

Because of their many synonyms, the terms “collaborative” and “action” are not captured in this word cloud; however, these themes are repeated frequently in the vision statements. Participants were clear that management of the Lake Winnipeg Basin would have to include **collaboration** with stakeholders and collective action. This was implied through the use of words such as “our,” “we are committed,” “everyone,” “sharing responsibility,” “let’s all do our part,” “our clean...,” “we can...,” “steering our ship,” “stakeholder-driven,” “everyone,” “engaged society/cooperative partnerships” and “collaborative.” The need for collaboration and sharing is therefore an important aspect of Lake Winnipeg Basin management moving forward.

Another key concept reflected in a majority of the statements was the notion of **action**. Verbs and prominent action words included: “nurturing,” “engagement,” “must ensure,” “supporting,” “create,” “we all need to do,” “vying,” “steering,” “achieved,” “working together,” “behaving,” “create and implement,” “define,” “measure” and “achieve.” Some of these verbs clearly indicate the various stages of a management cycle—engaging, implementing and measuring—while others reinforce the idea of action, such as we all need to do, steering our ship by working together. Other action words simply demonstrate the need for an active, dynamic vision. These include: creating, nurturing, behaving, engaging, supporting etc. There was some consensus on the need for an active vision, as opposed to simply a future state for the basin. In three cases, a sense of urgency was added to the action item. This was conveyed through the use of words such as “critical/time is now,” “NOW” and “just do it.” A sense of urgency was clearly present at the summit and is captured in these vision statements to some extent.

The words “**health**” and “**healthy**” came up a number of times and participants commonly used this word to describe a desired future state. The word “healthy” was most often used to describe the state of the lake and its basin. On a couple of occasions, it was used to describe the lives of the people in the basin.

The summit was not designed to produce a single vision statement; it was designed, however, to inspire participants with a sense of purpose and optimism that the issues of nutrient loading to Lake Winnipeg can be addressed successfully through sustainable development, innovation, vision and collaboration. The collection of vision statements capture this spirit and will inspire and orient the continued work of WIC and its partners.

Building a Process for Achieving the Vision of the Future (Session 5)

The summit included a collaborative session for deliberating the most important next steps for achieving the vision developed in Session 4. We used the “Principles for a desired future” developed in Session 3 to organize the long list of actions voiced by participants during this session. The following page summarizes the next steps recorded at the summit (we have combined similar next steps where possible) and indicates (where possible) the ways in which they cross over between the principles.

Record of Next Steps discussion from Lake Winnipeg Basin (LWB) Summit (Nov 30- Dec 1, 2010)

| Human Rights and Equity (HR) | Leadership and Commitment (LC) | Participation, Communications and Outreach (PCO) | Adaptive Management (AM) | Accountability (AC) | Systems Approach (SA) | Enabling Policy (EP) | Strategic Investment (SI) | Innovative Tech. (IT) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|-----------------------|
| | Recruit a champion/ leader—a person with stature, recognizable, super hero— within government | Communication/social marketing/ PR campaign to get local and basin buy-in | Targets and political will to meet them | | Systems analysis of basin by multi-sector group | Freeze on shoreline/ wetland development | Demo projects | |
| We need to create an independent advocacy voice for LWB (PCO as well) | | Leverage education for behaviour change | | Coordinated monitoring between all basin governments | | Remove barriers to preservation | More biorefinery prototypes (demo projects, broadly located). Nutrient interceptor (urban/rural), biomass | |
| | | Incentives for Lake Friendly purchases | | | | | | |
| | | Mobilize action to this as a “National Problem” | Reporting based on monitoring, evaluation of performance based results. | Create a basin plan | | Money allocated to research/ development for Innovation | Adoption of new technologies and BMPs | |
| | | Translate what we have discussed into clear, concise lay-person terms. | Establish a short-term goal for early action in one sector | Create a LWB Steering Committee to recognize and coordinate efforts | | | Address discharges from Manitoba’s 400 rural sewage lagoons | |
| | Create a commission of stakeholder leaders responsible for the governance of the LWB sustainability | | Develop the inventory list of what we are doing and build on the success | | | Immediate enforcement of existing rules and regulations | | |
| | Organize leadership (IISD) | Promote/share this meeting /ideas within your (individual) networks to sustain meeting momentum | Settling objectives and establishing a plan | | Establish vision and draft 5-year action plan | Establish payments for ecological goods and services, and markets | Projects: Cattle out of creeks, nutrient barriers, septic fields | |
| Engage municipal and First Nations governments in 2-way collaboration (PCO as well) | Political support from jurisdictions | | Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) goals | | Trans-boundary standards | | Lake Winnipeg Champion Watershed | |
| | Convene summit of all political leaders | | | | Scope the problems that we may possibly fix/moving targets/ out of our control | Invest in research to fill knowledge gaps | Program for storage (upland) | |
| | | a. 5-year action plan and validation by stakeholders: policy; resources; mobilization; representation b. Implementation: political support, organizational structure, business model, outreach | Set immediate, binding targets for nutrient reduction to restore Lake Winnipeg. | | Create sensitivity classification system to minimize risk/damage of development in sensitive areas | | Finish the upgrades to Winnipeg’s sewage plants | |
| | We need to figure out who the correct opinion leaders are, get them to buy in and present the ideas to the public | | Refine vision and promote within basin | | | Implement payments for ecosystem services (like Costa Rica) for agricultural sector, i.e., ecological goods and services | | |
| | Leadership Group | Stakeholders group: communicating a vision; education— dealing with misinformation | | | Refine/map understanding of key nutrient leaks and potential solutions/ opportunities arising, (i.e. target priorities). Identify “source” hotspots | Support (i.e., research funding) agencies that are already on the front lines (LWRC, TCMW, MB. ECO-NET & Water Caucus, CDs) | | |
| | Get all Manitoban political parties to buy-in | We need to create an independent advocacy voice for LWB (HR as well) | Establish a baseline, monitor and measure results | | | Wetland restoration: Remove property and education tax on wetlands and other sensitive areas; find best ways to restore; stop wetland loss | | |
| | Get high-level commitment | Engage all stakeholders in two-way collaboration (HR as well) | Scope project—what is involved: 1. tasks, 2. costs, 3. time | | | | | |

Note: Acronyms used in the table: CD (Conservation District); LWB (Lake Winnipeg Basin); LWRC (Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium); TCMW (Tobacco Creek Model Watershed).

Lake Winnipeg Basin Summit Conclusions and Next Steps

Perhaps the most important and defining feature of the Lake Winnipeg Basin Summit was the sense of collegiality and common purpose. The quality of the discussion transcended the technocratic and focussed on principles and a consensus aspiration for a sustainable future.

The focus question (“How do we create and take advantage of opportunities for Manitoba’s economy while reducing nutrient loading within the Lake Winnipeg Basin?”) proved useful in orienting participants to perceive Lake Winnipeg nutrient loading as not simply an environmental crisis but rather a symptom of a larger socioeconomic process in a region that is capable of foresight, innovation and collaborative problem solving.

The vision statements indicate a strong orientation towards the need for a sustainable development strategy for the Lake Winnipeg basin that embraces environmental, economic and social goals. Stakeholders expect a Lake Winnipeg Basin strategy that is sophisticated, comprehensive, innovative and adaptive and fundamentally grounded in sustainable development principles. Manitoba, as the downstream jurisdiction and home of the lake and principal beneficiary, should logically lead this project.

The economic and social dimensions of development are very important additions to the Lake Winnipeg narrative. New economic development opportunities arise when the “problem of Lake Winnipeg” is reinterpreted as an opportunity to construct a 21st century bioeconomy in the province, and rural Manitoba can benefit greatly from successful deployment of these technologies and the associated development of new agricultural value chains. During and immediately following the summit, the Province of Manitoba announced support for WIC’s Netley-Libau nutrient-bioenergy project and named David Lobb the new chair in Watershed Science at the University of Manitoba. These announcements demonstrate a commitment to watershed science and innovation as essential components of a long-term Lake Winnipeg strategy. The fundamental challenge now is to harness political commitment to components of the solution and build a comprehensive sustainable development strategy based upon the principles and priorities expressed at the summit.

In January 2011 the Steering Committee that guided our preparations for the Lake Winnipeg Basin Summit reviewed our analysis of the discussion and the outcomes recorded at the summit. Our Steering Committee recommended that WIC sustain momentum and goodwill generated at the summit and pursue a work program oriented towards the original focus question of the summit—how to create economic opportunities for Manitoba, while reducing nutrient loading within the Lake

Winnipeg Basin—as this is a largely unexplored but crucial component of a complete sustainable development plan.

No single organization can organize and implement a sustainable development strategy for the Lake Winnipeg Basin, nor can many organizations working without coordination and common vision. A very important outcome of the summit is the realization that the sense of collective purpose and common vision exists. Participants expressed an unequivocal belief that a sustainable future for the Lake Winnipeg Basin is achievable if we work together.

Based upon the feedback received during and immediately after the summit, and consistent with guidance from our Steering Committee, IISD's WIC will pursue two key and related activities. First, WIC has agreed to provide secretariat functions for a new Lake Winnipeg Basin sustainable development planning process; second, WIC will initiate a signature project within the sustainable development planning process, the Lake Winnipeg Bioeconomy Initiative, to pursue the summit focus question—creating economic opportunities for Manitoba while reducing nutrient loading to Lake Winnipeg.

WIC regards the Lake Winnipeg Bioeconomy Initiative within a broader sustainable development planning process as strategic. We believe that analyzing, demonstrating and communicating economic development opportunities for Manitoba that are consistent with reducing nutrient loads on the lake will help build and sustain the political will for the governance and policy reform necessary to scale-up implementation efforts.

The bioeconomy initiative will initially tackle a subset of the next steps identified at the summit, primarily those related to Systems Analysis, Innovation and Technology, Investment and Communications. The overall sustainable development plan will focus on the broader policy context and implementation pathways to ensure that key innovations are scaled-up to meet environmental, social and economic objectives.

The Lake Winnipeg Sustainable Development Plan will involve an expanded version of the Summit Steering Committee acting as a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). This group will represent government, NGOs, environmental interests, social interests and the business community. We anticipate convening the TAC quarterly to vet project ideas and collaborate on potential opportunities to maximize co-benefits in the Lake Winnipeg Basin. An important addition to the TAC will be the new University of Manitoba Watershed Science Chair, David Lobb, with whom we are discussing extensive collaboration, including co-hosting an annual workshop on science and innovation in the basin, an internship program for Watershed Science students and collaborative research projects.

A second committee will be struck to operationalize the “Leadership and Commitment” strategic principle identified by participants as a key success factor. The Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) will meet on a semi-annual basis to provide strategic counsel, insight on the political and socioeconomic context and advice on refining and positioning the Lake Winnipeg sustainable development agenda for policy influence. The SAC will comprise high-level leaders of business, innovation and government at the senior executive level. The President of IISD has volunteered to chair the SAC as an expression of the institute’s commitment to this process. The first meeting of the SAC will take place before March 31, 2011

After 20 years headquartered in Winnipeg, IISD is honoured to make this signature commitment to Manitoba’s sustainable development through the work of the Water Innovation Centre and its many partners.

Lake Winnipeg Basin Summit Participants

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Ken Adams | Manitoba Hydro |
| Rob Altemeyer | MLA Wolseley |
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| Cathy Johnson | Clean Environment Commission |
| John Jonasson | Green Manitoba |
| Gerard Kennedy | Government of Ontario |
| Kristina Koenig | Manitoba Hydro |
| Al Kristofferson | Lake Winnipeg Consortium |
| Rick Lawford | IISD - WIC |
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| Anne Lindsey | Manitoba Eco-Network |
| Eric Liu | Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives |
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| Lyle Lockhart | Lake Winnipeg Foundation |
| Jennifer Low | University of Winnipeg |

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| Jason Manaire | IISD |
| Clayton Manness | Manitoba Agra Capital |
| Herm Martens | Red River Basin Commission |
| Matt McCandless | IISD-WIC |
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| Bill McDonald | Lake Winnipeg Foundation |
| Les McEwan | Deerwood Soil and Water |
| Greg McIvor | Southern Chiefs Organization |
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| Reno Pontarollo | Genome |
| Liz Redston | Royal Bank of Canada |
| Roger Ritsma | Lake Winnipeg Foundation |
| Jim Robinson | The Manitoba Museum |
| Dimple Roy | IISD-WIC |
| Alex Salki | Lake Winnipeg Foundation |
| Catherine Salki | Lake Winnipeg Foundation |
| Bob Sandford | Interpreters of Natural & Human History Ltd. |
| Terry Sargeant | Clean Environment Commission |
| Beverley Sawchuk | Winnipeg Airport Authority |
| Jonathan Scarth | Government of Manitoba |
| Javier Schwersensky | The Manitoba Museum |
| Karen Scott | Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium |

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| Michelle Scott | Government of Manitoba |
| Greg Selinger | Government of Manitoba |
| Morris J. Swan Shannacappo | Grand Chief, Southern Chiefs Organization |
| Tom Simpson | Water Stewardship, Inc. |
| Colleen Sklar | Lake Friendly |
| Bruce Smith | Lake Winnipeg Foundation |
| Bob Sopuck | Other |
| Tim Sopuck | Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation |
| Graham Starmer | Manitoba Chamber |
| Scott Stothers | Government of Manitoba |
| Gary Swanson | Manitoba Hydro |
| Darren Swanson | IISD-WIC |
| Shelly Swidinsky | IISD-WIC |
| Nick Szoke | City of Winnipeg |
| Franz Tattenbach | IISD-President |
| Mandy Taylor | Royal Bank of Canada |
| Efrem Teklemariam | Manitoba Hydro |
| Jay Toews | AECOM |
| Allen Tyrchniewicz | Tyrchniewicz Consulting |
| Henry Venema | IISD-WIC |
| Larry Vickar | Jewish Foundation of Manitoba |
| Paul Vogt | Manitoba Government |
| Vivek Voora | IISD-WIC |
| Anthony Watanabe | Innovolve Group |
| Joel Wessman | Cons. General of Canada |
| Taylor Wilkes | Student |
| Dwight Williamson | Manitoba Water Stewardship |
| Ian Wishart | Keystone Agricultural Producers |
| Bryan Yeh | SAIC Canada |
| Lance Yohe | Red River Basin Commission |
| Scott Young | Manitoba Museum |
| Halina Zbigiewicz | Manitoba Hydro |
| Karla Zubrycki | IISD-WIC |