

SUMMARY REPORT

Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives
and Manitoba Conservation

Prairies Regional Adaptation Collaborative

Workshop: Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change – Next Steps

Planning Session

Winnipeg, Manitoba

February 1, 2012

Winnipeg Winter Club

A project in partnership with:



University
of Regina



Saskatchewan
Watershed
Authority

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Natural Resources
Canada

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Canada

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On the afternoon of February 1st, 2012 Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) and Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship hosted a half-day workshop for staff involved in adaptive planning within the two departments. The workshop was held as part of a larger initiative, the Prairies Regional Adaptation Collaborative (PRAC) which is a joint initiative with Alberta, Saskatchewan and Natural Resources Canada. This workshop was organized to summarize the findings from the previous government- and stakeholder-focused workshops which examined MAFRI's organizational adaptive capacity and the sectors adaptive capacity to deal with future impacts of climate change, respectively.

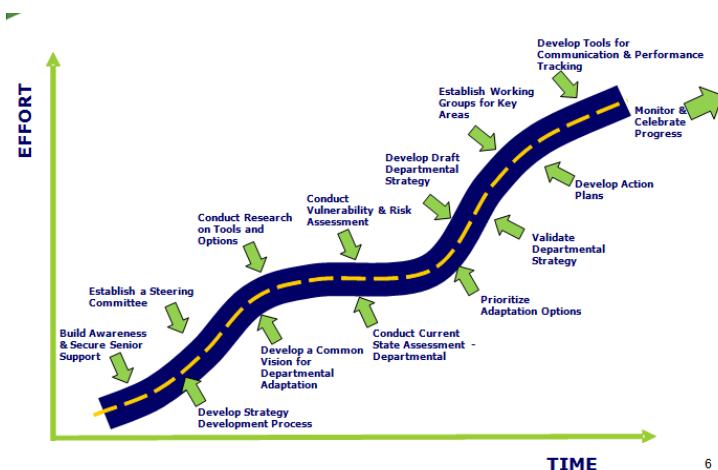
Objectives:

1. To provide the Government of Manitoba an overview of different types of adaptation strategies
2. To review the results of the two recent MAFRI-led workshops on Agricultural Climate Change Adaptation
3. To discuss MAFRI's progress to date on developing an agricultural adaptation strategy
4. To decide on next steps for MAFRI's and Manitoba's climate change adaptation strategies

The workshop began with Geneva Claesson (Sustainability & Climate Change specialist from Deloitte and session Facilitator) providing a high-level introduction to the various type of climate change adaptation strategies a government can develop. She indicated that within Canada and in other countries, adaptation strategies varied from high-level general overviews to very detailed action plans with timelines. At the workshop hard copies of various strategies from British Columbia, Australia, New Zealand, and Ontario were provided to attendees to review as examples.

Ms. Claesson proceeded to lead a discussion on how strategies are developed. Figure. 1, below was provided to participants to illustrate the various steps in the development of an adaptation strategy. Ms. Claesson emphasized that the "road map" to complete a strategy does not follow a clear path and that the steps indicated in the figure may be completed in a different order. Each organization needs to tailor a 'road map' for their purposes, objectives and available resources.

Figure 1. Adaptation Strategy 'Road-Map' (Claesson, G. Feb. 2012, Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change, Winnipeg Winter Club)



Following Ms. Claesson's discussion, Ainsley Little, the Climate Change Specialist for MAFRI, provided a brief presentation on MAFRI's progress with the departmental Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

Adaptation options identified by previous Manitoba Climate Change Adaptation Workshops were used in the development of MAFRI's draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Participants provided input on the details of the draft strategy and indicated that they thought it was an important issue. Clarity of objectives was the main focus of the discussion. The idea of an inter-departmental adaptation working group was suggested and, overall, participants thought it was necessary in order to address the cross-cutting issues between departments. It was also noted that adaptation to climate change may be approached as a provincial strategy with individual departmental strategies as components of a coordinated larger strategy. This way there will be a common approach to vulnerability and risk assessments among provincial departments.

The next steps for MAFRI and the province are to communicate to departmental executive management committees that adapting to climate change is a priority in Manitoba, and to secure funding for work on climate change adaptation. After these two steps are completed, MAFRI can begin prioritizing high risk areas to climate change and developing adaptation options to assist with mitigating risks. MAFRI and Manitoba will need to select the adaptation framework and types of tools that will be employed to evaluate adaptation options.

Attendees:

Ainsley Little, Climate Change Specialist, MAFRI

Tony Szumigalski, Policy Analyst, MAFRI

Matthew Wiens, Protocols and Quantification – Climate Change, MAFRI

Roselle Miko, Policy Analyst, MAFRI

Scott Stothers, Strategic Planning Directorate, MAFRI

Esther Salvano, Acting Director Agri-Environment Knowledge Centre, MAFRI

Eric Liu, Business Development Specialist – Fibre and Composites, MAFRI

Glenn Friesen, Forage Specialist, MAFRI

Randall Shymko, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

Ramon Sales, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

Jeff Thorpe, Saskatchewan Research Council

Geneva Claesson, Deloitte Facilitator

Links to Example Adaptation Strategies:

Preparing for and adapting to climate change (New Zealand):

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate/preparing-for-adapting-climate-change-jul07/preparing-adapting-climate-change-jul07.pdf>

Adapting to Climate Change in Australia:

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/adapt.aspx>

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Atlantic Canada:

<http://www.gnb.ca/0009/0369/0018/0002-e.pdf>

Finland's National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change:

http://www.mmm.fi/attachments/ymparisto/5kghLfz0d/MMMjulkaisu2005_1a.pdf

Ahead of the Storm – Preparing Toronto for Climate Change:

http://www.toronto.ca/teo/pdf/ahead_of_the_storm.pdf

Preparing for Climate Change – British Columbia's Adaptation Strategy:

http://www.livesmartbc.ca/attachments/Adaptation_Strategy.pdf

Danish Strategy for Adaptation to a Changing Climate:

http://www.kemin.dk/Documents/Klima-%20og%20Energipolitik/klimatilpasningsstrategi_UK_web.pdf