Minutes – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – May 4, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Appointment of Weed Inspectors under the Noxious Weeds Act - 2026

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That Jenny Khounnasene (Community By-law Enforcement Coordinator – Community Services), Keith Studeny (Weed Inspector – Public Works) and Ken Kingsland (Weed Inspector – Public Works) be appointed as Municipal Noxious Weed Inspectors under The Noxious Weeds Act.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Allard,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Appointment of Weed Inspectors under the Noxious Weeds Act - 2026

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
D. Domke	J. Berezowsky	N/A	J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the Noxious Weeds Act (the "Act"), the City must appoint at least one Municipal Noxious Weeds Inspector each year. The responsibilities of this role fall within existing positions within the Public Service. Individuals in these roles must be appointed by Council each year to comply with the Act.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Jenny Khounnasene (Community By-law Enforcement Coordinator – Community Services), Keith Studeny (Weed Inspector – Public Works) and Ken Kingsland (Weed Inspector – Public Works) be appointed as Municipal Noxious Weed Inspectors under *The Noxious Weeds Act*.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Section 11(1) of Manitoba's Noxious Weeds Act requires a municipal council, by resolution, to appoint at least one official to be known as "*municipal noxious weeds inspector"* to enforce the Act within the municipality and ensure the Act's provisions are complied with.

The Act also states that if a municipal council neglects or refuses to appoint and employ a municipal noxious weeds inspector as required by the Act, on 15 days' notice, the minister may appoint and fix remuneration of a person to perform the duties and exercise the powers of a municipal noxious weeds inspector and the municipality must pay the fixed remuneration (Subsections 14(1) and (1.1)).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Appointing the above staff as municipal Noxious Weeds Inspectors brings the City of Winnipeg in compliance with the Act.

The duties of the appointees fall within the scope the positions held by the appointees and will have no financial impact on either department.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The Province of Manitoba specifically requested the City of Winnipeg appoint a Municipal Noxious Weeds Inspector in 2015. Since 2015, Council has appointed a number of individuals annually based on their existing roles related to weed control, and this is recommended again in 2026.

Until 2015, the City of Winnipeg had not recently appointed a Municipal Noxious Weeds Inspector under the Noxious Weeds Act because the Neighborhood Livability By-law primarily regulates vegetation on private properties through Section 8:

> "*8(2) Other than on properties zoned for agricultural grazing and feeding and agricultural cultivation, turf must be kept trimmed to a maximum length of 15 cm (6 inches).*
> *8(3) Noxious weeds must be controlled on all properties."*

Although the by-law is the primary enforcement tool for controlling long grass and weeds in the City, the Province's Noxious Weeds Act still compels the City of Winnipeg to appoint Noxious Weed Inspector(s). Appointing these individuals as Municipal Noxious Weed Inspectors ensures the City of Winnipeg will have the authority to control long grass and noxious weeds on property throughout the City.

The City of Winnipeg aims to appoint Noxious Weed Inspector(s) by March 1 annually. However, due to the seasonal aspect of the positions, the roles have been appointed by Council after the March 1 deadline.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: March 24, 2026

Project Name:

Appointment of Weed Inspectors under the Noxious Weeds Act - 2026

COMMENTS:

As this report is for information purposes, the are no financial implications.

J. Ruby, 2026-03-25
J. Ruby, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance and Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Community Services Department
- Legal Services Department

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Our Winnipeg Goal: Environmental Resilience
2.24 Low-Impact Ecosystem Management Prioritize sustainable, integrated plant, pollinator and pest management, that achieves humane, safe, low-carbon, and low-chemical solutions to support the health of local ecosystems.

Complete Communities 2.0
G3. Parks and Recreation
Ecological function
4.3 Design and manage open space and park areas for their highest environmental and ecological performance

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

The report is in accordance with Strategic Opportunity #7:

- 7.1 Implement Opportunities to Improve Winnipeg's Resilience and Adaptability to the Effects of a Changing Climate
- 7.3 Preserve and Manage Parks and Natural Areas to Support Climate Change Mitigation

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The report is in accordance with:

- Goal 6: All City Services are Equitable, Inclusive and Accessible
- Goal 7: Food Security and Food System Resilience is Expanded

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks and Open Space
Prepared by: R. Penner
Date: March 26, 2026