



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

Meeting with Premier Stefanson and Members of the
Provincial Cabinet

November 4, 2022

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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ The AMM is pleased to host our annual meeting with Premier Stefanson and the Provincial Cabinet to share municipal priorities and continue a dialogue with the provincial government about the future of Manitoba.
- ❖ We also hope to meet with every Minister again in the near future to discuss new and ongoing issues in greater detail with each department.
- ❖ In this document, the AMM has outlined our main lobbying priorities in three categories: *Successes* in 2021-2022, *Critical Issues* requiring immediate action, and *Important Issues* that have seen some progress, but require more collaboration.

SUCSESSES IN 2021-2022

✓ \$25 Million for Building Sustainable Communities

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *The AMM commends the Province of Manitoba for more than doubling the Building Sustainable Communities (BSC) program.*
- ❖ *This program is vital to help promote greater economic development and thriving communities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to allocate funding for community development projects.*

✓ \$20 Million for the Manitoba Water Services Board

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *The AMM commends the Province of Manitoba for increasing infrastructure investments, with \$20 million dedicated to water and wastewater projects via the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB).*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to allocate funding for water and wastewater infrastructure.*

✓ \$15 Million to Support Municipal Road Repairs

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

- **Department of Transportation and Infrastructure**

- ❖ *The AMM thanks the Province of Manitoba for announcing a one-time grant of \$15 million to help support municipal infrastructure repairs.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide municipalities a 'fair share' of funding to respond to local infrastructure priorities and fuel economic development more effectively across the province.*

✓ \$9 Million for Green Teams Program

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *The AMM commends the Province of Manitoba for increasing the Green Teams Program for a third year in a row.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to provide funding through this program to help communities expand economic opportunities that benefit municipalities and Manitoba's economy.*

✓ \$3 Million for Watershed Districts Program

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

- **Department of Environment, Climate and Parks**

- ❖ *The AMM wishes to thank Minister Jeff Wharton for investing an additional \$3 million in the Watershed Districts Program.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Increase core operating funding to Watershed Districts.*

✓ \$750,000 Library Funding

- **Department of Sport, Culture and Heritage**

- ❖ *The AMM thanks the Province of Manitoba for announcing over \$750,000 of new funding for a second year in a row to support rural public libraries and library services across the province.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities on the provincial plan to sustain local libraries as centers and hubs; and*
- ❖ *Increase provincial funding to the Rural Library Operating Grant Program.*

✓ Provincial DFA Program

○ Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates the establishment of a disaster financial assistance (DFA) program for municipalities affected by the April 2022 Spring flooding and snowstorm events.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to implement the provincial review recommendations of the DFA program in partnership with the AMM; and*
- ❖ *Urge the federal government to restore the previous DFAA cost-sharing formula.*

✓ MTI Gravel Road Agreements

○ Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

- ❖ *The AMM commends the Province of Manitoba for increasing the base rate from 1 percent to 3 percent for this year as well as the commitment to review gravel road agreements annually for two subsequent years.*
- ❖ *The AMM thanks Minister Doyle Piwniuk and Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure staff for a collaborative process during the development of gravel road maintenance agreements.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities through the MTI-AMM Service Delivery Review Working Group.*

✓ **Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)**

○ **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *In response to concerns raised by AMM members, we commend the Province of Manitoba for ensuring municipalities do not experience a loss in revenue due to the shortfall in PILT payments from the federal government.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to ensure municipalities do not experience loss in revenue due to PILT.*

✓ **Bill 22: Cosmetic Pesticides Ban**

○ **Department of Environment, Climate and Parks**

- ❖ *Since 2015, the AMM has called on the Province of Manitoba to reverse the ban on federally approved weed control products; and*
- ❖ *The AMM thanks Minister Jeff Wharton and the Province of Manitoba for introducing amendments to the Environment Act to give Manitobans, including municipalities, greater flexibility to use federally approved weed control products.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Ensure forthcoming resources highlight where cosmetic pesticide use is allowed, and that Environment Officers are aware of these parameters to ensure consistency across the province.*

✓ **Aggregate Fee Regulation Changes**

○ **Department of Natural Resources and Northern Development**

- ❖ *Since 2017, the AMM has called on the Province of Manitoba to increase mining and transportation fees.*
- ❖ *The AMM commends the Province for introducing amendments to increase maximum fees based on inflation as well as annual inflationary increases.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to work with the AMM through the Quarry Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (QRAC) to ensure aggregate levies and fees are reflective of municipal concerns.*

✓ MPI Firefighting/Rescue Cost Increase

○ Manitoba Public Insurance

- ❖ *The AMM commends the Province for enacting funding changes and compensation for emergency provision on provincial highways for all Manitoba municipalities with provincial roads within their boundaries.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to work with the AMM to ensure municipalities are adequately compensated for responding to emergency services along provincial highways.*

✓ Newspaper Recycling Agreement

○ Department of Environment, Climate and Parks

- ❖ *As of November 2021, an agreement was reached between MMSM, News Media Canada (NMC), City of Winnipeg and AMM.*
- ❖ *After four years of discussion, the AMM is pleased to see an in-kind advertising program where newspapers will provide communities with advertising in-lieu of cash funding.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to work with the AMM to enhance communications and ensure municipalities are aware of the in-kind advertising framework.*

CRITICAL ISSUES – IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

✓ Fair Share, Alternate Revenues, and PST Rebate

- Department of Finance
- Department of Municipal Relations
- ❖ *Municipalities rely on property taxes to generate revenues while being responsible for 60% of public infrastructure and only receiving less than 10 cents of every tax dollar to complete the job.*
- ❖ *In 2017, the legislative guarantee under The Municipal Taxation and Funding Act to share 1/7 of provincial PST revenues with municipalities was repealed.*
- ❖ *The freezing of municipal operating funding at **2016** levels does not recognize inflationary increases, while provincial initiatives and program funding decisions affecting municipalities are often announced following the municipal budgetary process.*
- ❖ *Each year, municipalities pay more than \$25 million in PST to the provincial government.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to work as ‘Partners in Growth’ with the AMM to ensure long-term stable and predictable funding as a counterbalance to the current seven-year freeze;*
- ❖ *Rebate the more than \$25 million in PST paid on an annual basis by municipalities; and*
- ❖ *Move to multi-year budgeting to assist with long-term planning and priority setting.*

✓ Public Safety, Local Crime and By-Law Enforcement

○ Department of Justice

- ❖ *Manitoba municipalities have been ringing the alarm on increasing crime rates in their communities since the Prairie provinces are experiencing higher rates of rural crime compared to other areas of the country.*
- ❖ *The revolving door of criminals being released by the courts back into local communities contributes to rising crime rates throughout Manitoba municipalities.*
- ❖ *92% of municipalities are concerned about the lack of police presence throughout their communities and 64% of respondents feel that their municipality does not have enough police officers.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Assist municipalities with rapidly increasing unsustainable policing costs;*
- ❖ *Increase support to police services to address increasing rates of rural crime and help mitigate illicit drug use in local communities; and*
- ❖ *Work collaboratively with the AMM and municipalities to address challenges regarding by-law enforcement.*

✓ RCMP Unionization Impacts and Policing Costs

○ Department of Justice

- ❖ *Municipalities are already facing tremendous financial pressures due to the pandemic, inflation, and skyrocketing fuel costs. Municipalities are not able to absorb any significant costs resulting from the RCMP collective bargaining agreement.*
- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the independent report of the Police Services Act as well as the provincial commitment to include the AMM and other stakeholders to continue identifying solutions to address gaps in the current legislation.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support municipalities by continuing to call on the federal government to fully absorb all retroactive pay increases to ensure local communities are not negatively affected by these changes;*
- ❖ *Undertake a comprehensive review of policing in Manitoba in consultation with the AMM and municipalities focused on the distribution of policing costs and grant funding to promote a more transparent, fair and sustainable policing model;*
- ❖ *Reduce the financial and administrative burdens in relation to police services due to amalgamation; and*
- ❖ *Review the mandate of police boards to allow local Councils more oversight over municipal police forces, including the establishment of police boards on a voluntary basis.*

✓ **Paramedic Self-Regulation**

○ **Department of Health**

- ❖ *The framework established by the College of Paramedics of Manitoba (CPMB) negatively impacts volunteerism in municipalities by charging the highest fees in Canada and nearly tripling training requirements from 120-310 hours.*
- ❖ *The AMM thanks the Province of Manitoba for establishing a Working Group with our organization focused on first response services.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to work collaboratively with CPMB and AMM to help mitigate financial and administrative burdens so that municipalities can continue to deliver essential services and protect local communities.*

✓ **Shared Health Plan for Rural Healthcare and Doctor Recruitment/Retention**

○ **Department of Health**

- ❖ *As the Province continues to move forward with implementing changes to the healthcare system, including local insights and feedback will be vital to ensure the new system is reflective of municipal needs.*
- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the provincial commitment to establish a Physician Recruitment and Retention program for local communities throughout Manitoba – but local communities continue to struggle to attract and retain health practitioners.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Unveil Shared Health's plan for transforming rural healthcare under Manitoba's Clinical Preventive Services Plan in consultation with the AMM and municipalities; and*
- ❖ *Expedite a comprehensive provincial strategy to recruit and retain physicians throughout Manitoba.*

✓ Essential Cell Service

- **Department of Economic Development, Investment and Trade**

- ❖ *The digital divide between many Manitoba communities remains a major challenge as cellular network coverage remain sparse in many areas, which hinders economic development and undermines public safety.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Facilitate partnerships with cell carriers and other stakeholders to explore options to expand cellular coverage across Manitoba.*

✓ Simplifying Municipal Tax Tools

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *Many of the provincial tax tools currently offered are administratively burdensome and corresponding procedures are met with unnecessary red tape.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Streamline the use of existing tax tools and grant greater tax flexibility and autonomy to municipalities.*

✓ Landfill Engineering Costs

- **Department of Environment, Climate and Parks**

- **Department of Municipal Relations**

- ❖ *Excessive standards and unclear regulatory requirements related to landfills are straining many municipal budgets.*
- ❖ *The AMM thanks the department for establishing a Working Group with our organization and Parkland municipalities focused on waste management facility design as well as developing informational materials to help enhance clarity.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Provide financial assistance to help offset increasing costs of landfill engineering requirements.*

✓ Drainage Licensing and Approvals

- **Department of Environment, Climate and Parks**

- ❖ *The AMM appreciates developing a new Working Group with the department to help address long-standing municipal concerns.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to streamline and reduce provincial red tape to expedite drainage licensing approvals;*
- ❖ *Enhance bundling options for projects on contiguous and non-contiguous parcels of land to mitigate application fee increases; and*
- ❖ *Ensure consistent enforcement by local Water Resource Officers.*

IMPORTANT ISSUES – MORE COLLABORATION NEEDED

✓ Investing in Canada (Phase 2) and AMM Involvement

- Department of Labour, Consumer Protection and Government Services
- Department of Municipal Relations
- ❖ *The AMM is very pleased to participate as a member of the Manitoba Local consultative committee (MBLCC) to review applications for the various streams under Phase 2 of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).*
- ❖ *Demand far outpaces provincial and federal dollars as municipalities have identified more than \$752 million to upgrade or construct water and wastewater treatment facilities as well as sewer infrastructure across Manitoba.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Make available greater funding for water and wastewater treatment facilities under the Green Infrastructure stream to municipalities;*
- ❖ *Continue to provide municipalities a ‘fair say’ to more effectively respond to local infrastructure priorities and support AMM input in the decision-making process for any application-based infrastructure funding; and*
- ❖ *Streamline processes and increase flexibility for applicants and funding recipients by expanding stacking limits and eligible costs under ICIP.*

✓ Support for Economic Development

- **Department of Municipal Relations**
- **Department of Economic Development, Investment and Trade**
- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the launch of the Rural Manitoba Economic Development Corporation (RMED) in Brandon to reduce red tape, foster economic growth, and provide ‘single-window’ services to rural Manitoba*
- ❖ *The potential of Manitoba’s north is limitless, but it also requires sustained and innovative solutions to ensure communities are ready for investment and to capitalize on new opportunities.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Promote synergies with economic development offices and agencies to ensure economic development is responsive to municipal needs; and*
- ❖ *Continue to consult with northern communities and the AMM on the implementation of the Look North initiative.*

✓ Accessibility Legislation and Standards

- **Department of Families**
- ❖ *The AMM thanks the Province of Manitoba for announcing a new \$20 million endowment fund that will provide grants up to \$50,000 to municipalities to eliminate accessibility barriers;*
- ❖ *The AMM welcomes the continuance of quarterly meetings with departmental staff to discuss accessibility standards and compliance requirements; and*
- ❖ *The AMM is a member of Manitoba’s Accessibility Advisory Council.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Support municipalities by continuing to reduce administrative and financial burdens as a result of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its corresponding standards.*

✓ Modernize Education Funding

○ Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning

- ❖ *The education system's future and long-term sustainability cannot be de-coupled from how it is funded and paid for; and*
- ❖ *The AMM welcomes steps taken by the provincial government to phase-out education property taxes, however municipalities remain concerned with including school taxes and credits on the municipal tax bill.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Work with municipalities and the AMM on the provincial commitment to phase out Education Property Taxes and ensure the new funding model is reflective of municipal concerns.*
- ❖ *Rescind the \$5,000 cap on the Farmland School Tax Rebate.*

✓ Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

○ Department of Environment, Climate and Parks

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities during the implementation of the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan;*
- ❖ *Provide funding to municipalities to support the development and effective implementation of Community Energy Plans (CEPs); and*
- ❖ *Support the AMM's call on the federal government to provide exemptions to municipalities from the federal Carbon Tax and distribute promised CAIF rebates directly to municipalities.*

✓ Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing

- Department of Finance
- Department of Municipal Relations
- ❖ *The AMM understands that the Province of Manitoba is not a signatory of the Coordinate Cannabis Taxation Agreement (CCTA), and therefore does not receive the provincial share of the federal cannabis excise tax.*
- ❖ *However, the Province collects a cannabis retailer Social Responsibility Fee of 6 per cent on annual revenues from the sale of non-medical cannabis by all provincially-licensed retailers -- but no funding support has been provided to Manitoba municipalities.*
- ❖ *According to the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries (MBLL) Annual Report, cannabis operations revenues increased by 74 per cent (\$33.7 million) from the prior year.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Co-develop a fair revenue sharing model that respects municipal authority.*

✓ Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff

- Department of Municipal Relations

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Immediately fill all vacancies in regional planning and assessment offices to ensure municipalities are receiving timely and accurate services from each of these branches.*

✓ Enforcement of Weight Restrictions

- Department of Justice
 - Department of Municipal Relations
 - Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
- ❖ *We thank the Province of Manitoba for establishing a Working Group with our organization focused on weight restriction enforcement.*
 - ❖ *The AMM is pleased to see the department in discussions with several municipalities about participating in a provincial pilot project to help enforce weight restrictions.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Work collaboratively with municipalities to allow local Councils the option to enforce certain sections of the Highway Traffic Act to protect municipal infrastructure.*

✓ Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Transition Plan

- Department of Environment, Climate and Parks
- ❖ *The AMM supports efforts to reduce and divert waste as well as welcomes expanded recycling initiatives in Manitoba that may include a transition to full EPR.*
 - ❖ *However, the AMM remains concerned with the lack of information and details regarding impacts on municipal operations, finances, and administration within the proposed EPR transition plan.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to directly consult with the AMM and municipalities on the transition to full Extended Producer Responsibility.*

✓ **Broadband Internet Access**

o **Department of Economic Development, Investment and Trade**

- ❖ *The AMM welcomes several broadband announcements over the last year.*
- ❖ *Manitoba continues to experience some of the slowest internet download speeds in the country while cell network coverage remains sparse in many areas.*
- ❖ *The pandemic heightened the digital divide between communities as well as the immediate need for better broadband access, so residents have the tools and resources available to work from home, access quality healthcare and education services.*

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Consult with the AMM, and municipalities during the development of a provincial broadband strategy to ensure all Manitobans have access to high-quality internet; and*
- ❖ *Pursue partnerships with municipalities and the private sector to expand broadband connectivity.*

APPENDIX – SUPPORTING AMM RESOLUTIONS

Successes in 2021-2022

\$25 Million for Building Sustainable Communities

- None

\$20 Million for the Manitoba Water Services Board

- Resolution #28-2015: Water and Wastewater Fund
- Resolution #08-2022*: Water Infrastructure Funding

\$15 Million to Support Municipal Road Repairs

- Resolution #26-2010: Strategy to Address Municipal Infrastructure Deficit
- Resolution #06-2019: Municipal Road and Bridge Program Distribution Formula
- Resolution #04-2020: Maintenance of Designated Roadway (DR) Routes

\$9 Million for the Green Teams Program

- None

\$3 Million for Watershed Districts Program

- Resolution #41-2013: Increase Funding to Conservation Districts

Library Funding

- Resolution #47-2016 *Standing Policy: Library Funding

Provincial DFA Program:

- Resolution #18-2013: Review of Disaster Financial Assistance
- Resolution #29-2022*: Disaster Financial Assistance Eligibility

MTI Gravel Road Agreements

- None

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

- None

Bill 22: Cosmetic Pesticide Ban

- Resolution #13-2014: Weed Control Districts - Chemical Exemption
- Resolution #13-2011: Cosmetic Pesticide Use Ban

Aggregate Fee Regulation Changes

- Resolution #11-2021: Transportation of Aggregate

Newspaper Recycling Agreement

- None (refer to AMM Policy File P-CWS-04)

Critical Issues – Immediate Action Required

Fair Share, Alternate Revenues, and PST Rebate

- Resolution #02-2022*: Municipal Revenue
- Resolution #07-2019: No Unilateral Downloading
- Resolution #01-2015: PST Rebate
- Resolution #03-2015: Flexible and Equitable Debt Ratio Formula
- Resolution #37-2015: PST Exemption
- Resolution #45-2016: Base Tax - SP
- Resolution #26-2010: Strategy to Address Municipal Infrastructure Deficit
- Resolution #23-2009: Infrastructure Funding Cost-Sharing

Public Safety, Local Crime and By-Law Enforcement

- Resolution #16-2022*: By-Law Enforcement Clarity
- Resolution #26-2022*: Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan
- Resolution #19-2019: Methamphetamine Issues
- Resolution #10-2020: Proceeds from Rural Crime

RCMP Unionization Impacts and Policing Costs

- Resolution #22-2021: RCMP Unionization Costs
- Resolution #26-2020: Policing Service Agreement - SP
- Resolution #39-2019: RCMP Funding Formula
- Resolution #40-2019: RCMP Staffing
- Resolution #03-2018: Comprehensive Review of Municipal Policing Costs and Structure
- Resolution #37-2017: Amend The Police Services Act
- Resolution #38-2017: By-Law Enforcement
- Resolution #33-2013: Rural and Northern Manitoba Cadet Program
- Resolution #44-2012: Amend Population Base for Policing
- Resolution #45-2012: Provincial Per Capita Funding for RCMP
- Resolution #42-2009: New Police Services Act

Paramedic Self-Regulation

- Resolution #06-2022*: Firefighter/Paramedic Shortage
- Resolution #13-2022*: Medical First Responders
- Resolution #15-2021: College of Paramedics of Manitoba Fees

Shared Health Plan for Rural Healthcare & Doctor Recruitment/Retention

- Resolution #18-2022*: Emergency First Responders
- Resolution #17-2021: Medical Staff Retention
- Resolution #35-2018: Rural Healthcare
- Resolution #26-2017: Healthcare Services

Essential Cell Service

- Resolution #41-2019: Essential Cell Service - SP
- Resolution #38-2015: Improve Cellular Reception Services
- Resolution #50-2012: High Speed Internet and Cell Service for Rural Manitoba

Simplifying Municipal Tax Tools

- Resolution #02-2022*: Municipal Revenue
- Resolution #04-2021: Assessment and Taxation Tools
- Resolution #05-2021: Tax Reform Study
- Resolution #08-2019: Municipal Tax Autonomy

Landfill Engineering Costs

- Resolution #25-2022*: Waste Disposal Financial Assistance
- Resolution #19-2021: Waste Disposal Grounds

Drainage Licensing and Approvals:

- Resolution #11-2022*: Third Order Drains and Drainage Policy
- Resolution #27-2019: Drainage Licensing
- Resolution #48-2017: Municipal Drainage
- Resolution #17-2014: Tile Drainage Policy
- Resolution #18-2014: Drainage Upgrades and Solutions
- Resolution #17-2012: Drainage on Crown Lands
- Resolution #51-2012: Maintenance of Right-of-way on Provincial Drains

Important Issues – More Collaboration Needed

Investing in Canada (Phase 2) and AMM Involvement

- None (refer to AMM Policy Files P-MI-01 & F-IC-01)

Support for Economic Development

- Resolution #35-2017: Strategy to Increase Physical and Electronic Connectivity

Accessibility Legislation and Standards

- Resolution #41-2017: Accessibility Legislation & Standards

Modernizing Education Funding

- Resolution #42-2018: Education Property Tax Credit (EPTC) Application Changes
- Resolution #25-2015: Business Education Tax
- Resolution #32-2013: Modernize Education Funding

Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan

- None (refer to AMM Policy File P-CWS-08)

Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing

- Resolution #05-2019: Cannabis Taxation Revenue-Sharing

Provincial Planning and Assessment Services Staff

- Resolution #07-2018: Standardizing Approval Periods for Planning Processes
- Resolution #08-2018: Assistance for Development Plans
- Resolution #09-2018: Better Coordination for Subdivisions
- Resolution #10-2016: Support for Municipal Planning
- Resolution #39-2015: Increase Assessment Branch Staffing
- Resolution #07-2013: Land Use Planner Positions

Enforcement of Weight Restrictions

- Resolution #14-2021: Road Weight Restrictions
- Resolution #38-2017: By-Law Enforcement

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Transition Plan:

- None

Broadband Internet Access

- Resolution #50-2012: High Speed Internet and Cell Service for Rural Manitoba

NOTE: If required, please contact AMM staff to receive detailed information about AMM resolutions.