

Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle Watersheds
Association Taking Responsibility

November 2014 Volume 2 Issue 3

Inside This Issue

- 1 Legislature 2014
- 1 MLA Reception
- 2 Art Contest 2015
- 2 Riparian Health Assessment
- 2 Assiniboine River Basin Conference
- 3 Aquatic Invasive Species
- 3 Weed Management Project Report
- 4 Board Member Listing
- 4 Membership Listing
- 4 Upcoming Events

Legislature 2014

The Speech from the Throne opening the 2014 -15 Saskatchewan Legislature made mention of two water related initiatives for this Legislative Session.

The Province will release a new results-based drainage policy for public consultation.

New Environmental Code: The "**Results Based**" **Saskatchewan Environmental Code** and associated Regulations have also been finalized. There are three water related components; **Water Mains** applies to the siting, design, construction and commissioning of water mains supplying water for human consumptive use in municipalities of over 5,000 population, **Sewage Mains**, applies to the siting, design construction, altering, extending and commissioning of sewage mains used or intended for use in municipalities with over 5,000 in population, and **Hydrostatic Testing**- applies to person who use water for pressure testing a pipeline to determine if there are any leaks.

Changes to **Sewage Hauling** regulations have not been included in the new Environmental Code.

Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) MLA Reception

On November 3rd, WUQWATR Board members David Sloan and Sandra Bathgate and General Manager Duane Haave joined our provincial watershed colleagues in hosting a very successful reception for MLAs at the Legislature.

SAW Chair David Sloan made a presentation about watershed stewardship groups and their role in provincial water protection and management.

Environment Minister Scott Moe also addressed the reception on behalf of the Province.



Watersheds Art Contest

Saskatchewan's Watersheds will be hosting another School Art Contest for students in Grades 5, 6 and 7. This year's theme is **Water for Wildlife**.

Poster entries must be hand drawn on 8 ½ x 11 paper and address the importance of water for our wildlife.

Details will be sent out to local schools and school divisions, and posted on our website in the near future. The deadline for entries in the WUQWATR watershed will be March 16, 2015. If you would like to be added to our contact list for the contest, please email us at info@wuqwatr.ca

Vale Potash Canada Sponsorship

WUQWATR is very pleased to announce the receipt of a \$10,000 sponsorship from Vale Potash Canada to assist with the completion of our Wascana Riparian Health Assessment.

Wascana Riparian Health Assessment

In the summer of 2014, WUQWATR implemented Phase 3 of our Wascana Riparian Health Assessment on Wascana Creek downstream of Regina, and portions of Cottonwood Creek. Summer students Hillary Luchinski, Ben Lockert and Ellidh MacDonald surveyed 34 sites along the Creeks. As expected, recent high water flows have caused considerable damage to the banks of Wascana Creek. The findings of Phase 3 were presented to the public on August 20th at the Sherwood Forest Country Club.

The final phase 4 of the Assessment project will be conducted in 2015, covering areas upstream of Regina, and tributaries such as Pilot Butte, Chukka, Kronau, and Manybones Creeks.

Recommendations on actions to improve the health of Wascana Creek will also be included in the final phase of the Project.

Copies of the 2014 interim report and previous reports are available on our website.

<http://wuqwatr.ca/news/item/?n=30>

Assiniboine River Basin Initiative Conference November 12-14

The Assiniboine Watershed covers the Assiniboine, Qu'Appelle and Souris River sub-basin watersheds.

WUQWATR Board members Fred Clipsham, David Sloan, Rod Halyk, Garry Dixon and GM Duane Haave participated with delegates from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota to discuss the formation of a grassroots watershed basin organization to help improve the health of our larger watershed area and coordinate our programming for greater effectiveness. This effort would be similar to existing River Basin councils such as the Red River Basin Council.

Delegates set up a steering committee to coordinate the establishment of an incorporated legal entity, the structure of a board, and mission and vision statements for a new Basin organization.



WUQWATR summer student Hillary Luchinski involved in the Riparian Health Assessment this past summer.

Invasive Aquatic Species a Growing Concern

Zebra and Quagga mussels are invasive aquatic species accidentally imported from Asia. In recent years they have migrated across North America and have become a major invasive pest in Alberta, and have also recently moved into Lake Winnipeg. These mussels have huge environmental and economic impacts, by altering water chemistry, competing with native species, and by clogging intakes for power and water plants and irrigation operations.

According to a Risk Assessment by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Qu'Appelle and Wascana Watersheds are at very high risk of infestation by Zebras and Quagga mussels. This would include Last Mountain and Buffalo Pound Lakes, and our rivers and creeks.

Invasive mussel species are mostly transported to new areas on recreational watercraft and boat trailers.

WUQWATR plans to work with other Saskatchewan agencies to develop and deliver a plan to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species. An important part of this plan is to raise the awareness of our resort communities and boat owners about the hazards of these species, and best practices for prevention.

Aquatic Invasive Species workshops to provide more information on this issue are planned for Saskatoon February 11 (at Cabela's - Preston Crossing) and Regina February 12, 2015 (Cabela's - Harbour Landing). For registration information go to www.prairiewaters.ca

Weed Management Project Report

With recent wet summers, invasive weed species have been spreading throughout our watershed. Species like leafy spurge damage pastures, stream banks and lakeshores.

In 2014, WUQWATR coordinated the Qu'Appelle Strategic Weed Management Project with the RMs of McKillop, Lumsden, and Edenwold, and the Town Of Lumsden.

Summer student Ben Lockert helped to map areas of leafy spurge infestation for control. WUQWATR also prepared information on invasive weeds for the general public that were published in the Waterfront Press, the Last Mountain Times and the Star.

The 2014 Weed Management Project report is available on Wuqwatr's website at <http://wuqwatr.ca/news/item/?n=31>



AEGP Update

The AEGP is in the planning stages of organizing a province wide Wetland Restoration/Creation workshop for all interested stakeholders including other watershed groups.

This workshop will provide information on what needs to be considered to create or restore a wetland from design to completion. It will also have a hands-on component where attendees will participate in planning and creating a wetland.

Upcoming AEGP events include workshops organized in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture in Meacham (February 25, 2015) and Strasbourg (February 19, 2015)

Stay tuned for more details.

Membership Listing

City of Humboldt

City of Regina

Resort Village of Alice Beach

Resort Village of Kannata Valley

Resort Village of Manitou Beach

Resort Village of North Grove

Resort Village of South Lake

Resort Village of Sun Valley

Resort Village Saskatchewan Beach

RM of Colonsay No. 342

RM of Edenwold No. 158

RM of Enfield No. 194

RM of Eyebrow No 193

RM of Francis No. 127

RM of Humboldt No. 370

RM of Huron No. 223

RM of Lajord No. 128

RM of Leroy No. 339

RM of Longlaketon No. 219

RM of Lumsden No. 189

RM of Marquis No. 191

RM of McKillop No. 220

RM of Moose Jaw No. 161

RM of Morris No. 312

RM of Mount Hope No. 279

RM of Pense No. 160

RM of Prairie Rose No. 309

RM of Sherwood No. 159

RM of Osborne No. 310

RM of Viscount No. 341

RM of Wreford No. 280

Town of Bruno

Town of Central Butte

Town of Davidson

Town of Imperial

Town of Leroy

Town of Lumsden

Town of Pilot Butte

Town of Raymore

Town of White City

Village of Brownlee

Village of Chamberlain

Village of Eyebrow

Village of Sedley

Village of Vibank

Wascana C&D #2

Mosaic Potash Belle Plaine

Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant

K & S Potash Canada GP

Nature Regina

Potash Corp

Board of Directors 2014

Wascana Watershed:

Fred Clipsham, Urban

Jim Elliott, Associate

David Sloan, Rural

Upper Qu'Appelle:

Claudette Halladay, Rural Sandra

Bathgate, Associate

Urban – Vacant

Last Mountain Lake:

Geoff Merifield, Urban

Ernie Oblander, Associate

Gary Dixon, Rural

Lanigan Manitou:

Tim Davies, Associate

Rod Halyk, Urban

Don Bowman, Rural

Officers of WUQWATR:

Fred Clipsham, Chair

Rod Halyk, Vice Chair

Jim Elliot, Secretary

Tim Davies, Treasurer

Upcoming Events

Water Management and Drainage Stewardship Conference:

Tuesday December 9, Balcarres Curling

Club – For Registration contact

Bonnie 306 675-4514

Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds 2015 Annual Conference

April 13-15 Melfort - contact WUQWATR for

more information at info@wuqwatr.ca