



Of Special Interest

- New Agri-Environmental Group Plan
- Riparian Health Assessment
- Ground Water
- SWA Drainage Consultation Launch



NEW AGRI ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP PLAN

For the last 5 years, WUQWATR has delivered three Agri-Environmental Group Plans in the Lanigan-Manitou, Lewis Creek/Last Mountain Lake, and Buffalo Pound/Wascana Creek areas. Over that time our staff helped producers in our area apply for funding for nearly 3.2 million dollars' worth of projects to help protect our watershed's surface and ground water.

This year, the Provincial and Federal Governments have

renewed the AEGP program through the Growing Forward 2 agreement for the next five years. WUQWATR will now be delivering one AEGP for the Upper Qu'Appelle and Wascana Watersheds.

To prepare for the new AEGP program, WUQWATR has developed an Environmental Scan of our watersheds. We have compiled information about various agricultural and environmental factors in our

area, and how those may impact water quality.

This includes data about species at risk, fish species, land features like soil types, salinity and land cover. We also collected the most recent data about management factors like cropping and livestock.

Before we can assist producers in applying for projects, we need to develop five year and one year work plans for our AEGP, to help set priorities and goals.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

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WUQWATR needs your input to make sure our work plan addresses key local issues. Our Environmental Scan has identified a number of factors that we need to consider, including; nutrients and pesticide, soil erosion and sedimentation, invasive weeds, and the protection of groundwater.

With input from local residents and local governments to identify priorities, the AEGP will be able to focus our resources on to help increase awareness and work with

producers to help protect our watershed.

Please take a look at our environmental scan and fill out our questionnaire at our website.

www.wuqwatr.ca/agriculture

The AEGP is also looking for producers who would like to sit on the steering committee. Duties would include advising the AEGP technical advisor and giving valuable input into the five year and yearly work plans.

The AEGP is especially

looking for producers in the Wascana watershed and to the north in the Lanigan-Manitou sub-watershed.

For more information or to become a member please contact Colleen at (306) 946-6533 or email aegp@wuqwatr.ca

Wascana Riparian Health Assessment



Riparian areas are the areas bordering on streams, lakes, and wetlands that link water to land.

Riparian areas are essential components of our environment. These areas provide a long list of ecological and water management functions and stabilize the landscape. Riparian areas protect our water bodies from floods, droughts and the impact of human development.

The Wascana Riparian Health Assessment Project uses methods designed by

the Prairie Conservation Action Plan and the Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish). The Assessment is based on field observation of the composition and condition of plant life in the riparian zone along a water body, and the condition of the bank and channel.

This summer, WUQWATR continued the field work for our ongoing Riparian Health

Assessment in the Wascana Creek Watershed. Assessments were completed within the City of Regina boundaries, and field studies were conducted on the Creek upstream of Regina within the area of the Wascana Conservation and Development Area Authority which runs from the eastern boundary of the City to just south of Lajord.

Riparian Areas Involved in Health Assessment Study

The study area included Wascana Creek, Wascana Lake, and stormwater channels and stormwater lakes.

Both of these areas along the Creek have been heavily modified from their natural state for economic, recreational and flood control purpose.

The study area contains a wide diversity of

management conditions, including cultivated cropland, urban parks, waterfowl habitat and industrial sites. The assessment also follows several years of very high spring runoff and high water flows.

Field studies were conducted by University of Regina biology student Dylan Criddle, assisted by WUQWATR General Manager

Duane Haave, between June and August.

An interim report of the findings will be released this October, and WUQWATR staff will be available to discuss them with your group.

Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Released Source Protection Plan

On July 12 WUQWATR Board members and staff joined our neighbours in the Lower Qu'Appelle watershed for the release of their local Source Water Protection Plan.

WUQWATR is pleased to welcome the Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Stewards as the 11th watershed stewardship group in Saskatchewan and we look forward to working

closely with them in the future.

The Lower Qu'Appelle Source Water Protection Plan is available at lowerqu'appellewatershed.ca

Ground Water

Groundwater is water that is stored below the Earth's surface. It is part of the hydrologic cycle and has several important roles including a source of drinking water for both humans and livestock. Surface water and precipitation recharge ground water. Precipitation slowly seeps into underground reservoirs called aquifers. Aquifer depth, size and physical characteristics vary. During dry times, groundwater can migrate towards the surface to provide moisture. This is called discharge.

Groundwater also flows underground laterally and can discharge into lakes, rivers, wetlands, springs and flowing wells.

The vast majority of rural residents within the Upper Qu'Appelle –Wascana watershed rely on groundwater for domestic use including those who live in hamlets, resort communities, villages and towns. Industry and agriculture rely heavily on groundwater as well. The protection of this natural resource is important.

There are two main ways people can protect groundwater. The first is by conservation and using water resources wisely. The second is preventing contamination. While natural contamination such as heavy metals cannot be controlled, there are many human causes of contamination. These include improper use, storage and disposal of chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides and manure; poor site location of wells, inadequate maintenance or protection of wellheads; and improper installation and/or care of septic systems.



Abandoned wells can be a direct route for pollution to travel into our aquifers, and even a small amount of oil or chemical can travel long distances and remain in place for many years. Decommissioning abandoned wells is a high priority in our watershed.

Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)

The main purpose of FRWIP is to meet the needs of Saskatchewan's agricultural producers in developing sustainable non-potable water resources for agricultural use.

There are four components to the program:

- on-farm
- agri-business development
- irrigation district in-fill
- community well component

Producers can also access cost shared funding to decommission abandoned wells (90% rebate) and protect existing wells (50% rebate).

For more information about what funding is available and if you qualify, please go to <http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/GF2-FRWIP> or call 1-877-874-5365.

The website also has downloadable application forms.



Bull trapped in abandoned well

The Government of Saskatchewan, through the Growing Forward 2 program provides grants to help protect groundwater resources, and to assist producers develop water supplies.

Art Poster Contest – A Healthy Watershed



Drainage Ditch

WUQWATR once again held an art poster contest this spring, open to all Grades 4, 5 & 6 in the four watershed areas comprising WUQWATR.

The response was tremendous with 76 entrants received in total.

The winning entry was judged by an independent Regina artist, who made the final choice not only based on artistic talent, but also the entrant's understanding and depiction of a healthy watershed.

Winning picture featured on Page 6.

The \$200 cash prize was awarded to Christopher Wright, a Grade 5 student attending Wilfred Hunt School in Regina.

Details for our 2014 Art Poster Contest will be announced early this fall for the spring deadline date.

Water Security Agency launches online drainage consultations

The Water Security Agency has launched an online consultation to receive input from Saskatchewan residents on agricultural drainage.

The forum will be active from September 1 to March 31, 2014. The forum is designed to get input on a range of topics related to agricultural drainage, including downstream flooding impacts, water quality and biodiversity.

Issues around drainage and flood control have been very important in our watersheds in recent years. WUQWATR's has signed up for the forum, and is preparing a position document based on the key actions contained in our Source Water Protection Plan.

Sign up now for the Drainage Consultation Forum at the Water Security website www.wsask.ca or at <http://agdrainage.insightrix.com>

Drainage ditch erosion



Memberships by Watershed

All members are welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting and Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) meetings

Lanigan Manitou: (LM)

- City of Humboldt
- RV of Manitou Beach
- RM of Wreford#280
- RM Prairie Rose#309
- RM of Osborne#310
- RM of Morris#312
- RM of Leroy#339
- RM of Colonsay#342
- RM of Humboldt#370
- Potash Corp of Sask



LM sub-watershed

Wascana Watershed:

- City of Regina
- Nature Regina
- RM of Francis #127
- RM of Edenwold #158
- Town of Lumsden
- Town of Pilot Butte
- Village of Sedley
- Village of Vibank
- Wascana C&D



Lewis Creek is a major tributary into Last Mountain Lake.

Watershed Advisory Committee- Meetings

Last Mountain Lake:

- Held on June 20, 2013 at Saskatchewan Beach, SK
- Gary Dixon was appointed RM Rep
- Ernie Oblander was appointed Associate Rep

Wascana Watershed:

- Held on June 24, 2013 at Wascana Place, Regina, SK
- No appointments were required for the Wascana watershed

Lanigan Manitou Watershed

- Held on June 25, 2013 at Manitou Beach, SK.
- **RM Rep Position still vacant.**

Memberships by Watershed cont'd

Last Mountain Lake: (LML)

- RM of Longlaketon #219
- RM of McKillop#220
- RV of Alice Beach
- RV of Kannata Valley
- Town of Davidson
- Town of Imperial
- Town of Raymore
- Village of Sask Beach



LML sub-watershed

Upper Qu'appelle: (UQ)

- RV of Sun Valley
- RM of Moose Jaw#161
- RM of Marquis#191
- RM of Eyebrow#193
- RM of Huron#223
- Town of Central Butte
- Village of Brownlee
- Village of Eyebrow
- Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant
- K & S Potash Corp
- Mosaic Canada

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Officers of WUQWATR

Fred Clipsham, Chair
Jim Elliot, Secretary
Tim Davies, Treasurer

There are currently two vacancies on the WUQWATR Board.

The Lanigan Manitou watershed has a vacancy for a RM representative. For more information contact Tim Davies at (306) 946-3813 or the WUQWATR office.

The Upper Qu'Appelle watershed has a vacancy for a member representing an urban municipality (resort, village or town). For more information, please contact Claudette Halladay at (306) 787-4514 or the WUQWATR office.

Board members require the nomination of a member municipality, and do not have to serve as a councillor.

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.wuqwatr.ca

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on April 4, 2013 at Regina Beach, SK.

A resolution was passed at the meeting that requests the Water Security Agency (WSA) take actions intended to minimize damages to municipal infrastructure and private property that may

result from the 2013 spring runoff and any associated flooding.

This resolution was forwarded by letter dated April 5, 2013 from Fred Clipsham, Chair, to the Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister Responsible for the

Saskatchewan Water Security Agency.

Mr. Cheveldayoff's letter of acknowledgement was received by WUQWATR on April 20, 2013 noting the concerns raised at the meeting.

Board of Directors

Wascana Watershed:

Fred Clipsham, Regina
Jim Elliot, Regina,
David Sloan, Richardson

Upper Qu'Appelle :

Claudette Halladay, Marquis
Sandra Bathgate, Central
Butte

Last Mountain Lake:

Geoff Merifield, Kannata
Valley
Ernie Oblander, Strasbourg
Gary Dixon, RM of McKillop

Lanigan Manitou:

Tim Davies, Manitou Beach
Rod Halyk, Humboldt

Christopher Wright



Art Poster Contest Winning Picture 2013