

Saskatchewan-Manitoba MOU Respecting Water Management

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2019 PPWB COH-COFF Workshop

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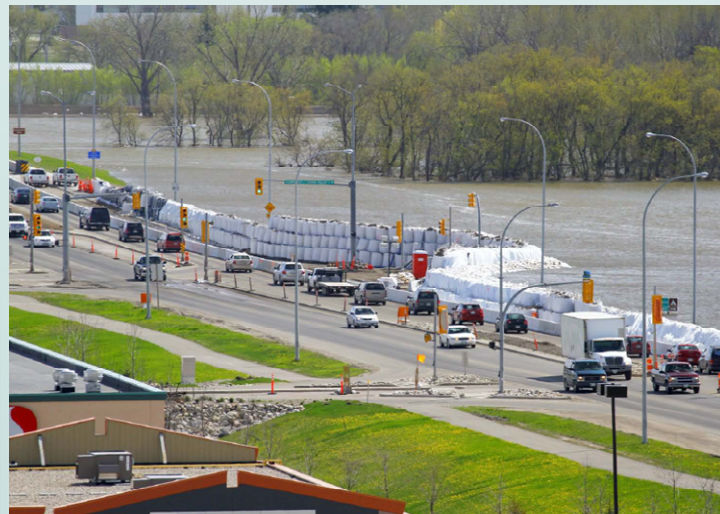
November 28, 2019

Manitoba



The need for cooperation...

- After 2011 and 2014 floods, tensions were high along the border, with particular frustration over agricultural drainage
- Both provinces acknowledged the need to better coordinate water management in shared watersheds on various topics



An MOU respecting water management was signed between the two provinces in October 2015

- Established a number of “whereas” clauses containing mutually agreeable needs, concerns, interests, goals, etc. that were the basis for a commitment to work together



Saskatchewan - Manitoba Memorandum of Understanding Respecting Water Management

Between

THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN,
represented herein by the Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency,

("Saskatchewan")

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA,
represented herein by the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship,

("Manitoba")

Saskatchewan and Manitoba are collectively called "the Parties".

WHEREAS the Parties share the vision of sustainable water management for present and future generations;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize the importance of water management to the ecological, social and economic well-being of residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the Parties are concerned about the impacts of flooding, drought and degraded water quality on society, the environment and the economies of Saskatchewan and Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize that excessive nutrients may contribute to increasing frequency and severity of algal blooms in water bodies and waterways in both jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS the Parties each have responsibilities relating to water and share mutual interests in cooperating to protect the water quality and ecological health of shared watersheds;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize existing mechanisms for transboundary water cooperation such as through the Prairie Provinces Water Board;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize the need to coordinate their respective efforts to improve water management across shared watersheds for mitigation of flooding and drought and for improving water quality and protecting aquatic ecosystem health;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize that natural variations in the hydrological cycle include flood and drought and that human ability to manage these events is limited while also recognizing that anthropological action may impact flows;

AND WHEREAS *The Water Security Agency Act* (Saskatchewan) sets out a mandate dealing with flood and drought management and identifies responsibilities related to interjurisdictional water management;

AND WHEREAS, *The Water Protection Act* (Manitoba) recognizes the importance of inter-jurisdictional agreements protecting water, and the shared right and responsibility of all jurisdictions in the Hudson Bay Drainage Basin to protect water resources within the basin;

AND WHEREAS the Parties wish to set out their intentions to work in a cooperative way to address their shared interest in the above matters through the shared goals and objectives identified in this MOU;

AND WHEREAS, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council has, by Order-in-Council No. xx dated xx 2015, authorized the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding for Manitoba.

NOW THEREFORE, THE PARTIES COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION 1 – DEFINITIONS

In this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

The purpose of the MOU is to facilitate a cooperative and coordinated approach between the Parties in their efforts to mitigate flooding and drought and to protect and improve water quality and ecosystem health to achieve healthy, prosperous and sustainable transboundary watersheds for present and future generations.



Principles and Scope of the MOU

- A number of guiding principles were agreed upon:
 - Openness and transparency
 - Cooperation and collaboration
 - Use of existing bodies
 - Maximizing the benefits of existing resources or mechanisms
 - Accountability for activities (i.e. deliver upon the intent of the agreement)
- The geographic scope of the MOU is transboundary watersheds shared between Saskatchewan and Manitoba

What are we cooperating on?

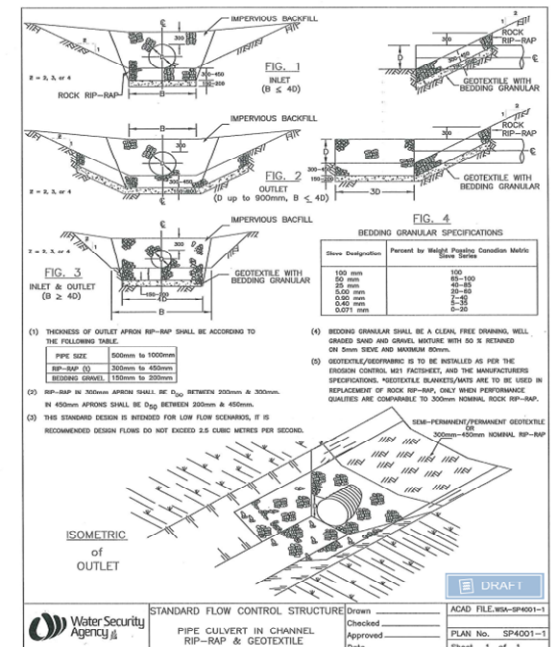
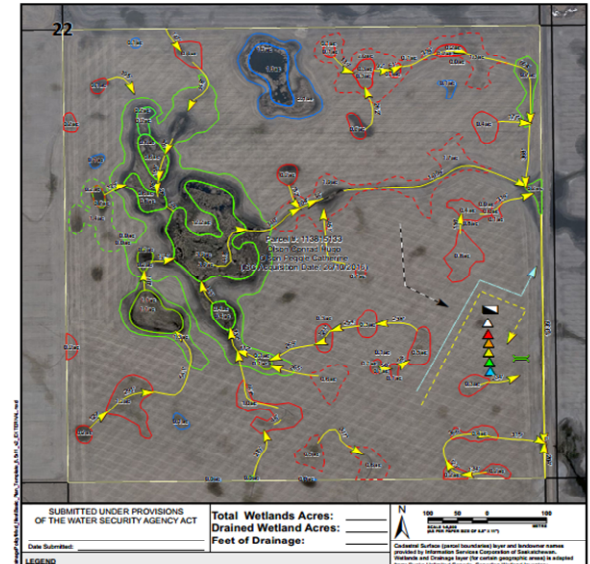
- Saskatchewan and Manitoba agreed to cooperate on:
 - Flood Forecasting
 - Drainage
 - Drought
 - Watershed Management Planning
 - Water quality and aquatic ecosystem health
 - Aquatic invasive species
- Where possible, existing organisations should be used
 - The ongoing work of the PPWB is important

Significant gap existed on drainage and watershed management planning

- A working committee formed to address MOU sections:
 - *Section 6 – Drainage*
 - *The Parties agree to work collaboratively to identify and address water management issues that arise in transboundary watersheds particularly as they relate to drainage.*
 - *The Parties agree to share research and other information including monitoring data regarding the impacts of drainage on flooding, water quality and ecosystem health.*
 - *The Parties agree to share information on regulatory approaches to drainage and water retention.*
 - *Section 8 – Watershed Management Planning*
 - *The parties agree to identify opportunities to cooperate to support watershed planning processes in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba by sharing relevant information and updates on plan development and implementation.*
 - *The Parties agree to engage groups in cross border transboundary watershed planning where appropriate.*

Key activities and accomplishments of the committee:

- Regular meetings
- Information sharing
- Coordinating presentations
- Workshops
 - Drainage Hydrology – September 2018
 - Watershed Planning – January 2019
 - Complaints and Enforcement – March 2019
 - Application intake and license database management – May 2019
 - “Drainage Hydrology 2.0” and “Water Quality in Retention Projects” next workshop topics



MOU also included other commitments

- Senior management to meet annually to discuss MOU topics
- Transparency and information sharing
- Communication
- Settlement of disputes

The future of the MOU is promising

- Duration of the MOU is five years, expires October 2020
- Provinces are currently working to renew agreement with minor modifications:
 - Language to reflect the improved relationship between the provinces
 - Identify where work is being done by outside agencies (e.g. PPWB)
 - Add climate change as another focus area to cooperate on



QUESTIONS?

