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FOURTH  
ANNUAL REPORT OF  
PRAIRIE PROVINCES WATER BOARD

1951

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Regina, Saskatchewan,  
413 Post Office Building,  
January 15, 1952.

PRAIRIE PROVINCES WATER BOARD

Fourth Annual Report - 1951.

Warrant and Function of the Board

Under date of July 28, 1948, the Prairie Provinces Water Board was established by the Governments of Canada, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, consisting of two members appointed by Canada and one from each of the three provinces.

The Board's functions are: to recommend the best use to be made of interprovincial waters in relation to associated resources in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta; upon the request of any one of the three provinces or Canada, to recommend the allocation of water as between each such province of streams flowing from one province into another province; and to report on any questions relating to specific projects for the utilization or control of common river or lake systems at the request of one or more of the Ministers or authorities charged with the administration of such river or lake systems.

To assist in its duties, the Board has set up a small technical staff under the direction of its Engineering Secretary. This staff does not gather basic data, does not conduct field surveys nor duplicate the work of any existing services; it does co-ordinate, appraise and interpret such information for the use of the Board.

Membership of the Board

There has been one change this year in the membership of the Board, necessitated by the resignation of Mr. D. M. Stephens, former Board member. By Order-in-Council No. 1100/51, the Province of Manitoba appointed Mr. B. B. Hogarth to the Board. The membership of the Board is now as follows:

Dr. L. B. Thomson, Chairman of the Board: Director of  
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Regina.

Mr. N. Marr: Chief, Water Resources Division, Ottawa.

Mr. B. B. Hogarth: Director, Manitoba Water Resources Branch,  
Winnipeg.

Mr. B. Russell: Director, Alberta Department of Water Resources,  
Edmonton.

Mr. E. J. Scammell: Chief Engineer, Saskatchewan Water Rights  
Office, Regina.

Meeting of September 5, 1951, Regina

At this meeting the Chairman announced that the two recommendations made by the Board had been ratified by all Governments and were now final. These recommendations were:

Allocation to Alberta - recommended May 31, 1949  
 - ratified by Canada Order-in-Council 4030/49  
 by Alberta Order-in-Council 857/49  
 by Manitoba Order-in-Council 1121/49  
 by Saskatchewan Order-in-Council 1307/51

Allocation to Saskatchewan - recommended February 15, 1951  
 - ratified by Canada Order-in-Council 1874/51  
 by Alberta Order-in-Council 1091/51  
 by Manitoba Order-in-Council 1264/51  
 by Saskatchewan Order-in-Council 1310/51

The Secretary reported on the organization and work of the staff, on the distribution of the maps which had been received, and on a suggested method of allocating water for power. On this question of allocating water for power the Board adopted the following proposal:

"The Board shall make no recommendations for allocations for hydropower developments but shall, pursuant to its functions under Section 2 of the Agreement, record all existing and proposed hydropower developments and may, if deemed necessary and advisable, make recommendations to the respective Governments governing the operations of any such developments."

The Board then considered Saskatchewan's request for a recommended allocation of sufficient water to serve the proposed South Saskatchewan River Project. It was agreed that there is sufficient water in the South Saskatchewan River for this project but it was decided for the present to reserve 960,000 acre-feet of water from the river to this project and to defer further consideration of a recommendation for allocation until the next Board meeting.

In order to clarify the Board's function and duties, each member is to refer the terms of reference to his respective Government for clarification and request the responsible Minister of each Province to confer with the Federal Minister of Agriculture at an early date.

### Work in Progress

The "Water Board" map was received early in 1951 and is now available for distribution. Rules for distributing the map have been set up as follows:

1. Only the 4 and 5-color maps will be distributed outside the Board.
2. Reasonable requests from public agencies will be supplied without charge.
3. Reasonable requests from private sources will be supplied at 75¢ per map.
4. All requests are to be referred to the Engineering Secretary.

The proposed gauging stations recommended by the Board in 1949 have been established and are now in operation.

Two water supply reports were completed and reported on during the year. These are:

Report #3 - "Preliminary Report on effects of certain major Projects in the Saskatchewan River Drainage Basin" for period 1923-48. A later Appendix covers the period 1911-23.

Report #4 - "Comparison of two Alternate Developments in the Saskatchewan River Basin".

At present the staff is engaged in further studies of developments in the Saskatchewan River basin, in making a complete water supply and use study of the Qu'Appelle River basin, and investigating the water supply and use problems of the Cypress Hills' streams.

### Work Contemplated

It is planned to proceed with the studies outlined in the preceding paragraph.

The Board's technical staff is also prepared at any time to undertake studies related to interprovincial waters at the request of any of the governments signatory to the Agreement of July 28, 1948.

L. B. Thomson  
Chairman

W. M. Berry  
Engineering Secretary

REPORTS BY STAFF OF WATER BOARD

(These reports are not available for public distribution)

- Report #1 - "Summary report of recorded and natural monthly flows at certain points on the Saskatchewan River system".  
Period of study 1911-48.  
November, 1950.
- Report #2 - "Stream flow at three selected points on South and Main Saskatchewan Rivers after Alberta's 1949 request".  
Period of study 1923-48.  
December, 1950.
- Report #3 - "Preliminary report on effects of certain major projects in the Saskatchewan River Basin".  
Period of study 1923-48.  
March, 1951.
- Report #3 (Appendix) - Period of study 1911-23  
December, 1951.
- Report #4 - "Comparison of two alternate developments in Saskatchewan River Basin". Period of study 1911-48.  
October, 1951.
- Memorandum #1 - "Memorandum on commercial power potential of South Saskatchewan River Project".  
January, 1951.
- Memorandum #2 - "Memorandum on effect of Alberta developments on South Saskatchewan River Project".  
March, 1951.
- Memorandum #3 - "Water supply study for South Saskatchewan River Project".  
March, 1951.