



**PPWB Apportionment Monitoring Assessment Procedure
Application for Gainsborough Creek at the
Saskatchewan/Manitoba Boundary**

Prairie Provinces Water Board – Letter of Decision
(November 26, 2024)

November 2024

Introduction

Under the terms of Schedule C to the Master Agreement on Apportionment (MAA) the Prairie Provinces Water Board (PPWB) is responsible for oversight and reporting on the apportionment of transboundary waters subject to the MAA. The PPWB Apportionment Monitoring Assessment Procedure (PPWB Report #187) is implemented as part of the basin review cycle or can be implemented when required by the PPWB or Committee on Hydrology (COH).

As part of the development of the Apportionment Monitoring Assessment Procedure (AMAP), example applications were completed for the North Saskatchewan River (large basin, AMAP Appendix A), Battle River (medium basin, AMAP Appendix B), and Gainsborough Creek (small intermittent basin, AMAP Appendix C).

Purpose

This document records the PPWB decision on the level of monitoring required for Gainsborough Creek at the Saskatchewan-Manitoba boundary by classifying it according to the PPWB AMAP.

Background

This decision document is based on the analysis completed by the COH in 2019, as well as Board discussions during the development of the AMAP, including Appendix C for Gainsborough Creek.

Gainsborough Creek is not subject to active apportionment monitoring by the PPWB. Gainsborough Creek is a small intermittent stream located in the southeast corner of Saskatchewan. Gainsborough Creek crosses into Manitoba about 10 km north of the international boundary and flows into the Souris River about 30 km downstream of the apportionment point at the interprovincial boundary.

Analysis of Gainsborough Creek in AMAP Appendix C was based on:

- the hydrometric station Gainsborough Creek near Lyleton, Manitoba (05NF007) which is located approximately 13 km downstream of the apportionment point.
- apportionable flow calculation procedures approved by the Board under PPWB Report #63, Gainsborough Creek at Saskatchewan-Manitoba Boundary Natural Flow, dated July 1987.

AMAP Results and COH Recommendation (Steps 1 – 3)

The assessment for AMAP Steps 1 to 3 for Gainsborough Creek is included in AMAP Appendix C, and the following three paragraphs summarize those results.

The Gainsborough Creek basin was assessed the highest classification (Class 4) for Step 1, which evaluates the “Upstream Component” of the classification. The Upstream Component is given the highest classification out of the following four upstream evaluation categories: Level of Use, Apportionment History, Non-discretionary Consumptive Use and Capacity to Alter Flow. Gainsborough Creek was assessed the following classes for those evaluation categories, respectively: Class 1, Class 4, Class 2, Class 1.

Gainsborough Creek was assessed the lowest classification (Class 1) for Step 2, which evaluates the “Downstream Component” of the classification, by assigning the highest classification out of the following five downstream evaluation criteria: Level of Use, Non-Discretionary Consumptive Use,

Timing of Water Availability, Significance of Basin, Public Perception of Water Availability. Gainsborough Creek was assessed the following classes for those evaluation categories, respectively: Class 1, Class 1, Class 1, Class 1, Class 1.

In Step 3 the highest classification from Steps one and two is assigned, which is Class 4 for Gainsborough Creek. COH reviewed the apportionment classification results for Gainsborough Creek at Meeting No. 138 held on May 1-2, 2019, and recommended the results for approval by the Board (COH Minute 138-54).

AMAP Results and PPWB Review (Steps 4 – 6)

In the AMAP Step 4, the result from Steps 1 to 3 is reviewed by the downstream PPWB member. At their province's discretion the classification can be decreased from the COH classification, but not increased. The Manitoba PPWB member reviewed the Class 4 classification result through the process of developing AMAP Appendix C and recommended that Gainsborough Creek classification be decreased to Class 1, on November 26, 2024. (Minute 132-77, 139-15, 152-13)

In the AMAP Step 5, the Board reviews the COH classification and the downstream province Board member recommendation and provides final approval of basin classification. The PPWB reviewed the classification of Gainsborough Creek and discussed at several board meetings in association with the discussion of the AMAP. (Minutes 132-77, 139-15, 152-13)

In the AMAP, Step 6 does not apply for Gainsborough Creek.

Decision

The Board decision is that Gainsborough Creek is assigned Class 1: no active apportionment monitoring by PPWB. This decision will be reviewed consistent with the basin review cycle.