

2016 Annual Report

Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association



10th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Dedicated in Memory of Jason Puckett

I first met Jason Puckett in April of 2007, as he was part of the interview committee that hired me as the Manager of the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association. From 2007 to present I worked closely with Jason on the many projects that we were able to complete over that time frame.

Jason was a fast talking, government guy that could ramble off more acronyms than I could numbers or letters. Jason had “true” passion for then environment, habitat, fisheries and wildlife; he was my kind of guy! He had a positive, carefree but a no quit attitude that was infectious and his potty mouth with a no filter kind of humour, made his stories and jokes priceless, and they seemed to be endless. He definitely kept work and meetings entertaining and truthfully I couldn’t wait until our next meeting with him. But at the end of the day, and this one’s for you Jason - he got shit done on the ground. He was a guy that wanted to make a difference, truly leave this world a better place for his children, his family, for everyone!

Jason worked as an Agri-environmental Technologist for the Water Security Agency in Yorkton. He led and was a part of, many, grass-roots projects in the East Central region of the province. He worked closely with The Assiniboine, Qu’Appelle and Carrot River Watershed Stewardship Groups, Conservation and Development Area Authorities, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Ministry of Agriculture and other government and non-government agencies.

Some of Jason’s work highlights were:

- Assisting with the formation of the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association
- Twin Lakes Project – Riffle section in the Assiniboine River
- Cupar Creek Project – Restoring a natural waterway that was infilled
- Good Spirit Lake Scour Hole Project – Filling in an erosion hole that trapped fish
- Logan Green Trout Pond – Yorkton – creation of an urban fishery in the city of Yorkton
- Stony Creek Project – removal of culverts & the installation of a bridge for fish to access habitat upstream

Jason also worked with many producers in the East Central region for the implementation of many Beneficial Management Projects. These projects consisted of erosion protection, Creek Crossings, and numerous water system projects that removed livestock from creeks, rivers and lakes. He was a part of thousands of miles of fencing and windbreak projects that helped producers better manage their pastures and animals. He also was a part of the conversion of over 50,000 acres of cropland to perennial forage. Jason also was a part of hundreds of restored wetland projects and the identification, protection and decommissioning of hundreds of water wells. He also helped administer flood protection through the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program, where he spent countless hours working with the home and cabin owners at Round and Crooked Lakes in the Qu’Appelle River Valley.

Jason wanted all of us to remember his work legacy. He loved what he did and he wanted people to know that his passion for the environment, habitat, wildlife and fisheries was very meaningful and that he truly made positive changes on the landscape.

I not only knew Jason through work, but I also got to know Jason as a friend. I had the privilege to hear about and witness his passion for his family. His love for his wife Shelly and his children Ainsly and Jack was second to none!! His love of his entire family and his circle of friends was repeatedly talked about. Jason was one of those “good” guys that would give you his shirt off his back, a fishing rod if you needed one, a rifle just because, a cigarette if you wanted one or a shot of rum if you needed one more or not.

I only knew him for 8+ years, but in that time, he helped me with work, hunting and fishing and most importantly he helped me recognize the value of Family, Friends, and LIFE. Jason’s battle was courageous and inspiring. One of my last conversations with him, he told me, “Aron, spend time with your friends, you know who your friends are, your wife, family and your kids..... hold your wife and kids..... spend that time with them, cause you just never know what happens in life”.

If I could go back in time right now, when you Jason called and said “Hershmillers let’s go fishing”, I’d now say, I’ve got Rum let’s roll, what time do you have to be back?..... Until we meet again buddy, save some fish up there for us for when we get there. God bless Jason, God bless!

Aron Hershmillers, AWSA Manager 2007 - 2015

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Acknowledgements	2
Introduction	3
A Word from SAW	4
Board Chair's Message	5
Watershed Manager's Message	6
The Association at a Glance	7
AWSA Board of Directors and Membership Over the Years	8
10 Years of AWSA Membership	9
Membership Representation	10
AWSA Office	11
AWSA Staff - Strong as Individuals	13
10 Years of AWSA Staff - Stronger as a Team	14
Assiniboine River Watershed Map	15
Yorkton Area Aquifers Map	16
2016 Notable Events	17
Watershed Pictures	20
2016 Projects / Results	21
10 Years and Over \$15 Million of Projects / Results	22
AWSA Hosts 2016 SAW Conference	23
2016 SAW Watershed Stewardship Award - Jason Puckett	24
Agri - Environmental Group Plans & Farm Stewardship Program	25
Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program	27
Decommissioning Abandoned Wells	29
Wells We've Decommissioned - No Longer Aquifer Risks	30
Saskatchewan's New Drainage Regulations	31
Upper Spirit Creek Watershed Drainage Pilot Project	33
Wetland Restoration Program	35
SWF - Fish Enhancement Projects	36
ALUS Saskatchewan Assiniboine Project	37
Wallace Creek Watershed Association Board No.11	39
Pizza Farm	41
Yorkton Creek Watershed Association Board No. 4	42
Poster Contest	45
Fall Educational Sessions - Logan Green Trout Pond	47
Logan Green Trout Pond Restocking	48
New Assets for the AWSA	49
Holistic Management Field Day	51
Culvert Infrastructure Mapping Program	52
SWF - Fish Enhancement Program	53
Tree Planting Equipment Program	54
Acronym List	55
Auditors' Report	57

Acknowledgements

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association (AWSA) would like to acknowledge our 37 “Grass Roots” members who truly value the importance of clean, fresh water and have made a considerable effort to protect this precious resource. We began with 24 members when we started 10 years ago, but thanks to your past and present support towards the protection of the source waters in the Assiniboine River Watershed, we have now grown to have the strongest, most comprehensive membership of any watershed stewardship group in Saskatchewan. For that, we say Thank You!

We also want to thank the board of directors, staff, advisory committees and the technical committee for their time, effort, and dedication towards the AWSA.

We would like to recognize the Water Security Agency for their financial support, guidance, and expertise in aiding us with our *Source Water Protection Plans* now and into the future.

We would also like to recognize all the agencies whose financial and technical support towards protecting source waters within the Assiniboine River Watershed has allowed us to implement so many great projects and programs over the past 10 years. In particular we’d like to thank Agriculture Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Lake Winnipeg Basin Stewardship Fund - Environment Canada, Eco-Action - Environment Canada, Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment - Good Spirit Provincial Park, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, ALUS Canada, the Wallace Creek Watershed Assoc. Board, and the Yorkton Creek Watershed Assoc. Board.

2016 AWSA Staff



L to R: Cameron H-Preece, Caitlyn Peters, Katelyn Smith, Janet Kristjanson, Jesse Nielsen

Introduction

This is the 10th edition of the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association's Annual Report. Not only does it outline the activities of the AWSA over their 2016 fiscal year (Nov. 1, 2015 - Oct. 31, 2016), it also highlights some of the tremendous accomplishments of the association over the past 10 years. The projects and activities found throughout this report are governed by the association's vision statement, as written by its Board of Directors, and by the objectives, recommendations and key actions contained in the *Assiniboine River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan* and the *Yorkton Area Aquifers Source Water Protection Plan*.

Please visit the AWSA's website at: www.assiniboinewatershed.com for a full electronic version of this report along with more information on past and present reports and projects.

2016 Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association's Board of Directors



Front Row L to R: Don Fogg, Grant McCallum, Don Olson, Al Schatz, Tom Gall
Back Row L to R: Wally Butterfield, Duane Hicks, Ben Pengilly, Michael Buchholzer, Rod Semeschuk, Garry Liebrecht, Dale Heshka

Note: Andrew Fahlman (not pictured) replaced Dale Heshka partway through the year

(Picture provided by the AWSA)

A Word from the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds

The Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) would like to congratulate the Assiniboine Stewardship Watershed Association on 10 years of successfully implementing Source Water Protection educational activities and grass roots projects within their watershed. Their commitment to protecting Saskatchewan's most important resources, water, has made a positive impact within their watershed locally, throughout the province and nationally. Congratulations on 10 years and hopefully the future holds another 10 for your organization. SAW looks forward to continuing to work with your organization moving forward.

Sincerely,
Bridget Andrews
Executive Director
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW)

2016 Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds' Board of Directors



Front Row L to R: Bob Moulding, Dan Bowler, Wade Hicke, Darlene Fisk,
Bridget Andrews, Teresa Walker, Fred Clipsham
Back Row L to R: Paul Rybka, Ben Buhler, David Sloan, Rick Lang, Don Olson,
Jack Tweitmeyer
Missing: Don Mathies

(Picture provided by the AWSA)

Board Chair's Message



Welcome to our Commemorative Edition of the AWSA's 10th Annual Report! Time sure flies by, and with the passage of time, memories fade. It's very important for us to know where we came from and how/why we got here today. Also, it is very important for you all to know that of the 11 watersheds in Saskatchewan today, the AWSA is the only one that administers two distinct Source Water Protection Plans. A little history lesson:

1. Yorkton Area Aquifers Source Water Protection Plan - In 2002, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority began working with local municipalities and interest groups to create an Advisory Committee in the Yorkton/Melville/Willowbrook/Otthon/Saltcoats region. The purpose was to undertake an important planning initiative to identify the threats and opportunities around source water protection with a focus on ground water, and to provide an action plan to address these threats. The resulting Source Water Protection Plan was completed, printed, and published in August, 2006.

2. Assiniboine River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan - In October 1996, the governments of Saskatchewan,

Manitoba, and Canada agreed to conduct The Upper Assiniboine River Basin Study, initiated mainly as a result of the 1995 Manitoba flood. The resulting Upper Assiniboine River Basin Study Report was used extensively to develop a background report for the Assiniboine River Watershed.

In 2004, two Watershed Advisory Committees were established by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority; the Whitesand River Advisory Committee and the Assiniboine River Advisory Committee. The focus was on developing a protection plan for drinking water. The resulting Source Water Protection Plan was completed, printed and published in August, 2006.

A risk analysis workshop for the combined Technical Committees of the Assiniboine River Watershed and the Yorkton Area Aquifers planning process was held over a two day period. Due to the fact that the Yorkton Area Aquifers region is geographically located within the Assiniboine River Watershed boundaries, as well as from a more efficient administrative point of view; it was agreed that the three advisory committees - the Assiniboine River, the Whitesand River, and the Yorkton Area Aquifers would join together to form one Board of Directors, which would be named the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc. Each advisory committee is tasked with the responsibility of electing four municipal representatives to the Board from the general membership, two from the rural and two from the urban side. The result is a Board of Directors composed of 12 people, six of which are rural municipality representatives, and six urban municipality representatives (not necessarily municipal council members).

After formulating our bylaws and filing the necessary incorporation papers, the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc. began official operations at the beginning of May, 2007.

Don Olson
Board Chair,
Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association

Watershed Manager's Message



You hold in your hands something very special. More than just an annual report, the pages before you tell an amazing story. A story of an organization that began from humble beginnings, but thanks to the dedication of a group of visionary individuals, has grown into something extraordinary.

Although I personally wasn't at the beginning of this amazing story, I'd bet that many of those who were watching what was being created, wouldn't have ever imagined that a grass-roots watershed stewardship association that began with a single person staff, delivering barely over \$25,000 of projects and programming its first year, could ever have grown into the premier watershed stewardship association in Saskatchewan; an association with the largest membership, most full time employees, and who has delivered more dollars of projects and programming in its existence than any other watershed stewardship group in Saskatchewan!

But then again, there's a big difference between watching, imagining what may be one day, and simply going out and making it happen. And that is what makes the story of the AWSA so extraordinary. For in my 8 years with this association, I, like the many individuals that pioneered this story before me, have always believed that the AWSA will become the success story it is today for one simple reason- the AWSA staff and board of directors have never been content with just imagining... we take it upon ourselves to go the extra mile to make other's dreams become our reality!

Not only does this 2016 Annual Report highlight the accomplishments of the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association (AWSA) for the year ending October 31st 2015, it marks the anniversary of 10 years of turning watershed stewardship dreams into reality.

This report is a tribute to all those that have shared the attitude of "making it happen" when it comes to Source Water Protection in the Assiniboine River Watershed. Without the dedication of our staff, board of directors, membership, advisory members, technical committee, and external partners, the AWSA would never have been able to accomplish so much over the past 10 years. For your support and commitment to our success, I want to say, "Thank You."

I would especially like to thank our 37 member municipalities for their continuous support in making the AWSA what it is today. The AWSA prides itself on having the largest, most encompassing membership of any watershed stewardship group in the province, and I will strive to maintain that status by ensuring that we offer quality water management funding, programming, and assistance to your residents for years to come.

For the AWSA board of directors, this report marks something very special. Many of you have been part of this journey since the AWSA officially opened for business in 2007, with some of you being involved in the planning stages even prior to that. Your commitment to the AWSA and the Assiniboine River Watershed over the past 10 years is nothing short of remarkable. We have the most, longest serving, original board members of any watershed stewardship group in the province- a true testament to the dedication of the individuals behind the AWSA's success.

However, above all, I want to acknowledge the staff of the AWSA, both past, and present. I believe that more than anything, it's because of the staff that the AWSA has achieved such great success in its 10 years of operation. You are the individuals that are truly making water stewardship dreams become reality through every project, every program, and every initiative we've ever undertaken as an association. When asked by others what is the greatest key to the success of the AWSA over the years I've always responded with a similar reply each and every time, "Our success is a result of the staff we have and work environment we've created. We have fun in our office, but we also get the job done. At the AWSA everyone pitches in to do whatever needs to be done, regardless of what it may be." It's for this reason that I've enjoyed coming to work each and every day of the past 8 years. The AWSA is the first and only career I've ever had, and I hope, will ever have; for it's a job that has never felt like a "job". I guess that's what happens when you work with friends, not coworkers, doing what you do not because someone's told you that you have to do it, but because you genuinely enjoy and want to be doing it.

You don't just have before you a recap of the past year in the life of the AWSA, you have a commemoration of 10 years of projects, events, people... stories. All these have created our story, the story of the AWSA- a story that deserves to be told with great pride... a story that deserves to be celebrated!

Jesse Nielsen
Manager,
Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association

The Association at a Glance

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association is an independent, non-profit organization committed to protecting source waters in the Assiniboine River Watershed. The association's vision is:

Citizens and communities of the Assiniboine River Watershed working together to protect the source waters of the Assiniboine River, its tributaries and aquifers within the watershed.

To fulfill this vision, the Association works in partnership with public and private stakeholders throughout the watershed to carry out projects that protect and enhance water sources. Much of this work focuses on the objectives, recommendations and key actions contained in the *Assiniboine River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan* and the *Yorkton Area Aquifers Source Water Protection Plan*. The Association's Board of Directors has also chosen to undertake some other initiatives, which are detailed in this Annual Report.

The business and affairs of the Association are managed by its Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of 12 members elected from three advisory committees: the Assiniboine River Advisory Committee, the Whitesand River Advisory Committee and the Yorkton Area Aquifers Advisory Committee. Each advisory committee elects four members to the Board.

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association's Board of Directors:

Yorkton Area Aquifers Advisory Committee

Michael Buchholzer - City of Yorkton
Grant McCallum - Town of Saltcoats
Garry Liebrecht - R.M. of Wallace No. 243
Ben Pengilly - R.M. of Cana No. 214

Assiniboine River Advisory Committee

Don Olson - Town of Sturgis
Don Fogg - Town of Langenburg
Wallace Butterfield - R.M. of Keys No. 303
Duane Hicks - R.M. of Clayton No. 333

Whitesand River Advisory Committee

Rod Semeschuk - R.M. of Sliding Hills No. 273
Dale Heshka / Andrew Fahlman - City of Melville
Tom Gall - Town of Springside
Al Schatz - R.M. of Stanley No. 215

All Directors are elected for a two-year term at their respective Advisory Committee meetings. Directors are elected on a staggered two-year basis after the first meeting of the Advisory Committees. For the initial appointments, half of each Advisory Committee was appointed for two years and the other half for one year. These appointments were determined randomly.

All Directors may be re-elected and are not restricted as to the number of consecutive terms served.

The Board of Directors meet four times a year, and annually appoints a Chair, Vice-Chair and such other officers as the Board may determine.

The day-to-day business of the Association is conducted by the Watershed Manager. The Watershed Manager reports to the Board, and is granted such powers and duties as the Board may specify.

The Association receives operating revenue in the form of an annual grant from the Water Security Agency and revenues from its paid membership. The AWSA has also received revenue from the MoA since 2009 for administering the AEGP program across the watershed. Beyond these revenue streams, the AWSA receives revenue to administer various one-off projects and programming, which varies from year to year depending on grant availability and the success of funding applications.

AWSA Board of Directors and Membership Over the Years

The phenomenal growth and strength of the AWSA is due not only to our dedicated and talented staff (past and present), and our exceptional board of directors, it is also attributed to the tremendous “Grass Roots” strength of our membership. Our rural membership presently includes 23 of the 24 RMs within the Assiniboine River Watershed. In the past we had all 24 RMs, however, the council of RM 152, Spy Hill, chose to join the Lower Qu’Appelle Watershed Stewards in 2013 due to the fact that the majority of the RM is actually in the Lower Qu’Appelle watershed. Previous to that, the RM of Spy Hill was a member since 2008.

In addition to the 23 RMs within the watershed, we also have the RM of Livingston, No. 331, as a member of the AWSA. Even though the RM is technically in the Lake Winnipegosis watershed, they elected to become a member in 2009 so that their ratepayers would be eligible to receive funding through the AEGP program the AWSA began administering at that time (because there was and still is, no organization offering the AEGP program north of the Assiniboine watershed). Combine our rural membership with our urban membership, which includes both cities, all 8 towns, and three villages in our watershed, and we have virtually 100% of the total watershed population as members!

This membership strength manifests itself in the exceptional municipal representation that constitutes the high quality directors on the AWSA board- six from the rural municipalities and six from the urban. Their leadership and direction has been invaluable to the AWSA over the past 10 years. The drive of our board was instrumental in establishing a very strong membership from the very inception of the AWSA, 24 members to be exact. Over the years they continued to be strong ambassadors of the association and have helped grow our membership to our current 37.

AWSA Board of Directors - Years Served

- Don Olson (2007 - Present)
- Don Fogg (2007 - Present)
- Ben Pengilly (2007 - Present)
- Al Schatz (2007 - Present)
- Garry Liebrecht (2007 - Present)
- Grant McCallum (2007 - Present)
- Tom Gall (2007 - Present)

Congratulations and a huge “Thank You” must be given to the above 7 board members for being part of the AWSA since the very beginning. Your service and dedication towards making the AWSA a success is truly admirable and very much appreciated!

- Dale Heshka (2007 - 2015)
- Wallace Butterfield (2008 - Present)
- Michael Buchholzer (2012 - Present)
- Gil Comeault (2007 - 2011)
- Chris Wyatt (2008 - 2011)
- Rod Semeschuk (2015 - Present)
- Duane Hicks (2015 - Present)
- Howard Maas (2009 - 2011)
- Conrad Vogel (2012 - 2014)
- Andrew Fahlman (2016 - Present)
- Dave Matus (2007 - 2008)
- Ernie Bodnaryk (2013 - 2014)
- Dale Hackman (2012)
- Janet Hill (2007)
- Ken Mitchell (2007)

10 Years of AWSA Membership

The following is a list of the AWSA's membership and the year they joined:

City of Yorkton - 2007
City of Melville - 2007
Town of Kamsack - 2007
Town of Langenburg - 2007
Town of Preeceville - 2007
Town of Saltcoats - 2007
Town of Springside - 2007
Town of Sturgis - 2007
Town of Canora - 2012
Town of Churchbridge - 2012
Village of MacNutt - 2008
Village of Rhein - 2008
Village of Theodore - 2010

R.M. of Langenburg #181 - 2007
R.M. of Churchbridge #211 - 2007
R.M. of Saltcoats #213 - 2007
R.M. of Cana #214 - 2007
R.M. of Stanley #215 - 2007
R.M. of Calder #241 - 2007
R.M. of Wallace #243 - 2007
R.M. of Orkney #244 - 2007
R.M. of Garry #245 - 2007
R.M. of Ituna Bon Accord #246 - 2009
R.M. of Cote #271 - 2007
R.M. of Sliding Hills #273 - 2008
R.M. of Good Lake #274 - 2007
R.M. of Insinger #275 - 2007
R.M. of Foam Lake #276 - 2010
R.M. of St.Philips #301 - 2007
R.M. of Keys #303 - 2007
R.M. of Buchanan #304 - 2007
R.M. of Invermay #305 - 2008
R.M. of Livingston #331 - 2010
R.M. of Clayton #333 - 2007
R.M. of Preeceville #334 - 2007
R.M. of Hazel Dell #335 - 2007
R.M. of Sasman #336 - 2007

Membership Representation

2016 Board of Directors

Don Olson Board Chair	Town of Sturgis
Don Fogg Board Vice Chair	Town of Langenburg
Michael Buchholzer	City of Yorkton
Ben Pengilly	R.M. of Cana No. 214
Rod Semeschuk	R.M. of Sliding Hills No. 273
Wallace Butterfield	R.M. of Keys No. 303
Al Schatz	R.M. of Stanley No. 215
Duane Hicks	R.M. of Clayton No. 333
Garry Liebrecht	R.M. of Wallace No. 243
Grant McCallum	Town of Saltcoats
Tom Gall	Town of Springside
Dale Heshka	City of Melville
Andrew Fahlman*	City of Melville

*Andrew replaced Dale midway 2016

2016 Staff Members

Jesse Nielsen – Manager
Katelyn Smith – Technologist II / Coordinator
Caitlyn Peters – Technologist I
Cameron H-Preece – Agri-Environmental Specialist
Janet Kristjanson – Administrator

Assiniboine River Advisory Committee

Marlo Schappert – R.M. of Langenburg No. 181
Neil Mehrer – R.M. of Churchbridge No. 211
Melvin Woloschuk – R.M. of Calder No. 241
Ken Kalmakoff – R.M. of Cote No. 271
Conrad Vogal – R.M. of St. Phillips No. 301
Wallace Butterfield – R.M. of Keys No. 303
Ted Klimm – R.M. of Livingston No. 331
Duane Hicks – R.M. of Clayton No. 333
Darcy Rediger – R.M. of Preeceville No. 334
Cameron Last – R.M. Hazel Dell No. 335
Russ Thies – Town of Churchbridge
Teesha Reiss – Town of Kamsack
Don Fogg – Town of Langenburg
Johnny Petryshyn – Town of Preeceville
Don Olson – Town of Sturgis
Shayne Wagner – Village of MacNutt

Whitesand River Advisory Committee

Dale Heshka / Andrew Fahlman – City of Melville
Sylvester Hrynkiw – Town of Canora
Tom Gall – Town of Springside
Grant McCallum – Town of Saltcoats
Terry Jopko – Village of Rhein
Kevin Kotzer – Village of Theodore
Al Schatz – R.M. of Stanley No. 215
Anthony Chambers – R.M. of Garry No. 245
Philip Buczulak – R.M. of Ituna Bon Accord No. 246
Rod Semeschuk – R.M. of Sliding Hills No. 273
James Hupka – R.M. of Good Lake No. 274
Dwayne Kitzan – R.M. of Insinger No. 275
Grant Faye – R.M. of Foam Lake No. 276
Lorne Olynyk – R.M. of Buchanan No. 304
Jack Prychak – R.M. of Invermay No. 305
Gordon Ake – R.M. of Sasman No. 336

Yorkton Area Aquifers Advisory Committee

Michael Buchholzer – City of Yorkton
Grant McCallum – Town of Saltcoats
Joe Skitcko – R.M. of Saltcoats No. 213
Ben Pengilly – R.M. of Cana No. 214
Garry Liebrecht – R.M. of Wallace No. 243
Dale Hackman – R.M. of Orkney No. 244

Technical Committee Members

Trevor Plews - Ducks Unlimited Canada
Nolan Johnson - Ducks Unlimited Canada
Jodie Horvath - Ducks Unlimited Canada
Adam Matichuk - Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
Sheldon Diduck - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Naomi Paley - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Charlotte Ward - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Lyndon Hicks - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Aron Hershmillier - Water Security Agency
Rick Jasper - Water Security Agency
Glen Merkley - Water Security Agency
Jason Signarowski - Water Security Agency
Kyle Schmidt - Water Security Agency

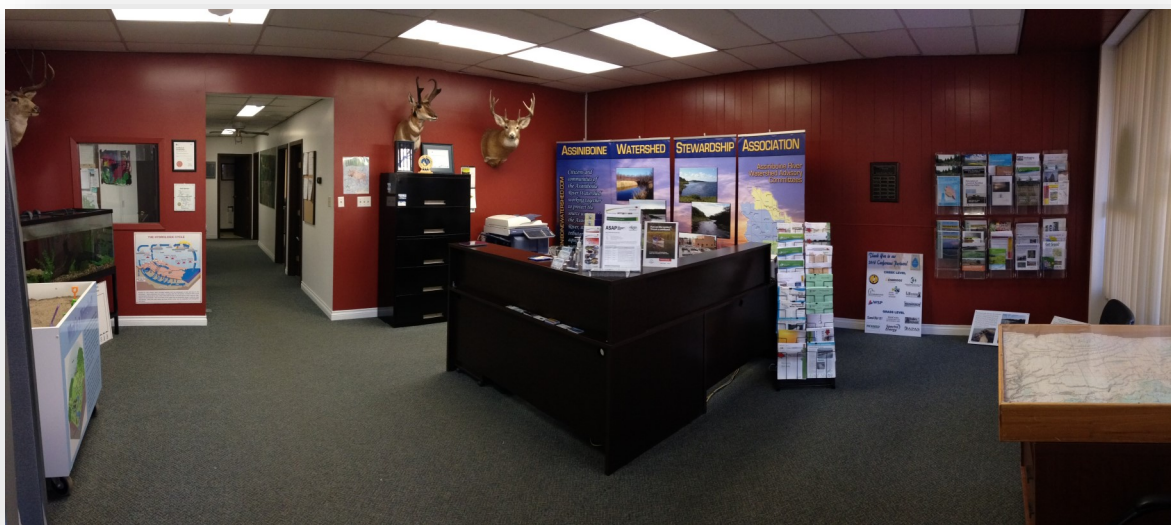
AWSA Office

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association (AWSA) office is located on 29, 2nd Avenue North in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Our office hours are Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm (closed over the noon hour).

The AWSA moved to this location in 2009, a distinction that has provided our association with a strong individual identity. Located in Yorkton's downtown business district, our office is only one block away from Yorkton City Hall and three blocks from the RM of Orkney and Wallace offices. It is also located in close proximity to many local businesses and banks, making it an ideal location.



AWSA Office Windowfront



AWSA Office Interior

AWSA Staff

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association (AWSA) has employed a total of 13 staff over our ten years in existence. Each person has contributed in their own way, dedicating their skills and abilities towards making our association a tremendous success over the years. It's through the commitment and drive of these dedicated individuals that the AWSA has become a leader amongst watershed stewardship groups in Saskatchewan.

It was in 2009, when the AWSA began administering the Agri-Environmental Group Plan program throughout our watershed under Growing Forward, that we morphed into our current staffing setup of 3 full time staff (a manager, coordinator, and technician) plus a part time administrator. We are the only watershed stewardship group in the province that has ever employed 3 full time staff on a consistent basis- a fact attributed to our staff's commitment to secure adequate funding year-in and year-out in order to grow and build capacity within our own employees and the association itself. This allows the AWSA to be able to complete most tasks and projects "in-house" rather than relying on outsourcing to meet the human resources and skill sets necessary to implement the many projects and programming we have undertaken in our watershed over the years. In other words, the AWSA has the staff and resources in our office, year-round, to provide high quality service and reliability for our membership regarding all their water management needs.

AWSA Past and Present Employees: (staff employed in 2016 in bold)

- Aron Hershmillier - Manager (May 2007 - September 2015)
- Gwen Mackesey - Administrator (September 2007 - October 2011)
- Audrey Aamodt - Coordinator (June 2008 - April 2009)
- **Jesse Nielsen - Coordinator (May 2009 - September 2015), Manager (September 2015 - Present)**
- Nolan Johnson - BMP Technician (June 2009 - April 2013)
- Scott Suschinsky - (May 2009 - Sept 2009)
- Steve Yanish - Technician (October 2011 - April 2012)
- Jena Sapara - Administrator (December 2011 - November 2012)
- Deidre Williams - Administrator (December 2012 - March 2014)
- **Katelyn Smith - BMP Technician (May 2013 - April 2016), Coordinator (May 2016 - December 2016)**
- **Janet Kristjanson - Administrator (August 2015 - Present)**
- **Caitlyn Peters - Technologist (September 2015 - April 2016 then 1 year mat leave), Coordinator (upon return April 2017)**
- **Cameron Hanson-Preece - Agri-Environmental Specialist (April 2016 - Present)**

10 Years of AWSA Staff - Strong as Individuals

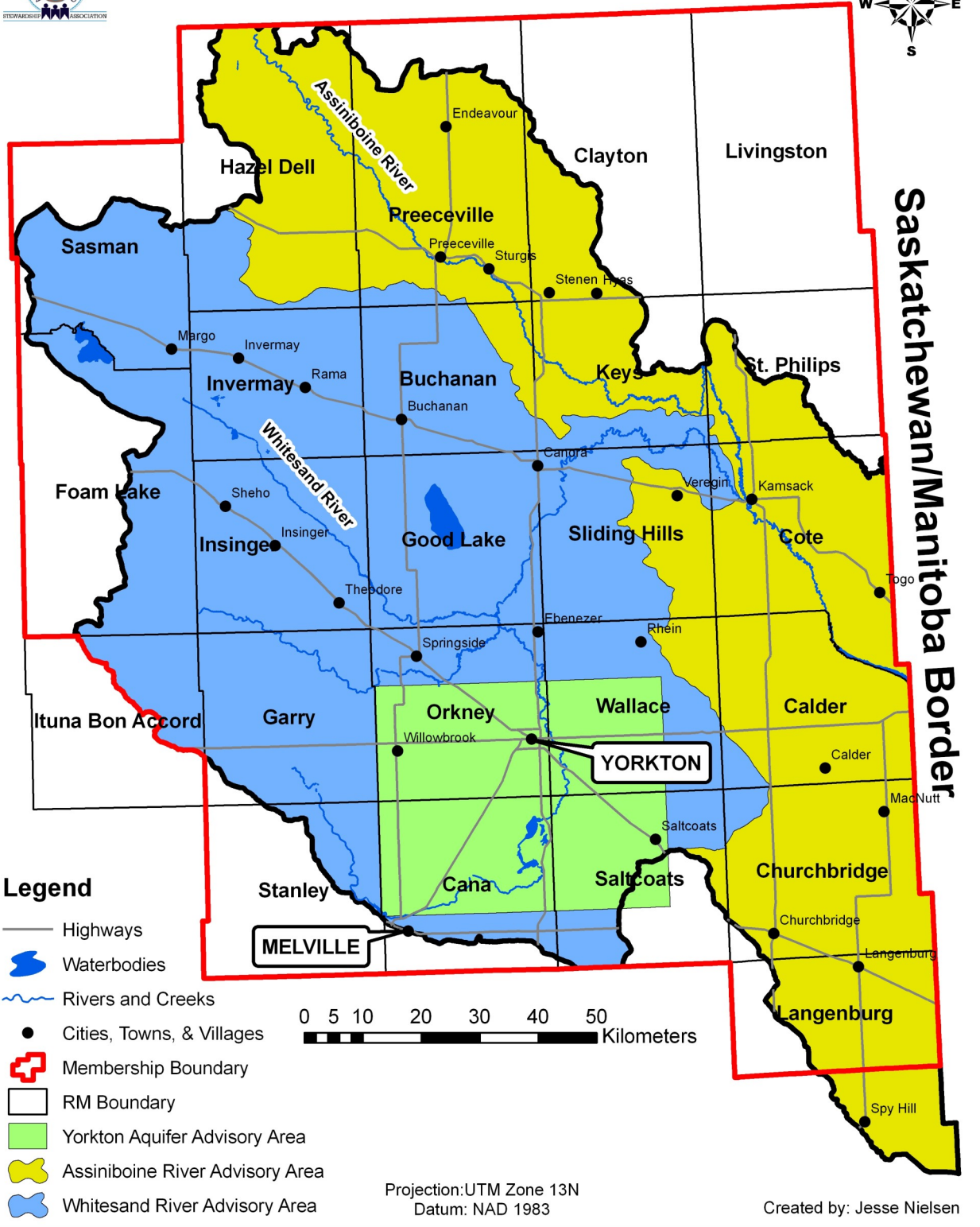


10 Years of AWSA Staff - Stronger as a Team





Assiniboine River Watershed





Location and extent of major aquifers in the Yorkton study area

Aquifer extents

- Bredenbury (Dunleath) aqu.
- Bredenbury aqu.
- Collicott aqu.
- Empress Gp. aqu.
- Leach Lake aqu.
- Logan North aqu.
- Logan South aqu.
- Logan Valley aqu.
- Orcadia aqu.
- Otthon aqu.
- Sturdee aqu.
- Unnamed Bredenbury Fm. aqu.
- Unnamed Empress Gp. aqu.
- Unnamed Intertill aqu.
- Willowbrook 'A' aqu.
- Willowbrook aqu.

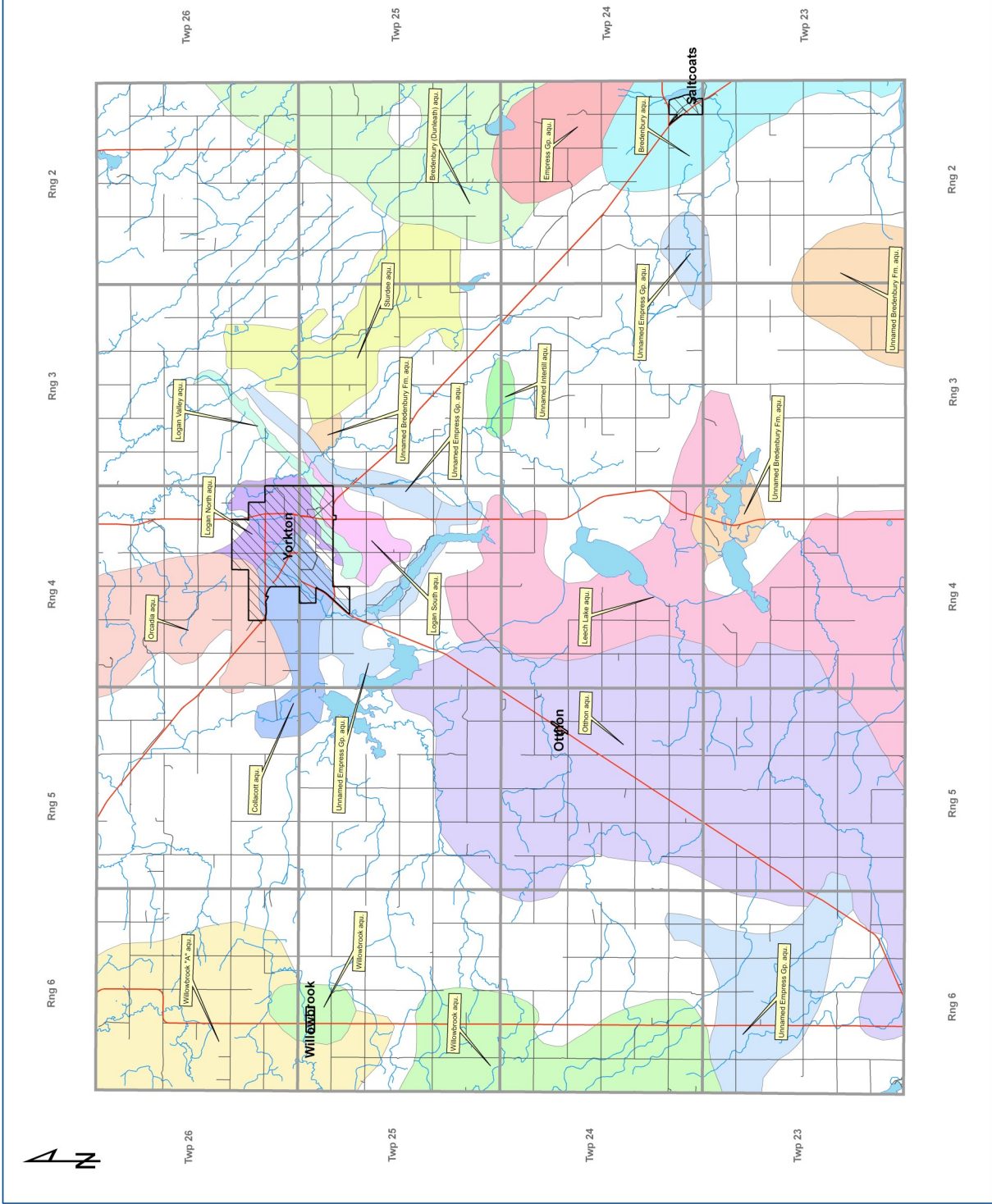
- Road
- Highway



These maps are accompanied by a series of cross sections which depict the subsurface units along the transects shown on the map. The boundaries shown on the maps are based on the data taken from the testholes and wells indicated on the maps. The boundaries outline areas in which the aquifer units mapped do not always occur continuously within the areas shown. The boundaries are approximate and are subject to change as more data becomes available. Discontinuities at some locations may be found outside the boundaries shown.

This document may not be copied, without the consent of the author. However, copies may be made, except for resale, for the personal or internal use of the client. Provided the original publication is cited where applicable.

Map accompanies report:
Map No. 14, Saskatchewan Research Council
Saskatchewan Research Council, SRC Publication No. 10419-1E06



2016 Notable Events

1. November 2nd: Group meeting regarding the Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project - Rama, SK
2. November 3rd: WCWAB meeting - Yorkton, SK
3. November 3rd: Wetland restoration recon/survey - Willowbrook, SK
4. November 4th: Conference call with WSA regarding Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project
5. November 4th: Group meeting regarding the Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project - Yorkton, SK
6. November 4th-7th: Tradeshow booth at the Yorkton Grain Miller's Harvest Showdown - Yorkton, SK
7. November 6th: ASAP conference call with saskFSA and Delta Waterfowl
8. November 6th: Meeting with DUC staff regarding LWBSF wetland restoration project - Yorkton, SK
9. November 10th: Group meeting regarding the Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project - Rama, SK
10. November 10th: Group meeting regarding the Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project - Canora, SK
11. November 10th: Conference call with WSA staff and EFDRP consultants
12. November 10th: ASAP conference call with saskFSA and Delta Waterfowl
13. November 11th - 13th: Attended 2nd annual ARBI conference - Brandon, MB
14. November 17th: Conference call regarding AWSA hosting the 2016 SAW conference
15. November 18th: YCWAB meeting - Yorkton, SK
16. November 19th: Booth display at saskFSA annual general meeting - Yorkton, SK
17. November 24th: AWSA board meeting - Yorkton, SK
18. November 26th: Meeting at WSA regional office regarding the Drainage Pilot Project - Yorkton, SK
19. November 26th: Worked SAW booth at Agribition - Regina, SK

20. December 3rd: Group meeting regarding the Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project - Rama, SK
21. December 3rd: GSLWAB meeting - Canora, SK
22. December 7th: Attended the SAW drainage workshop - Earl Grey, SK
23. December 9th-10th: Watershed manager's meeting - Moose Jaw, SK
24. December 14th: Conference call with LWBSF
25. December 15th: AEGP technical committee meeting to review FSP AEGP applications - Yorkton, SK
26. December 15th: ARBI board of directors conference call
27. December 16th: Tour of channel clearing progress on Wallace Creek - Rhein, SK
28. December 17th: Focus meeting with MoA regarding Growing Forward 2 programming - Regina, SK
29. December 19th: AWSA board and staff Christmas party - Yorkton, SK

30. January 6th: Conference call with WSA regarding Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project
31. January 6th: Lawyer meeting with YCWAB and Indian Affairs regarding Sakimay treaty land - Yorkton, SK
32. January 12th: Group meeting regarding the Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project - Canora, SK
33. January 13th: Conference call with RM of Invermay regarding Drainage Pilot Project
34. January 13th: Collins Barrow in office to begin 2015 fiscal year audit
35. January 14th: AEGP meeting with AWSA board member - Yorkton, SK
36. January 15th: Group meeting regarding the Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project - Rama, SK
37. January 18th: Conference call with WSA regarding Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project
38. January 18th: AEGP technicians conference call
39. January 19th: Conference call regarding AWSA hosting the 2016 SAW conference

40. February 2nd: Booth display and presentation at a Verified Beef Production workshop - Melville, SK
41. February 2nd: Group meeting regarding the Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project - Rama, SK
42. February 3rd: Meeting with RM Buchanan and WSA staff regarding Drainage Pilot Project - Buchanan, SK
43. February 3rd: Attended Conservation & Development/Watershed Assoc. Board meeting - Moose Jaw, SK
44. February 4th: Booth display at MoA Cattlemen's Appreciation Night banquet - Yorkton, SK
45. February 9th: AEGP technician's webinar
46. February 10th: Presentation at meeting with WSA regional staff regarding GF2 programming - Yorkton, SK
47. February 12th: ARBI board of directors conference call
48. February 16th-18th: ASAP booth at PCAP conference - Saskatoon, SK
49. February 20th: AWSA booth at SWF provincial convention and banquet - Yorkton, SK
50. February 22nd: SAW poster contest presentation at elementary school - Melville, SK
51. February 23rd: SAW poster contest presentation at elementary school - Kamsack, SK
52. February 23rd: AEGP technician's conference call
53. February 24th: SAW poster contest presentation at elementary school - Yorkton, SK
54. February 24th: SAW poster contest presentation at elementary school - Melville, SK
55. February 24th: Conference call regarding AWSA hosting the 2016 SAW conference
56. February 26th: Interviews for Caitlyn Peter's mat leave position

2016 Notable Events

57. March 1st: AWSA annual general meeting and AWSA board meeting - Yorkton, SK
58. March 2nd-3rd: Watershed manager's meeting - Moose Jaw, SK
59. March 2nd: Edible aquifers/Caring for Our Watersheds presentation at Sacred Heart High School - Yorkton, SK
60. March 9th: Worked SAW booth at SARM annual convention - Regina, SK
61. March 16th: ARBI board meeting - Minot, ND
62. March 18th: YCWAB meeting - Yorkton, SK
63. March 21st: WCWAB meeting - Yorkton, SK
64. March 22nd: AEGP technician's conference call
65. March 23rd: SAW poster contest classroom presentation at elementary school - Yorkton, SK
66. March 24th: EFDRP inspector's conference call
67. March 24th: Logan Green trout pond meeting - Yorkton, SK
68. March 28th: Cameron Hanson-Preece (Agri-Environmental Specialist) first day of work at AWSA

69. April 5th: ASAP partnership advisory committee meeting - Yorkton, SK
70. April 7th: Presentation at Blaire's Fertilizer and Seed producer appreciation day - Yorkton, SK
71. April 7th: Presentation at Crop Production Services spring information meeting - Theodore, SK
72. April 8th-10th: Booth display at Yorkton Spring Expo tradeshow - Yorkton, SK
73. April 11th-12th: Completed Esri-certified ArcGIS online training course
74. April 11th: AEGP applications review meeting - Yorkton, SK
75. April 14th: Attended/presented regarding watershed assoc. boards at town meeting- Saltcoats, SK
76. April 16th: Wetland field inspection for LWBSF tour - Yorkton, SK
77. April 19th: Attended MoA's annual FSP/FRWIP conference - Regina, SK
78. April 20th: Wetland tour of restoration projects with LWBSF staff - Springside, SK
79. April 20th-22nd: Hosted 2016 SAW annual watershed conference - Yorkton, SK
80. April 28th: Attended Cattleman's Assoc. market update meeting to promote AEGP program - Yorkton, SK
81. April 29th: GSLWAB meeting - Canora, SK
82. April 29th: FSP field visit for creek crossing - Foam Lake, SK

83. May 5th: Project compliance field inspection with YCWAB board member - Yorkton, SK
84. May 5th: Project completion inspection with WSA for Ken Wood creek crossing
85. May 6th: Field inspection with WSA staff of drainage project near Wallace Creek - Rhein, SK
86. May 9th: Field work/site prep with DUC staff for LWBSF wetland restoration project - Willowbrook, SK
87. May 12th: Field visit for well decommissioning and installed SWF top-up sign - Preeceville, SK
88. May 13th: ARBI board of directors conference call
89. May 13th: AWSA personnel committee meeting regarding AWSA staff appraisals - Yorkton, SK
90. May 16th: CWRA SK Branch conference call
91. May 17th: AEGP technicians conference call
92. May 17th: Tour of Yorkton Creek structures with DUC staff - Yorkton, SK
93. May 18th: AWSA board meeting - Yorkton, SK
94. May 19th: Field inspection of EFDRP project - Springside, SK
95. May 20th: ALUS coordinators conference call
96. May 30th: Attended MoA Rangeland Health Assessment field course - Moose Jaw, SK
97. May 30th: Conference call with WSA regarding Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project
98. May 31st: Completed GF2/GF3 online survey
99. May 31st: YCWAB meeting - Yorkton, SK

100. June 2nd-3rd: Volunteered at MoA's Pizza Farm planting days - Yorkton, SK
101. June 7th: Conference call with WSA regarding Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project
102. June 7th: Stocked Logan Green trout pond with member from Yorkton Wildlife Federation - Yorkton, SK
103. June 9th: Watershed manager's meeting - Moose Jaw, SK
104. June 10th: Field survey for drainage project near Wallace Creek - Rhein, SK
105. June 14th: AEGP applications review meeting - Yorkton, SK
106. June 14th: Conference call with WSA regarding Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project
107. June 14th: Meeting with village of Theodore council regarding flooding concerns - Theodore, SK
108. June 15th: Booth at City of Yorkton's Park Party at the Ravine Ecological Preserve park - Yorkton, SK
109. June 21st: AEGP technicians conference call
110. June 21st: Participated in World Wildlife Fund Watershed Report webinar
111. June 23rd: ARBI board tour of Rafferty Dam - Estevan, SK
112. June 24th: ARBI board meeting - Estevan, SK
113. June 27th: Meeting at WSA regional office regarding Drainage Pilot Project - Yorkton, SK
114. June 28th: Meeting with ALUS executive director and ASAP partnership advisory committee - Yorkton, SK
115. June 29th: Attended ALUS field day and national unveiling ceremony - Stilton, SK

2016 Notable Events

116. July 4th: AEGP applications review meeting - Yorkton, SK
117. July 6th: FRWIP field visit for well decommissioning with Shirley Bewczyk - Rhein, SK
118. July 14th: Meeting with ARBI executive director and AWSA board chair - Stenen, SK
119. July 14th: Wetland restoration field inspection - Stenen, SK
120. July 18th: Water management surveying for the town of Theodore - Theodore, SK
121. July 19th: AEGP technicians conference call
122. July 19th: ALUS conference call with prairie hub manager and national director of operations
123. July 20th: Water management surveying for the town of Theodore - Theodore, SK
124. July 22nd: Water management surveying for the town of Theodore - Theodore, SK
125. July 26th: Drainage compliance conference call with WSA

126. August 2nd: AEGP applications review meeting - Yorkton, SK
127. August 2nd: Village of Theodore survey point elevation validation - Theodore, SK
128. August 5th: SAW communications committee conference call
129. August 10th: Meeting with village of Theodore council regarding water management survey - Theodore, SK
130. August 12th: ARBI board of directors conference call
131. August 17th: AWSA board meeting - Crystal Lake, SK
132. August 18th: Field visit to confirm forage seeding for the MoA forage specialist - Saltcoats, SK
133. August 19th-20th: Watershed manager's meeting - Moose Jaw
134. August 25th: AEGP technicians conference call
135. August 29th: Purchased a DJI Phantom 4 drone for the AWSA - Yorkton, SK
136. August 29th: FRWIP field visit to Dairy Farms for well decommissioning - east of Yorkton, SK
137. August 30th: Group meeting regarding the Upper Spirit Creek Drainage Pilot Project - Rama, SK
138. August 30th: Field inspection with WSA staff of natural waterway erosion control project - Kamsack, SK
139. August 31st: Purchased a Polaris quad for the AWSA - Yorkton, SK

140. September 1st: AEGP applications review meeting - Yorkton, SK
141. September 7th: CWRA SK branch conference call
142. September 7th: Field visit with producer regarding drainage application - Orcadia, SK
143. September 7th: Received our Augmented Reality Sandbox from Green Aero Tech - Yorkton, SK
144. September 13th: Field visit regarding potential drainage project - Good Spirit Lake, SK
145. September 13th: Field visit for potential erosion control project - Ebenezer, SK
146. September 14th: Meeting at RM of Invermay with WSA staff regarding drainage - Invermay, SK
147. September 16th: Picked up Toyota Tundra truck for the AWSA - Yorkton, SK
148. September 19th-20th: Watershed manager's meeting - Moose Jaw, SK
149. September 20th-21st: Volunteered at MoA's Pizza Farm harvest days - Yorkton, SK
150. September 21st: ARBI board meeting - Virden, MB
151. September 21st: Completed GF3 Policy Framework online survey
152. September 22nd: Completed GF3 Producer online survey
153. September 22nd: Wetland restoration recon for LWBSF project - Parkerview, SK
154. September 28th: Co-hosted a holistic management producer field day - Lady Lake, SK
155. September 29th: Taught outdoor classroom to Yorkdale grade 7 at Logan Green trout pond - Yorkton, SK
156. September 30th: Taught outdoor classroom to Yorkdale grade 7 at Logan Green trout pond - Yorkton, SK

157. October 1st: AEGP applications review meeting - Yorkton, SK
158. October 5th: Wetland restoration recon for LWBSF project - Lady Lake, SK
159. October 5th-7th: Attended ALUS western Canada field conference - Red Deer, AB
160. October 12th: Attended drainage Qualified Persons (QP) training at WSA office - Regina, SK
161. October 13th: YCWAB meeting - Yorkton, SK
162. October 18th: AEGP technicians conference call
163. October 18th: GSLWAB meeting - Canora, SK
164. October 20th: Attended AEGP technician training hosted by MoA - Regina, SK
165. October 20th: Conference call with WSA staff regarding drainage work contracts
166. October 20th: Producer drainage elevation surveying - Ebenezer, SK
167. October 25th: Video interviews at AWSA office with WCWAB board for SK Municipal Award - Yorkton, SK
168. October 26th: AEGP applications review meeting - Yorkton, SK
169. October 27th: ALUS field confirmation of seeded acres for 2016 projects

Watershed Pictures



Wallace Creek Fall 2016 (taken with our drone)



Wallace Creek Fall 2016 (taken with our drone)

2016 Projects / Results

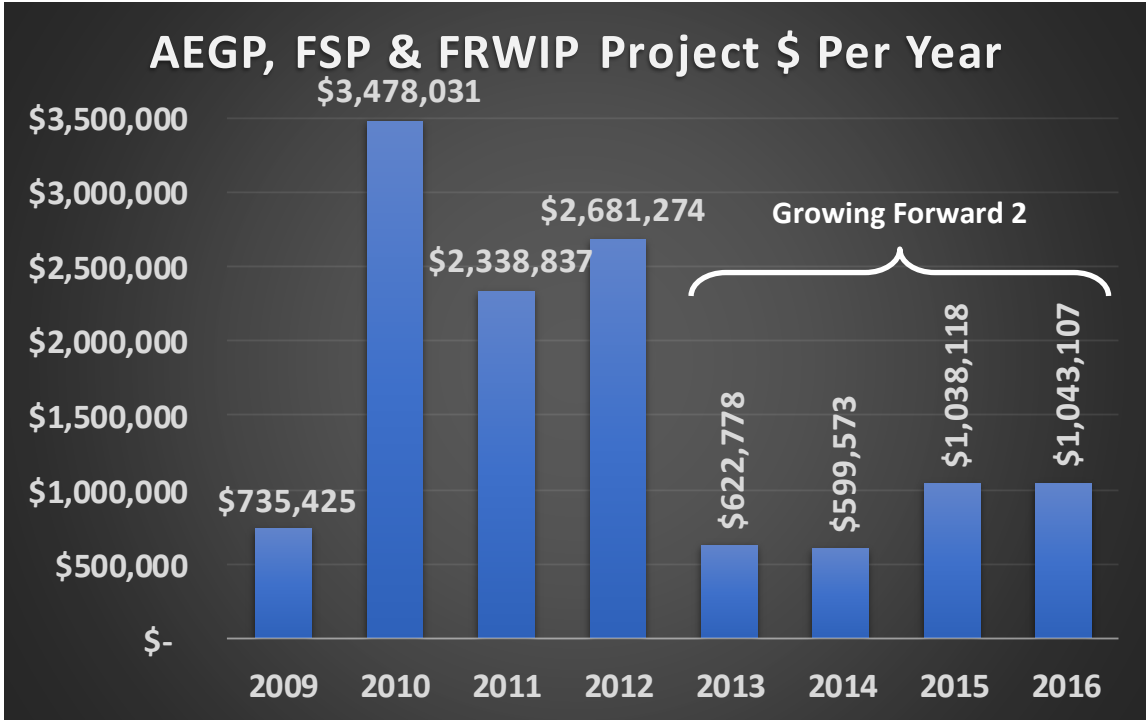
The following chart illustrates the members we worked with and the amount of project funding the AWSA distributed throughout the Assiniboine River Watershed in 2016.

1. Water Security Agency (WSA) / Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Project Administration Funding
2. Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) Program
3. Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure (FRWIP) Program
4. LWBSF and NWCF Wetland Restoration Programs
5. ALUS SK Assiniboine Project (ASAP)
6. Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Forage Funding
7. Wallace Creek Watershed Association / Yorkton Creek Watershed Association

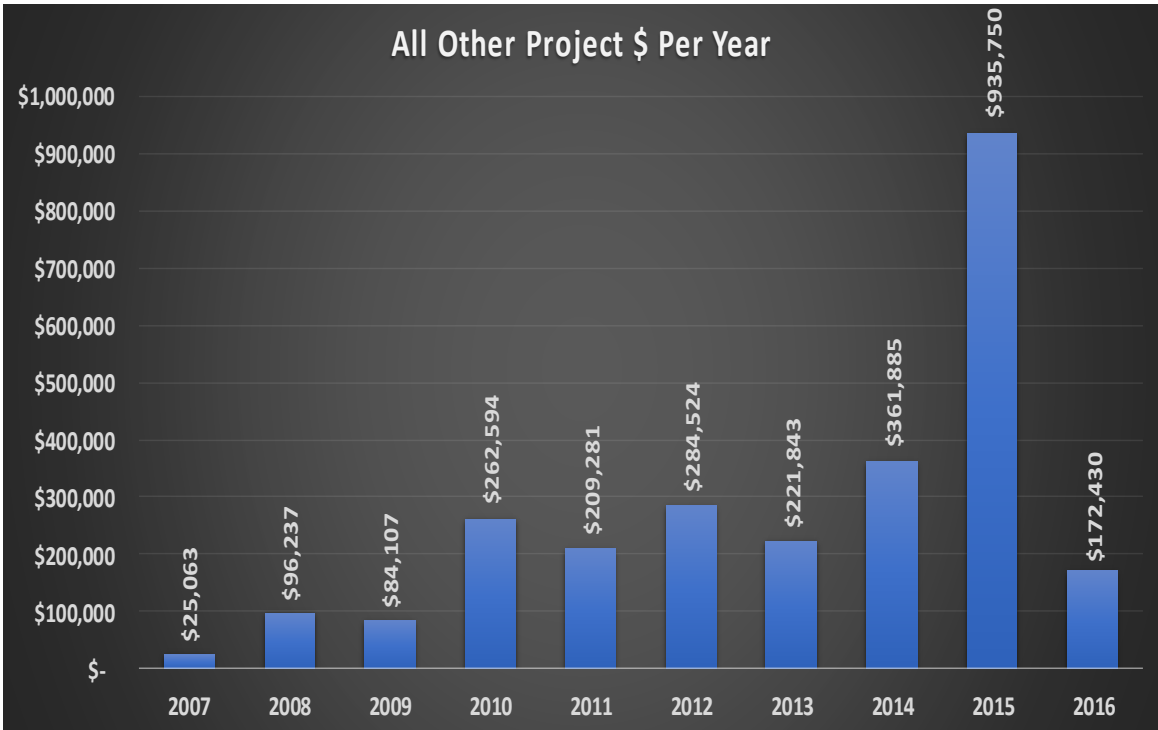
Members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Village of MacNutt	\$2,217							\$2,217
Village of Rhein	\$2,217						\$11,511	\$13,728
Village of Theodore	\$2,217							\$2,217
Town of Canora	\$2,217							\$2,217
Town of Churchbridge	\$2,217							\$2,217
Town of Kamsack	\$2,217							\$2,217
Town of Langenburg	\$2,217							\$2,217
Town of Preeceville	\$2,217							\$2,217
Town of Saltcoats	\$2,217							\$2,217
Town of Springside	\$2,217							\$2,217
Town of Sturgis	\$2,217							\$2,217
City of Melville	\$2,217						\$769	\$2,986
City of Yorkton	\$2,217						\$769	\$2,986
R.M. of Langenburg	\$4,724				\$4,983.10			\$9,707
R.M. of Churchbridge	\$4,724	\$20,913.63	\$8,000.00		\$3,381.28		\$11,511	\$48,530
R.M. of Saltcoats	\$4,724	\$5,519.01	\$3,987.50			\$4,350	\$12,280	\$30,861
R.M. of Cana	\$4,724	\$51,606.84	\$7,925.00				\$769	\$65,025
R.M. of Stanley	\$4,724	\$13,947.55				\$3,600		\$22,272
R.M. of Calder	\$4,724	\$36,378.06	\$26,978.56				\$11,511	\$79,592
R.M. of Wallace	\$4,725	\$14,473.45	\$1,965.00		\$1,070.28		\$12,280	\$34,514
R.M. of Orkney	\$4,725	\$110,094.75	\$17,539.06	\$42,000		\$600	\$769	\$175,728
R.M. of Garry	\$4,724	\$49,516.01						\$54,240
R.M. of Ituna Bon Accord	\$4,724	\$14,696.64						\$19,421
R.M. of Cote	\$4,724	\$57,679.14	\$28,552.40					\$90,956
R.M. of Sliding Hills	\$4,724	\$16,537.12		\$30,000			\$11,510	\$62,771
R.M. of Good Lake	\$4,724	\$32,129.88	\$13,966.37		\$1,286.00			\$52,106
R.M. of Insinger	\$4,724	\$27,479.39						\$32,203
R.M. of Foam Lake	\$4,725	\$55,467.69	\$24,208.90			\$1,620		\$86,022
R.M. of St.Philips	\$4,724	\$18,691.00	\$42,520.96					\$65,936
R.M. of Keys	\$4,724	\$51,920.45	\$18,324.05					\$74,969
R.M. of Buchanan	\$4,724	\$33,637.81				\$990		\$39,352
R.M. of Invermay	\$4,724	\$40,000.00						\$44,724
R.M. of Livingston	\$4,724	\$25,290.21						\$30,014
R.M. of Clayton	\$4,724	\$38,905.71	\$17,470.00					\$61,100
R.M. of Preeceville	\$4,724	\$30,135.10	\$21,459.42		\$4,870.05			\$61,189
R.M. of Hazel Dell	\$4,724	\$38,060.80	\$7,200.74					\$49,986
R.M. of Sasman	\$4,724	\$19,929.23						\$24,653
Totals	\$142,200	\$803,009	\$240,098	\$72,000	\$15,591	\$11,160	\$73,679	\$1,357,737

10 Years and Over \$15 Million of Projects / Results

AEGP / FSP / FRWIP Combined Project Totals



All Other Combined Project Totals



AWSA Hosts 2016 SAW Conference

The AWSA hosted the 2016 Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) conference held April 20th - 22nd at the Gallagher Center in Yorkton. The conference had over 125 guests attend to take in a variety of presentations focused on the theme: *Water... Growing Saskatchewan's Economy*.

There was also an excellent tradeshow during the conference, with a total of 12 industry booths in addition to 11 watershed booths- by far the most ever had at a SAW conference! Attendees were treated to an excellent steak supper banquet, complete with magician/hypnotist, Andrew Kinakin providing the evening's entertainment. A great time was had by all!

The last time the AWSA hosted the annual SAW conference was in 2007.



A Great Tradeshow



Jesse presenting a token of his thanks and appreciation to former AWSA manager and mentor, Aron Hershmillier



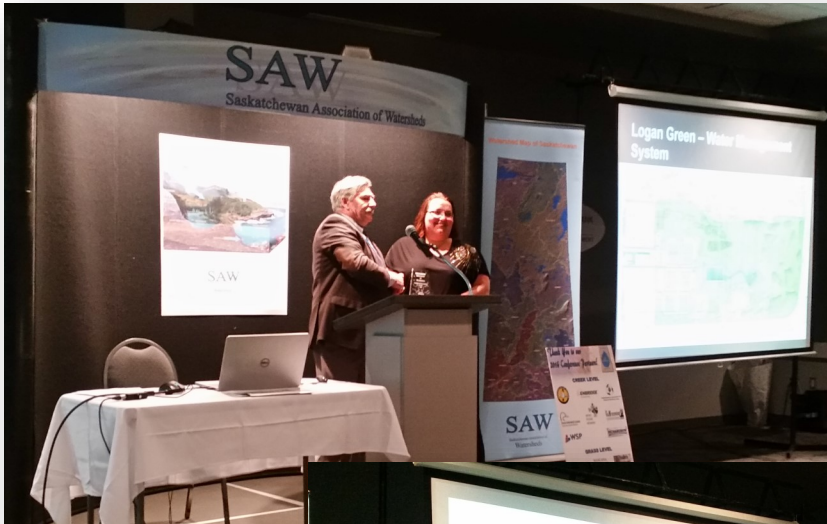
Hypnotist Fun at the Banquet

(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

2016 SAW Watershed Stewardship Award - Jason Puckett

Also part of the banquet ceremonies was the presentation of the SAW Watershed Stewardship Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual, group of people, organization, business or agency that has in the past year or more, emulated the leadership and/or commitment to the protection and/or enhancement of a Saskatchewan Watershed(s).

The AWSA nominated the late Jason Puckett, former WSA Yorkton Regional Office staff, for the 2016 award. Jason was monumental to helping Aron get his feet under him when the AWSA started in 2007, and through the years, assisted the AWSA with many projects and initiatives. When Jason lost his battle to cancer in December of 2015, the AWSA not only lost an incredible colleague, but a genuine friend. It was with great happiness and pride that Jason's wife, Shelly, accepted the award on Jason's behalf; in recognition and remembrance of Jason's lifelong dedication to ensuring that the natural world he loved and treasured, remains as beautiful for his children, as it was for him. It was a truly emotional moment for everyone in attendance that ever had the pleasure of being part of Jason's life.



SAW President,
David Sloan
Presenting the 2016
SAW Watershed
Stewardship Award to
Jason's wife Shelly

SAW President,
David Sloan
with Jason's family.
L to R: David Sloan,
Jason's wife Shelly,
Jason's son Jack,
Jason's sister Brenda,
Jason's daughter
Ainsly, and Jason's dad
Rob



(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

Agri – Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) Program & Farm Stewardship Program (FSP)

The FSP and AEGP programs provide eligible Saskatchewan producers with financial assistance to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) to help maintain or improve the quality of soil, water, air, or biodiversity resources. The AWSA will be assisting with the delivery of this program until the end of Growing Forward 2 on March 31st, 2018.

A BMP is any agricultural management practice which ensures the long-term health and sustainability of land-related resources used for agricultural production, positively impacts the long-term economic and environmental viability of agricultural production; and minimizes negative impacts and risk to the environment.

The program includes 24 BMPs under seven categories:

Livestock Site Management;

- BMP – Relocation of Livestock Confinement Facilities
- BMP – Fencing to Protect Surface Water
- BMP – Farmyard Run-off Control
- BMP – Riparian Area Grazing Management and Fencing
- BMP – Native Rangeland Grazing Management
- BMP – Carcass Disposal Planning****



Manure Management;

- BMP – Manure Storage Enhancements****
- BMP – Manure Application Equipment and Technologies****



Land Management;

- BMP – Natural Waterway Erosion Control
- BMP – Creek and Stream Crossings
- BMP – Protecting High Risk Erodible and Saline Soils
- BMP – Shelterbelt Establishment****
- BMP – Native Plant Establishment
- BMP – Weather Data Collection & Monitoring****
- BMP – Water Flow & Erosion Control
- BMP – Multi-Producer Erosion Control



Agriculture Waste Management;

- BMP – Used Oil Storage****
- BMP – Grain Bag Roller****

Irrigation Management;

- BMP – Irrigation Management Planning****
- BMP – Irrigation Equipment Modification****
- BMP – Variable Rate Irrigation Equipment****

Precision Farming;

- BMP – Variable Rate Fertilizer Technology****
- BMP – Variable Rate Mapping****



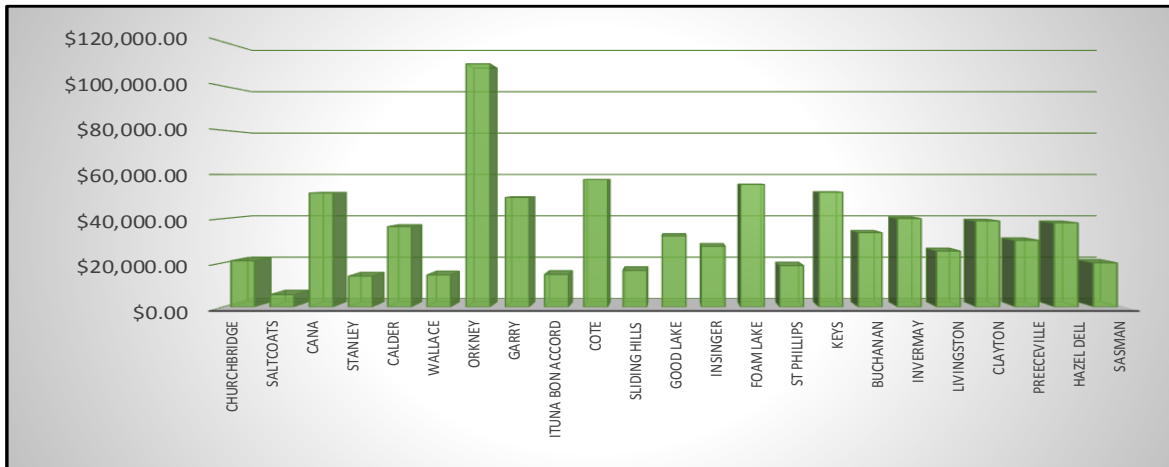
Environmental Solutions:

- BMP – Environmental Solutions****

**** BMP's that Require an individual Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) certificate**

Agri – Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) Program & Farm Stewardship Program (FSP)

As of year end, we submitted 129 project applications for an approximate total of \$803,009.47 in projects, on 187 quarter sections of land.



Rural Municipality	Project Cost Totals	Project Application	Quarter Sections
Churchbridge	\$20,913.63	3	12
Saltcoats	\$5,519.01	3	3
Cana	\$51,606.84	9	9
Stanley	\$13,947.55	3	3
Calder	\$36,378.06	6	6
Wallace	\$14,473.45	4	4
Orkney	\$110,094.75	9	56
Garry	\$49,516.01	8	8
Ituna Bon Accord	\$14,696.64	5	5
Cote	\$57,679.14	8	9
Sliding Hills	\$16,537.12	3	3
Good Lake	\$32,129.88	4	4
Insinger	\$27,479.39	6	6
Foam Lake	\$55,467.69	9	9
St Phillips	\$18,691.00	3	3
Keys	\$51,920.45	7	7
Buchanan	\$33,637.81	4	4
Invermay	\$40,000.00	8	8
Livingston	\$25,290.21	4	5
Clayton	\$38,905.71	6	6
Preeceville	\$30,135.10	7	7
Hazel Dell	\$38,060.80	6	6
Sasman	\$19,929.23	4	4
Totals	\$803,009.47	129	187

Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)

The AWSA assisted with the delivery of the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) from 2013 and will continue to assist producers with this program until 2018. FRWIP supports the development of secure water supplies in Saskatchewan to expand irrigated acres, the livestock industry, encourage rural economic activity and mitigate the impacts of drought under four program categories:

- On-Farm
- Agricultural Business Development
- Community Well
- Irrigation District

Eligibility

Farmers, Ranchers, First Nations Bands, Rural Municipalities and Irrigation Districts across Saskatchewan are eligible to apply for funding to develop eligible projects.

- **Wells**
 - ⇒ New Small & Large Diameter
 - ⇒ RM Tank Loading Stations
- **Dugouts**
 - ⇒ New and Expansions
- **Remote/Offsite Cattle Watering Systems**
 - ⇒ Solar, Nose Pumps, Wet-Well Systems, Etc.
- **Shallow/Deep Buried Pipelines**
 - ⇒ In-Pasture Cattle Watering
- **Decommissioning Abandoned Wells**
 - ⇒ Completed by a Qualified Contractor
- **Protecting Existing Wells**
 - ⇒ Earth Work and Landscaping

Funding Levels

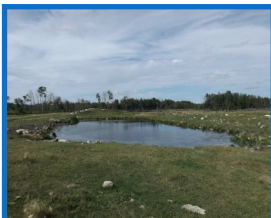
Producers: 50% funding to a max of \$60,000

RMs: 2/3 of project costs to a max of \$150,000

*** Well Decommissioning: 90% funding to a max of \$10,000/project (does not count against applicant's overall program cap)**

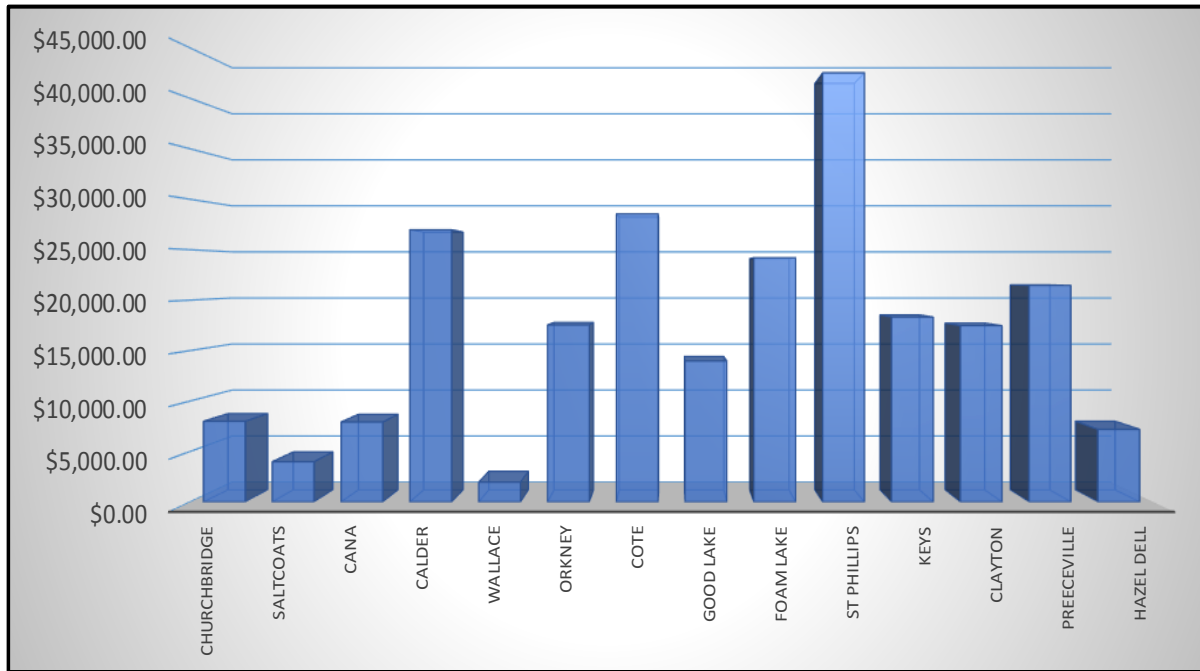
Producer Eligibility Criteria

- Own a min of 320 acres of farmland
- Earn a min of \$35,000 gross farm income per year



Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)

As of year end, we submitted 31 project applications for an approximate total of \$240,097.96 in projects, on 31 quarter sections of land.



Rural Municipality	Project Cost Totals	Project Application	Quarter Sections
Churchbridge	\$8,000.00	1	1
Saltcoats	\$3,987.50	1	1
Cana	\$7,925.00	1	1
Calder	\$26,978.56	2	2
Wallace	\$1,965.00	1	1
Orkney	\$17,539.06	4	4
Cote	\$28,552.40	2	2
Good Lake	\$13,966.37	2	2
Foam Lake	\$24,208.90	4	4
St Phillips	\$42,520.96	3	3
Keys	\$18,324.05	2	2
Clayton	\$17,470.00	5	5
Preeceville	\$21,459.42	2	2
Hazel Dell	\$7,200.74	1	1
Totals	\$240,097.96	31	31

Decommissioning Abandoned Wells

Groundwater is a critical resource in the Assiniboine River Watershed for the fact that over 90% of our residents rely on groundwater for their drinking water. In fact, Yorkton is the only city in Saskatchewan that relies solely on well water for its source water- all other cities have both groundwater and surface water capabilities. It's for this reason that protection of our aquifers is paramount, and one of the most important practices to ensure safe source waters throughout our watershed is the decommissioning of abandoned wells.

Abandoned wells are wells that are no longer in use. Over the years, many wells and test holes around homes and farms throughout our watershed have been abandoned without being properly sealed and decommissioned. These wells pose a serious threat to groundwater quality and can be a safety hazard to humans and livestock. These abandoned wells act as a direct conduit that can allow surface water to directly enter an aquifer, contaminating the groundwater and potentially contaminating nearby wells.

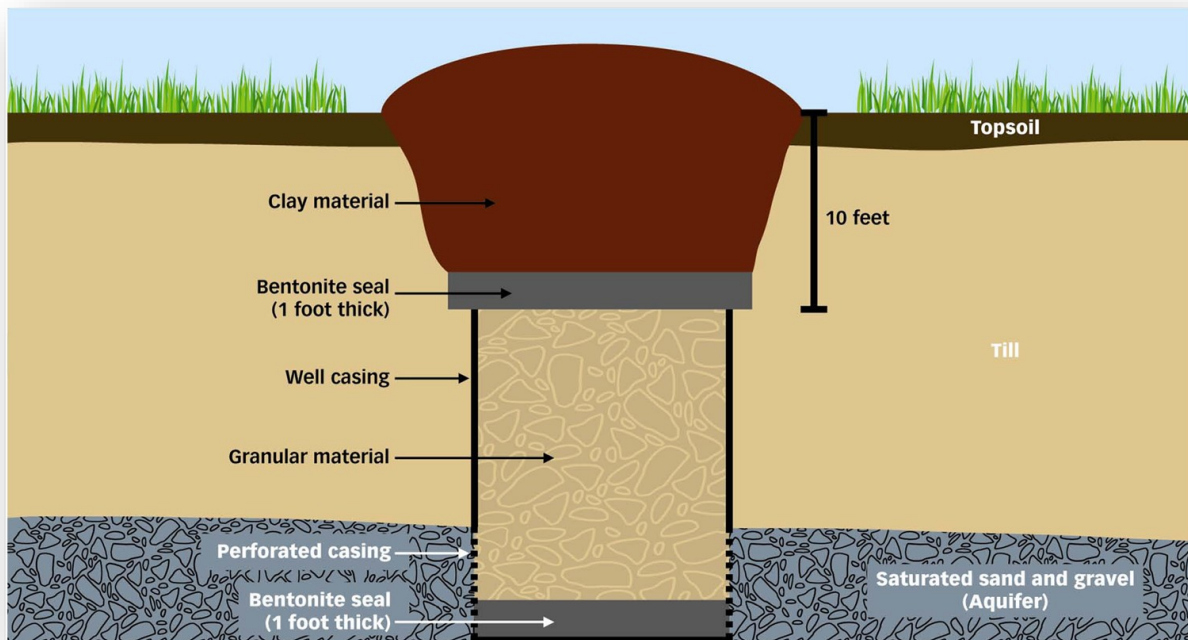
Through the Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure (FRWIP) program, we applied to decommission 6 wells in 2016.

The AWSA is extremely proud to say that through the BMP funding offered under GF1 and GF2, **we have decommissioned over 150* wells across our watershed in the past 10 years-** by far the most of any watershed stewardship group in the province!

In addition, we decommissioned a total of **18 municipal wells** in 2009-10.

*(Through GF1 and GF2 we have applied to decommission a total of 162 wells. A small percentage of wells that are applied for never end up getting decommissioned for various reasons.)

Well Decommissioning process for a large diameter well



Wells We've Decommissioned - No Longer Aquifer Risks



Saskatchewan's New Drainage Regulations

The AWSA began work on one of two pilot projects in Saskatchewan to introduce the WSA's new approach to agricultural drainage management in September of 2015 (see 2015 Annual Report). A portion of the Upper Spirit Creek Watershed, located NE of Rama, SK was chosen as the AWSA's target area. Much was accomplished in September and October 2015, with work on the project continuing throughout 2016, including meeting with landowners on a one-on-one basis, as well as holding several group meetings with all those involved, to facilitate the application for drainage approval process. Lessons learned in our pilot project have shaped the development, delivery, and implementation of the new regulations as described below:

(taken from WSA's website: www.wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Agricultural-Drainage-/Agricultural-Water-Management-Strategy/)

A New Approach to Agricultural Water Management (Phase I):

To fulfill commitments in the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan, the Water Security Agency (WSA) is moving ahead with a new approach to drainage management. The new approach will move Saskatchewan toward responsible agricultural water management by streamlining the regulatory system, effectively addressing the risks associated with drainage in the approval process, and enabling development of sustainable drainage projects with more long-term certainty.

Why is a new approach needed?

Drainage has been an integral part of the settlement of our province, making land available for the establishment of communities, road development, crop production and resource extraction. However, poorly designed projects and uncoordinated activities have the potential to cause negative impacts, including:

- local to large-scale downstream flooding and infrastructure damage;
- degraded water quality from erosion and increased contaminants; and
- negative impacts on wetlands and beds and shores of other water bodies and watercourses.

Many of these problems can be avoided with carefully planned drainage and appropriate steps to reduce impacts. Consultation with the public, stakeholders, and agricultural producers has informed a new approach to drainage management in Saskatchewan that is intended to achieve the benefits of drainage while managing the risks.

What is the new approach?

Central to the new approach is the concept of responsible agricultural water management, where the drainage proponent takes responsibility to design, construct and operate the project properly and undertake necessary actions to minimize the negative impacts of drainage to an acceptable level. Responsible agricultural water management minimizes conflict and enables appropriate drainage to continue. A second key aspect of the system is the concept of an efficient, risk-based regulatory system.

What does the new approach aim to achieve?

The main goals of the new approach are to achieve:

- An appropriate balance between achieving the benefits of drainage and reducing the potential for flooding, and negative impacts on water quality and habitat.
 - An effective and practical regulatory system to facilitate responsible drainage.
- Implementation of practical solutions to deal with excess water on agricultural lands.

Saskatchewan's New Drainage Regulations

How will the new approach affect me?

- **Approvals will be required for all drainage activities.** Over a period of time, all drainage works, including pre-1981 works, will be required to obtain an approval or be closed.
- **Written landowner agreements will serve as adequate land control downstream of works for many drainage projects.** This will be a significant change from the current approach which requires applicants to obtain a registerable easement over potentially impacted lands. Legal easements on title will still be required for high investment projects, such as multi-party, organized, or publically funded works. All proponents will be made aware of the legal risks they are assuming by not obtaining a registerable easement, which provides the best guarantee of long-term operation of their works; however, it will be left to private parties to decide what level of business risk they are willing to carry.
- **Reducing impacts will be a consideration in all drainage approvals and approval conditions will reflect risk.** Approval holders will be required to use best practices in design and construction of works to reduce impacts of drainage on flooding, water quality and habitat. -Low risk activities will be subject to simple and minimal design and operating conditions. -Moderate risk activities will be subject to further conditions to minimize risks. -High and extreme risk activities may be required to take additional steps to offset expected impacts and approvals may be denied in some circumstances
- **Approval holders may be required to install and operate structures to control release of water from a drain.** In order to prevent drained water adding to flood peaks, higher risk activities will be required to install permanent flow restriction structures, such as suitably sized culverts or gates.
- **Approval holders may be required to retain some surface water or storage space for water.** In order to prevent drainage adding to flood peaks, higher risk activities may be required to permanently retain a portion of the surface water they are draining as wetland or dead storage (ability to fill).
- **Protection and retention of wetlands will be a consideration in granting approvals.** If the loss is too great relative to the benefit, the proponent may be required to retain the wetland or otherwise mitigate the loss.
- **“Qualified persons” will assist in drainage planning and damage assessment.** The inclusion of qualified persons in drainage management will improve access to responsible drainage works design and operation as well as to damage complaint resolution. An application prepared by a “qualified person” will require a lower level of review by WSA and will therefore usually receive a faster approval. Provision of training and certification for qualified persons will ensure standards and access for clients. The certification requirements for qualified persons will vary according to project type, risk and complexity.
- **Drainage complaints response will be focused on regulatory compliance rather than technical investigation.** Requests for assistance will lead to a preliminary investigation to confirm there are works and whether they are approved. If they are not approved the owner of the works will be given a period of time to obtain an approval or be required to close the works. The process will thus move the owner of the works into the regulatory system where he or she must establish that no impact on neighbouring lands is occurring or that appropriate land control has been obtained.

Upper Spirit Creek Watershed Drainage Pilot Project

How will the new approach be implemented?

The new rules and programming will be phased in. Gradual expansion to stronger enforcement of compliance with the approval requirement and conditions, including the use of fines and orders, will occur over a number of years. The first target areas will be the Upper Spirit Creek Basin new Good Spirit Lake and the Gooseberry Lake Basin in the Upper Souris Watershed.

Work in these areas will include working with the local watershed group to implement the new drainage approval process for both new and existing works and promoting available incentive programs, including Farm Stewardship Program funding for flow control and erosion structures and wetland retention and restoration.

Local producers in these target areas will have an opportunity to get involved early in the new approach to drainage and provide feedback that will help form the ultimate program approach as it is implemented across the province.

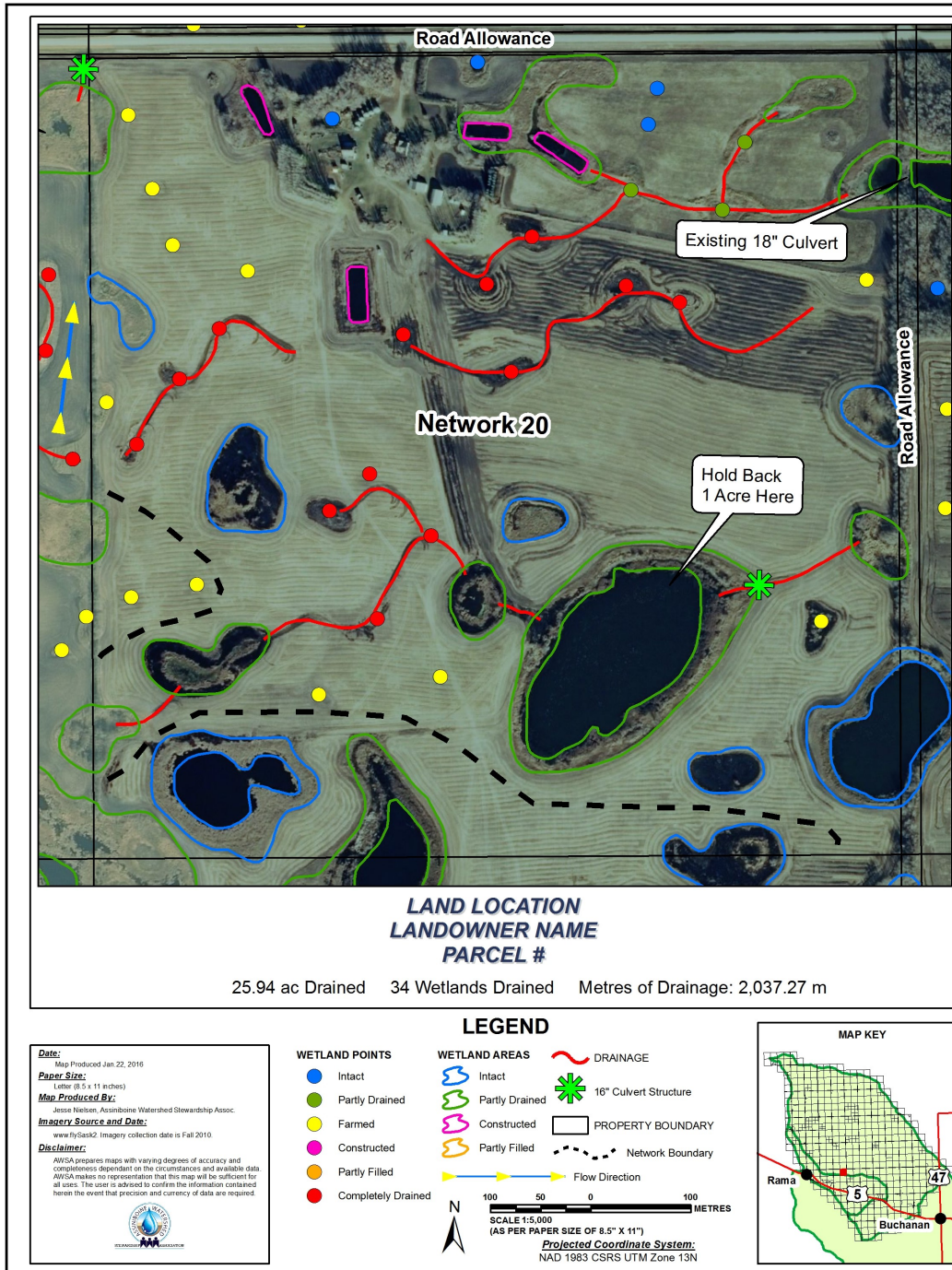
PROGRESS TO DATE:

The AWSA continues to work with the WSA and the landowners within 3 drainage networks involving a total of 23 quarters of land NE of Rama, SK. A joint application for drainage approval will be completed for each network, and the *Approval to Construct* culvert flow control structures will be issued to producers by WSA in 2017, with a fall deadline for the installation of those structures.



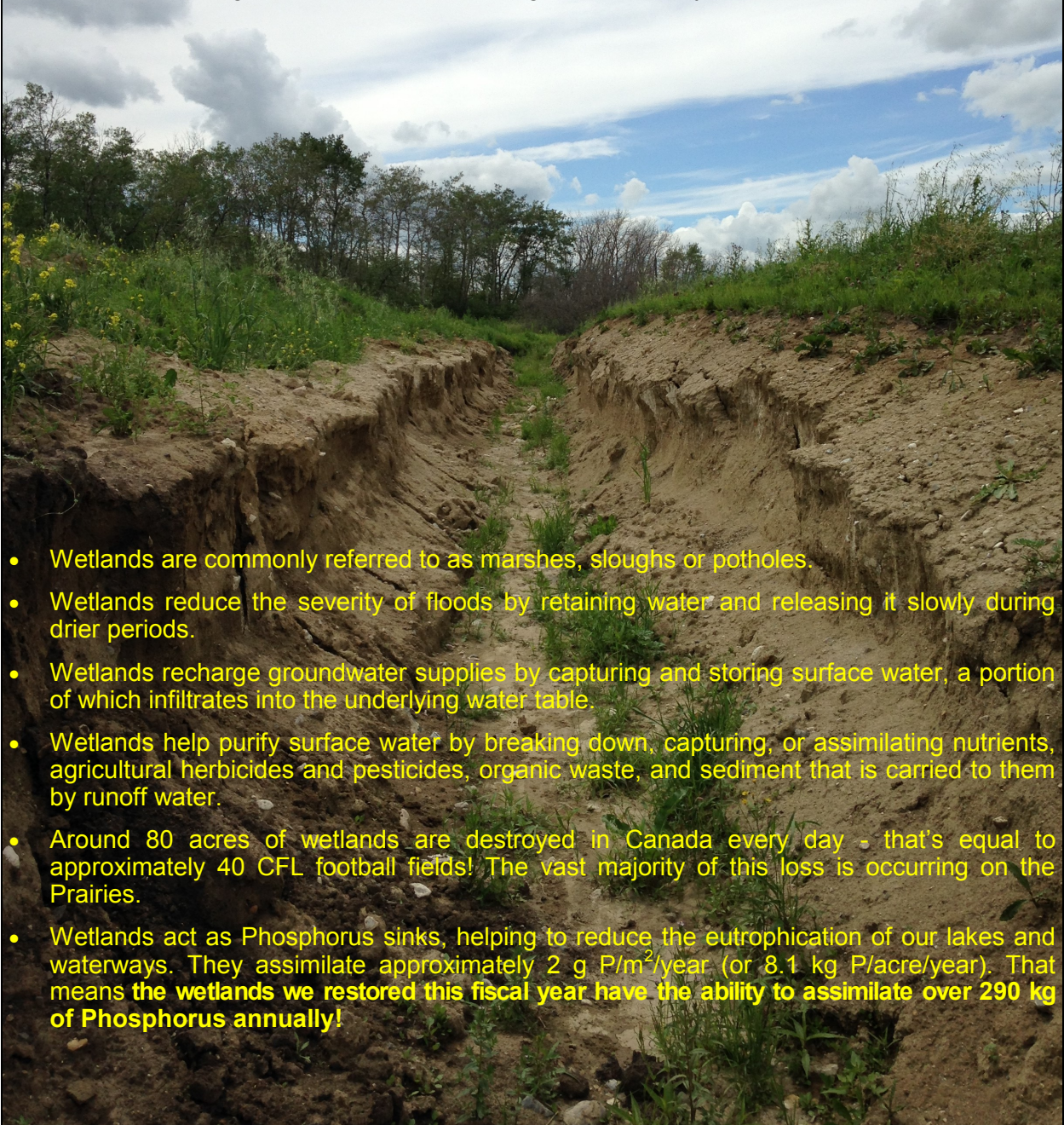
Upper Spirit Creek Watershed Drainage Pilot Project

This map is an example of the sketch plans created by the AWSA for each quarter section within the 3 drainage networks for which Drainage Approvals are being sought.



Wetland Restoration Program

The AWSA partnered with the Lake Winnipeg Basin Stewardship Fund - Environment Canada, the National Wetland Conservation Fund - Environment Canada, the Water Security Agency, and DUC to restore/re-establish drained or in-filled wetlands. We restored a total of 36 wetland acres (3 individual basins) on 2 quarters of land in November of 2015. The programs compensated landowners \$2000 for every wetland acre they re-established on their land. In return for the incentive payment, landowners were required to sign a 10 year agreement stating they will not breach any of the restored wetlands, nor do any new drainage or bush clearing to the existing wetland and upland habitat within the quarter of land in which the restoration was done (we protected 128.9 acres of existing habitat). Over time these restored wetlands will once again become full functioning wetland ecosystems.



- Wetlands are commonly referred to as marshes, sloughs or potholes.
- Wetlands reduce the severity of floods by retaining water and releasing it slowly during drier periods.
- Wetlands recharge groundwater supplies by capturing and storing surface water, a portion of which infiltrates into the underlying water table.
- Wetlands help purify surface water by breaking down, capturing, or assimilating nutrients, agricultural herbicides and pesticides, organic waste, and sediment that is carried to them by runoff water.
- Around 80 acres of wetlands are destroyed in Canada every day - that's equal to approximately 40 CFL football fields! The vast majority of this loss is occurring on the Prairies.
- Wetlands act as Phosphorus sinks, helping to reduce the eutrophication of our lakes and waterways. They assimilate approximately 2 g P/m²/year (or 8.1 kg P/acre/year). That means **the wetlands we restored this fiscal year have the ability to assimilate over 290 kg of Phosphorus annually!**

SWF - Fish Enhancement Projects

The goal of these projects is to continue to improve fish habitat in the Assiniboine River Watershed. We partnered with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF) to offer producers an additional 25% funding for the following BMPS.

BMP – Relocation of Livestock Facilities - Any permanent structured livestock facility that is located less than 1000 ft from a fish bearing waterway.

BMP – Fencing to Protect the Environment - Any new livestock fencing projects that eliminates livestock access to a fish bearing waterway.

BMP – Remote Water Systems - Any new remote water system set up, that eliminates livestock access to a fish bearing waterway.

BMP – Planting Vegetation to Protect Riparian Areas - Any newly seeded acres along or around fish bearing waterways.

BMP – Improved Stream and Creek Crossings - Any existing crossings that are improved for fish passage.



BMP- Fenced off the Cutarm Creek
Brett Schlamp - RM of Saltcoats (213)

BMP - Fenced off the Assiniboine River
Peter Ivanochko - RM of Preeceville (334)



(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

ALUS Saskatchewan Assiniboine Project (ASAP)

ASAP's strength lies in the producer friendly simplicity of the ALUS project model. The ALUS vision: Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) has a simple, yet revolutionary goal...create a healthy landscape that sustains agriculture, wildlife and natural spaces for all Canadians. ALUS is a community-developed, farmer-delivered program that provides support to farmers and ranchers to enhance and maintain nature's benefits. Simply put, ASAP creates a cash value for the natural benefits a producer's land provides.

ASAP aims to provide agricultural producers an incentive to seed tame forages around their pothole wetlands as an alternative to struggling to continue to crop those areas through the use of drainage and cultivation. In doing this, producers are contributing to the conservation of those wetland ecosystems and are providing a means of achieving long-term carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reduction across the agricultural landscape.

We offer the following annual payments to producers:

Project Classification	Annual Payment	Description
Forage Conversion	\$50/acre	Converting cropland to perennial forage cover using a blend of tame grass/legume species.
Wetland Conservation < 2 acres	\$30/acre	Conserving existing prairie pothole wetland habitat (basin size less than 2 acres in area).
Wetland Conservation > 2 acres	\$20/acre	Conserving existing prairie pothole wetland habitat (basin size greater than 2 acres in area).
Upland Conservation	\$20/acre	Conserving existing upland habitat composing of native trees, shrubs, and grasses.

FORAGE ESTABLISHMENT

- ASAP will reimburse the producer for their forage establishment cost at \$42.50/acre

2016 RESULTS

- ASAP enhanced & conserved a total of 281.43 acres of habitat with 7 producers on 11 quarters of land in the watershed
 - ⇒ 135.04 acres of marginal cropland converted to perennial forage cover
 - ⇒ 58.25 acres of upland habitat conserved
 - ⇒ 17.17 acres of wetland habitat < 2 acres in size conserved
 - ⇒ 70.97 acres of wetland habitat > 2 acres in size conserved



ALUS Saskatchewan Assiniboine Project (ASAP)



2016 ASAP Forage Seeding Project



Caitlyn & Katelyn at the PCAP Conference



2016 ASAP Forage Seeding Project



2016 ASAP Forage Seeding Project



Visit from ALUS Executive Director
L to R: Bryan Gilvesy (ALUS), Katelyn, Jesse,
Candace Mitschke-Hiller (saskFSA),
Randy Slager (saskFSA),
Cliff Lowenberger (saskFSA)



ALUS Canada Official Unveiling Ceremony in
Saskatchewan
Field Day near Stilton, SK

(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

Wallace Creek Watershed Association Board No.11

The Wallace Creek Watershed Association Board No. 11 (WCWAB) was formed under the provincial *Watershed Act* and officially incorporated in September of 2013. The WCWAB is comprised of a 11 member Board of Directors (2 from each RM and 1 from the town of Rhein) appointed from the municipalities that make up the Wallace Creek Watershed membership area (see map next page). The AWSA was appointed by the Board to act as the administrator/ projects manager for the Association. Unlike the AWSA and provincial watershed associations that were formed by the Water Security Agency under the *Source Water Protection Planning Process*, because the WCWAB is formed under the *Watershed Act*, they are considered a form of municipal government with the ability to levy funds from their membership. Thus, for most projects being undertaken by the WCWAB, each rural municipality pays for a portion of the total cost according to the percentage of area each RM has within the Wallace Creek drainage basin (see map next page).

WCWAB RECEIVES PROVINCIAL AWARD:

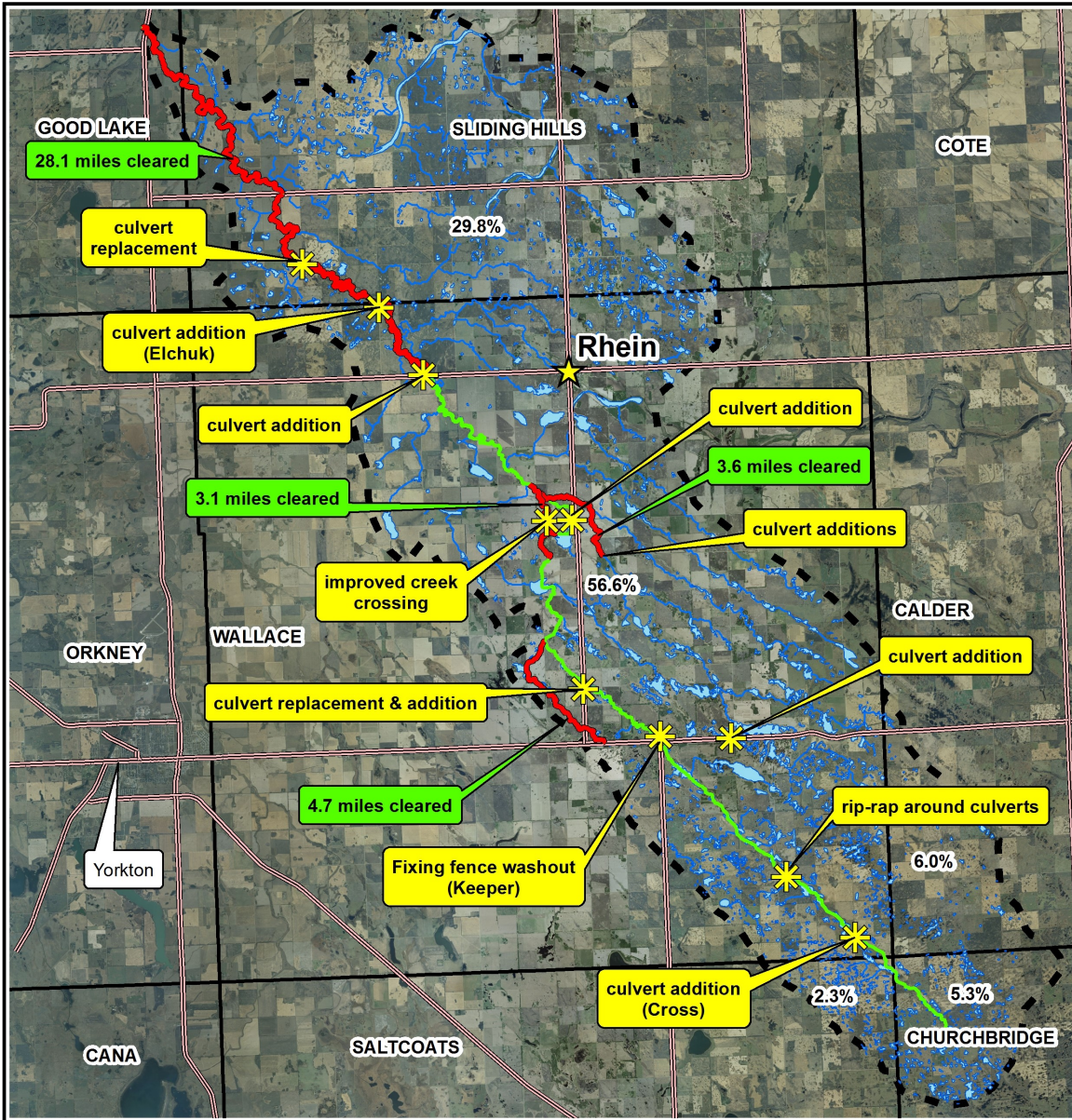
The WCWAB was chosen as the winner of the 2016 SK Municipal Awards - Regional Cooperation Award for the tremendous work they've accomplished over the past two years as a result of 5 RMs (Sliding Hills, Wallace, Saltcoats, Calder, and Churchbridge) and the village of Rhein realizing that that when municipalities (rural and urban) come together to tackle issues regarding water management, they can achieve so much more than each municipality working in isolation of one another and just worrying about themselves and “doing their own thing”.



(Picture provided by SUMA)

Wallace Creek Watershed Association Board No.11

Wallace Creek - Completed Projects Map (Nov.1, 2014 - Present)



Legend

1:225,000

- Wallace Creek
- Waterways
- Waterbodies
- Highway
- RM Boundary
- Watershed Boundary



Created: Dec. 2, 2016
 Projection: UTM Zone 13N
 Datum: NAD 1983
 Created by: Jesse Nielsen (AWSA)

Pizza Farm

The AWSA is proud to say that they've been volunteering at the MoA's Pizza Farm since its inception in 2013. Although the initiative is spearheaded by the regional MoA staff, it wouldn't be possible without the many people and organizations that volunteer their time to make it a success year after year. The Pizza Farm aims to educate elementary-aged children about where the food they eat comes from and how it's produced. Children get hands-on experience both planting and harvesting various herbs and vegetables, in addition to learning about the many aspects of agriculture necessary to grow the plants, crops, and livestock that are required to make the pizza they all enjoy. We always have fun helping out and this has become one of the highlights of our jobs that we look forward to being a part of year after year.



(Pictures provided by MoA)

Yorkton Creek Watershed Association Board No.4

The AWSA continued to act as project manager/administrator of the Yorkton Creek Watershed Assoc. Board (YCWAB) in 2016. Although not near the severity of previous years, mother nature once again brought several significant rainfalls to the Yorkton Creek Watershed in 2016, making for various issues and challenges throughout the basin. However, because of the drawdown that was done throughout the system in the fall of 2015 (1.5 ft below FSL of each waterbody), coupled with the summer draw down of Leech Lake to the bottom of the outlet structure for marsh rejuvenation purposes, there was capacity within the system to handle the volumes of water entering the Yorkton South Complex. A fall drawdown identical to that of 2015 was initiated in October 2016.



Control culvert on YCWAB-sanctioned ditch



Crescent Lake to Maddaford Marsh structure, May 2016



Leech Lake outlet structure, May 2016



Control culvert on YCWAB-sanctioned ditch

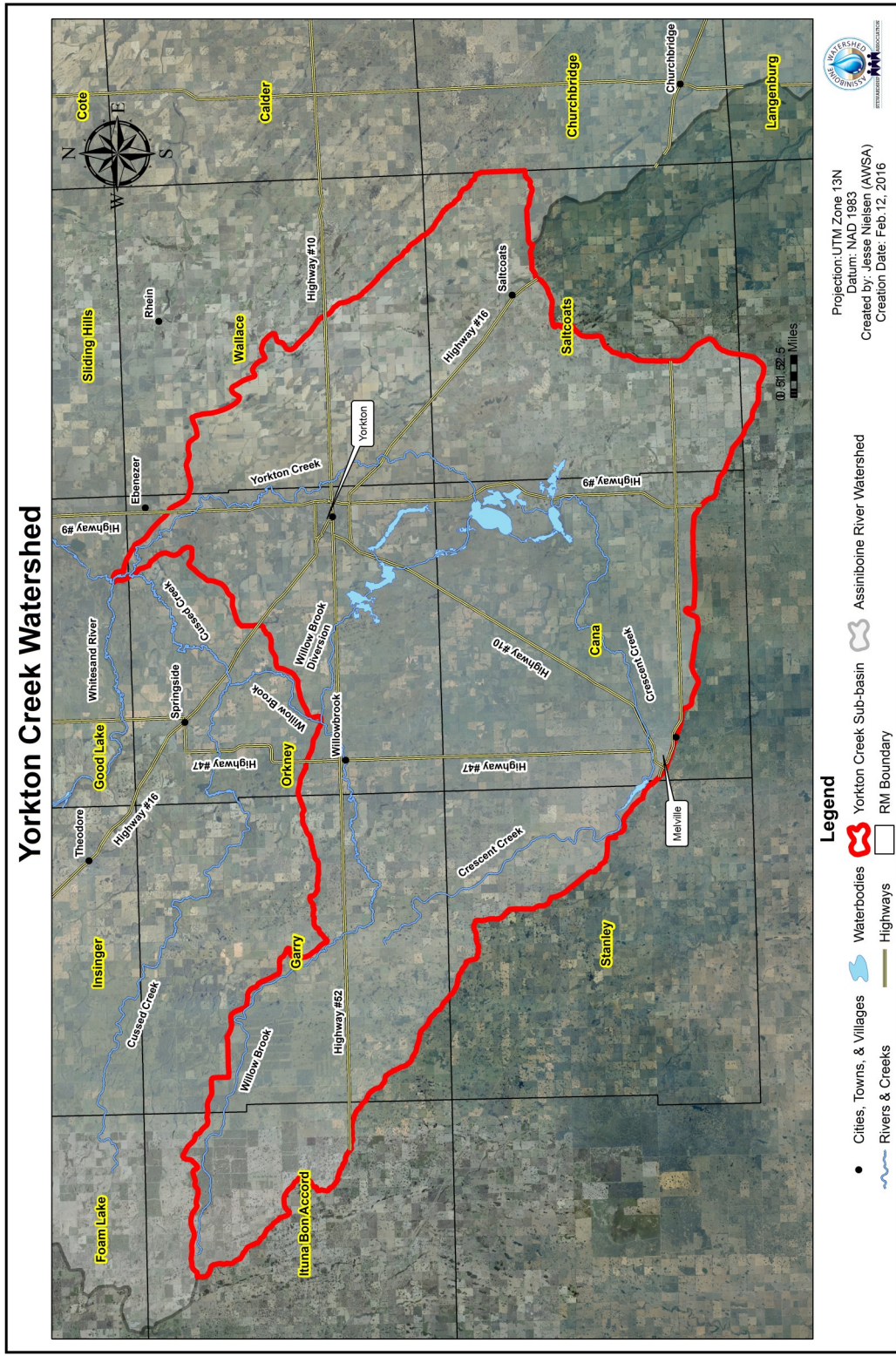


Flooded out pasture west of Yorkton

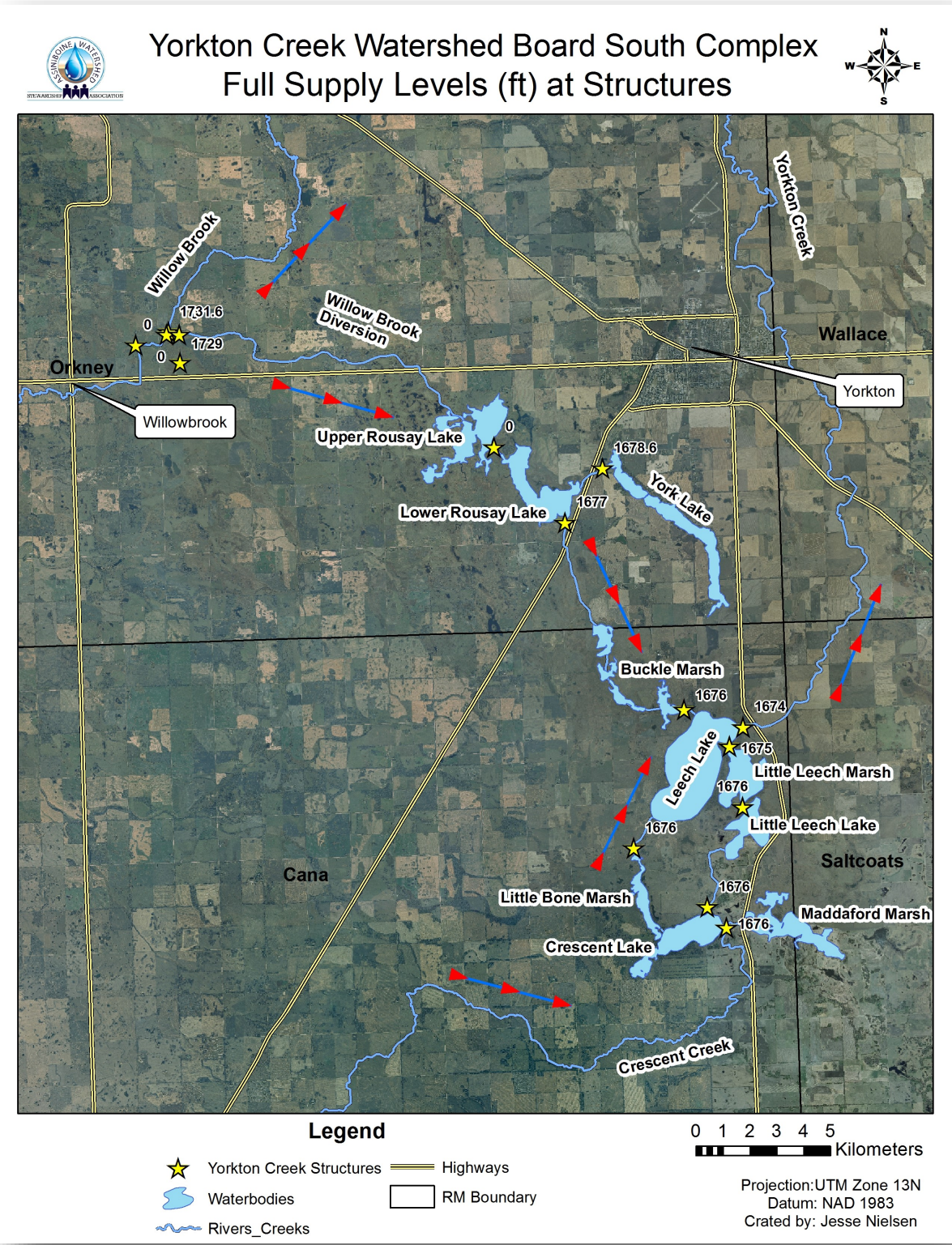


Little Bone Marsh outlet structure, May 2016

Yorkton Creek Watershed Association Board No.4



Yorkton Creek Watershed Association Board No.4



Poster Contest

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association once again participated in the SAW provincial poster contest. The theme for 2016 was "Water and Wildlife". The contest was open to grade 5, 6, and 7 students. They had an opportunity to win several prize packs locally, with the first place poster having a 1 in 11 opportunity to also win the provincial Grand Prize of a \$1000 Cabelas' Gift Card donated by the 11 participating provincial Watershed Associations! Caitlyn presented at 4 schools across the watershed, teaching students about several aspects of the Assiniboine River Watershed such as where our drinking water comes from and the many different types of animals that live in an around the watershed's wetland ecosystems. We would like to thank all those teachers and students that participated.



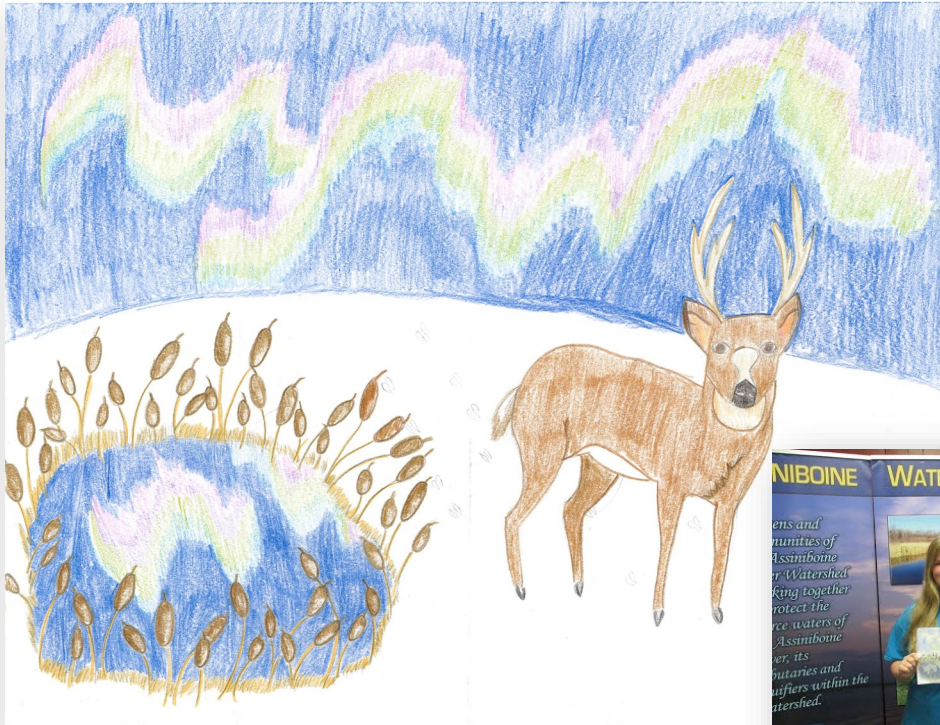
1st Place - Kaynan Gervais Gr.5
Yorkdale Central School
Yorkton, SK

Caitlyn presenting the 1st place
prize to Kaynan



Poster Contest

2nd Place - Calista Hester Gr.7, Foam Lake Composite School



3rd Place - Belen Reed Gr.6, St. Michael's School, Yorkton, SK



For all of the Top 10 student's artwork
check out our website:
www.assiniboinewatershed.com/what-we-re-doing/2016-poster-contest

Fall Educational Sessions - Logan Green Trout Pond



On September 29th and 30th, 2016 Jesse and Cam provided an educational session for two grade seven classes on the importance of wetlands. Approximately 20 students were in attendance each day and each session was approximately 2 hours long.

Information was given about where our water comes from and why groundwater is so important in our watershed. Students then had an opportunity to “critter dip” in the City of Yorkton trout pond. They were able to scoop out insects from the pond and identify them.



A model was also borrowed from Ducks Unlimited, which illustrated the importance of wetlands and highlighted the consequences of ditching.



(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

Logan Green Trout Pond Restocking

The AWSA had a busy day on June 7th. With the help of Derek Little, the Yorkton Wildlife Federation's fisheries director, we released 500 six inch rainbow trout into the city's trout pond. Like the original 750 fingerlings that were released in 2014, the fingerlings came from Clear Springs Aquaculture located at Lake of the Prairies in Manitoba.

The trout pond is open to the public for catch-and-release fishing; no fishing license required. However, anglers looking to try their luck must ensure that they obey the rules of the pond, as posted on the large sign on the pond's south side.

The original fish have done very well in the pond, with no problem overwintering due to the continuous supply of oxygen-rich water fed to the pond year-round from the water treatment plant. As a result, those original fish have over doubled in size, with reports of 14" trout being caught in 2016!



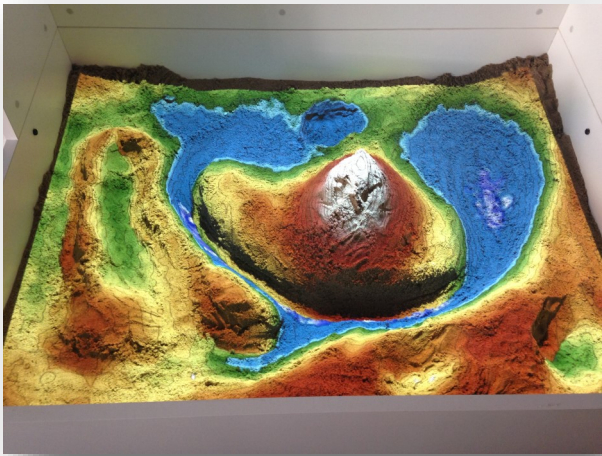
(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

New Assets for the AWSA

2016 marked a year of the largest purchases for the AWSA to date. These purchases will go a long way to ensuring that the AWSA is able to offer top-level service to its membership and continue to undertake meaningful water management projects in our watershed for well into the future. Investing in equipment such as this is an investment in the future of the AWSA, and will help maintain the AWSA as the premier watershed stewardship group in the province for another 10 years.

1) Augmented Reality Sandbox

- Custom built for AWSA by *Green Aero Tech*
- Is an excellent hands-on visual and educational tool to teach people about what a watershed is



2) DJI Phantom 4 Drone

- Purchased from Amazon.ca
- Will be used to take photos of various projects for monitoring purposes (e.g. wetland restoration and ALUS projects)
- Will be used for beaver dam detection for YCWAB and WCWAB
- Will be used for aerial reconnaissance of drainage works when acting as Qualified Persons for the completion of applications for drainage approval



(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

New Assets for the AWSA

- 3) 2016 Polaris Sportsman 570EPS - Canadian Edition
- Purchased from Discovery Motorsports in Yorkton
 - Will be utilized for a variety of field work associated with projects such as drainage mapping, ALUS, wetland restoration, field surveying, etc.



- 4) 2016 Toyota Tundra SR5 Plus
- 3 year 0% lease from Yorkton Toyota
 - Decals designed and installed by Source Embroidery
 - Will provide the AWSA staff a “company vehicle” for both field work and work trips
 - Provides advertising for the AWSA that makes us known and visible in the community
 - 8.1 ft box allows the transport of the work quad with the tailgate closed for increased safety



(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

Holistic Management Field Day

The AWSA co-hosted a farm field day September 28th aimed at educating those in attendance about the principles of holistic management. The field day partnered with Holistic Management International (HMI) and was held at Megan and Nathan Maier's *Prairie Flavours Ranch*, located near Lady Lake, SK. The "Open Gate" field day was a peer-to-peer action-based learning day with short presentations geared for participants to learn and share management techniques with guidance from experienced HMI facilitator, Blaine Hjertas, and holistic producers such as the Maiers. The field day first toured the Maier's cattle operation in which they utilize the holistic management technique of rotational grazing to better manage their pasture resources. The group then stopped for a delicious lunch prepared by Megan Maier made completely from ingredients produced on their farm. The tour then checked out the Maier's pasture fed turkey and chicken operation, and concluded with a question and answer wrap-up session. It was a great day of sharing knowledge and learning new ways of agricultural management.



(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

Culvert Infrastructure Mapping Program



Culvert Infrastructure Mapping Available



The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association is pleased to offer its services to our Rural and Urban member municipalities interested in having their culvert infrastructure GPS mapped and inventoried. AWSA staff will measure and record dimensions, GPS locations, culvert heights and any other relevant infrastructure information; and compile it in both electronic spreadsheet and GIS formats.

Cost to Membership Municipalities

\$500/day flat rate (field and/or in-office map creation)

- ⇒ Member - Urban and Rural Municipalities will receive 1 FREE day of mapping.
- ⇒ Survey grade GPS (RTK capability) with sub-inch horizontal & vertical accuracy is available for precise elevation data capture.



Example Map
Town of Saltcoats Culvert Infrastructure



Legend

— Culverts

0 100 200 300 400 500
Meters

Scale 1:5500
Created By: Jesse Nielsen



For more information contact Jesse at the
Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association
306-783-1692

SWF - Fish Enhancement Program



Fish Enhancement Projects-Funding



The goal of these projects is to continue to improve fish habitat in the Assiniboine River Watershed. We partnered with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF) to offer producers an additional 25% funding for the following BMPs. **Individual project maximums apply.**

Projects Available for Funding

BMP – Relocation of Livestock Facilities - Any permanent structured livestock facility that is located less than 1000 ft from a fish bearing waterway.

BMP – Fencing to Protect the Environment - Any new livestock fencing projects that eliminates livestock access to a fish bearing waterway.

BMP – Remote Water Systems - Any new remote water system set up, that eliminates livestock access to a fish bearing waterway.

BMP – Planting Vegetation to protect Riparian Areas - Any newly seeded acres along or around fish bearing waterways.

BMP – Improved Stream and Creek Crossings - Any existing crossings that are improved for fish passage.



For more information contact Katelyn at the
Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association
306-783-1693

Tree Planting Equipment Program



Tree Planting Equipment Rental



The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association is pleased to announce that it will now be renting tree planting equipment to all residents within its Rural and Urban member municipalities. We have one tree planter and three plastic mulch applicators available for rental on a first-come-first-served basis.



Rental Costs

- ⇒ Equipment rental
 - ⇒ \$50/day or \$200/week (5 days)
- ⇒ Plastic Mulch
 - ⇒ \$100/roll (48"x1500') or \$50/half



Equipment Information

- ⇒ Tree Planter
 - ⇒ "Non-hydraulic" model (coultter disc requires well-tilled soil to create furrow)
 - ⇒ Seats 2 people for planting
 - ⇒ Clevis-pin hitch
 - ⇒ Can be pulled behind tractor or 4-wheel drive truck
- ⇒ Mulch Applicator
 - ⇒ Pull-type
 - ⇒ Requires 50hp+ tractor with hydraulic hook-up capability
 - ⇒ Clevis-pin hitch



For more information
contact the
Assiniboine Watershed
Stewardship Association
306-783-1696



Acronym List

AAFC – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
ADOPT – Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technology
AEGP – Agri-Environmental Group Plans
AESB – Agri-Environment Services Branch (Formerly PFRA)
AGM – Annual General Meeting
AAIS – Aquatic Alien Invasive Species
ALUS – Alternative Land Use Services
ARBI – Assiniboine River Basin Initiative
ARW – Assiniboine River Watershed
ASAP – ALUS Saskatchewan Assiniboine Project
AWSA – Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association
BMP – Beneficial Management Practice
COY – City of Yorkton
CPR – Canadian Pacific Railway
CNR – Canadian National Railway
CSFSP – Canada / Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program
CWRA – Canadian Water Resources Association
DFO – Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DUC – Ducks Unlimited Canada
EFP – Environmental Farm Plan
FNR – First Nations Reserve
FRWIP – Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program
FSP – Farm Stewardship Program
GIS – Geographic Information System (computer mapping)
GF2 – Growing Forward 2
GPS – Global Positioning System
GSLWAB – Good Spirit Lake Watershed Association Board
GSLPP – Good Spirit Lake Provincial Park
ILO – Intensive Livestock Operation
IACC – Institutional Adaptation to Climate Change
LID – Low Impact Development
LIRA – Land and Infrastructure Resiliency Assessment
LQWS – Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Stewards
LWBSF – Lake Winnipeg Basin Stewardship Fund
MCDA – Manitoba Conservation Districts Association
MOA – Ministry of Agriculture
MOE – Ministry of Environment
MOH – Ministry of Highways

Acronym List

NRCAN – Natural Resources Canada
NWCF – National Wetland Conservation Fund
PAC – Partnership Advisory Committee
PCAB – Provincial Council of Add Boards
PCAP – Prairie Conservation Action Plan
PHJV – Prairie Habitat Joint Venture
PFRA – Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
QP – Qualified Person
RM – Rural Municipality
RTK– Real Time Kinematic (Extremely High Accuracy GPS)
SARM – Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
SAW – Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds
SCDA – Saskatchewan Conservation & Development Association
SES – Saskatchewan Environmental Society
SRC – Saskatchewan Research Council
SUMA – Saskatchewan Association of Urban Municipalities
SWA – Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
SWAT – Soil and Water Assessment Tool
SWAUMP – Source Water and Urban Municipal Projects Fund
SWF – Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
SWPP – Source Water Protection Plan
WCWAB – Wallace Creek Watershed Association Board
WSA – Water Security Agency (Formerly SWA)
YCWAB – Yorkton Creek Watershed Association Board
YWF – Yorkton Wildlife Federation

Aquifer – A permeable body of rock capable of yielding usable quantities of groundwater to wells and springs.

Watershed – An elevated boundary contained by its drainage divide and subject to surface and subsurface drainage under gravity to the ocean and interior lakes.



STEWARDSHIP



ASSOCIATION

10th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

**Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association
29 - 2nd Avenue North
Yorkton, Saskatchewan
S3N 1G1
306-783-1696**

www.assiniboinewatershed.com