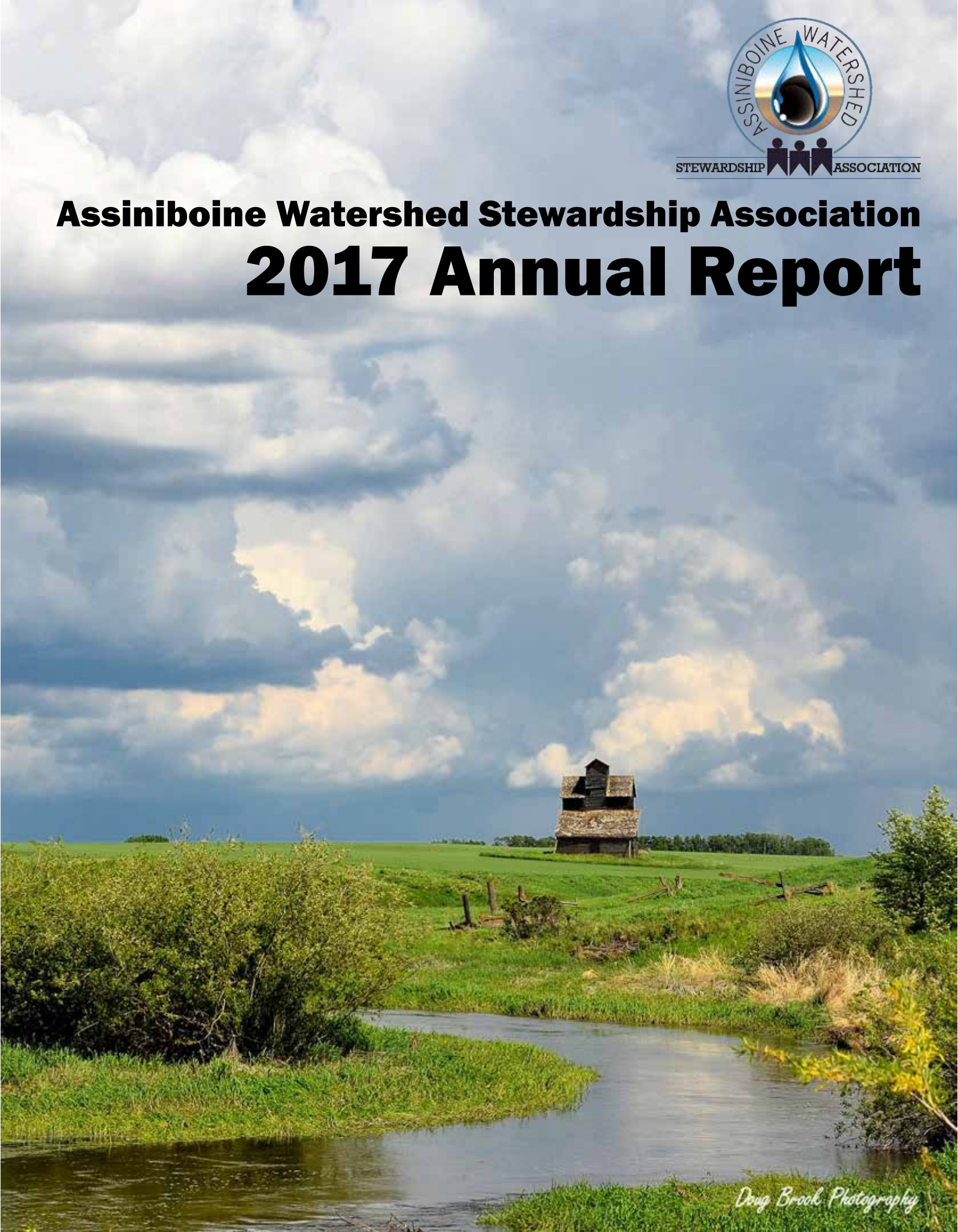




# **Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association 2017 Annual Report**



*Doug Brook Photography*



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## **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 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 the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture for their financial support through Growing Forward 2 and the Farm Stewardship Program, the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, and the Agri-Environmental Group Plan program.

Finally, we would like to thank ALUS Canada, the Wallace Creek Watershed Assoc. Board, and the Yorkton Creek Watershed Assoc. Board for their continued financial support of the AWSA.

### **2017 AWSA Staff**



Left to right: Cameron Hanson-Preece, Jesse Nielsen, Caitlyn Peters, Janet Kristjanson  
Missing: Jayden Buchberger

(Picture provided by the AWSA)

## **Introduction**

This is the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association's Annual Report, which outlines the activities of the AWSA over their 2017 fiscal year (Nov. 1, 2016 - Oct. 31, 2017). 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](http://www.assiniboinewatershed.com) for a full electronic version of this report along with more information on past and present reports and projects.

### **2017 Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association's Board of Directors**



Front Row L to R: Al Schatz, Grant McCallum, Michael Buchholzer, Tom Gall  
Back Row L to R: Wally Butterfield, Don Olson, Ben Pengilly, Andrew Fahlman, Leanne Weinbender, Tom Fogg, Conrad Vogel  
Missing: Garry Liebrecht

(Picture provided by the AWSA)

## **Board Chair's Message**

Our planning process started in 2004, and in August 2006 we completed our two *Source Water Protection Plans* for (1) the Assiniboine River Watershed and (2) the Yorkton Area Aquifers. The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit and began operations in May 2007.

What is our greatest threat of contamination to our precious raw water supplies (be it surface or ground water)?

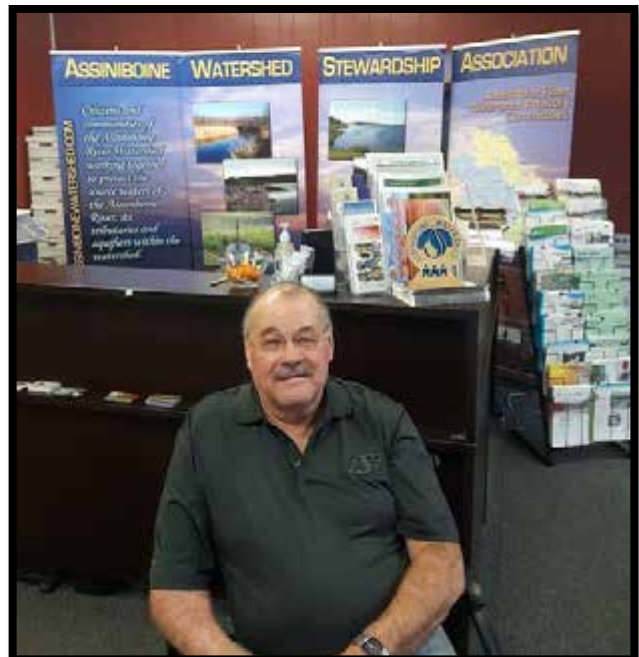
1. The greatest threat to ground water contamination is entry through old abandoned wells. The AWSA has decommissioned approximately 200 wells across our watershed through the Growing Forward 1 and 2 initiatives since beginning operations in 2007.
2. Our primary industry across the landscape of the Assiniboine Watershed is agriculture. Keeping agricultural runoff away from contaminating our raw water supplies is priority number ONE. Through the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture beginning with *Growing Forward 1* in 2009-12, the Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) Program was implemented throughout the Assiniboine Watershed. Again from 2013-present, *Growing Forward 2* was implemented throughout the watershed. Hundreds of projects have been completed and millions of dollars have been returned to the local rate payers under this joint environmental cost-shared BMP or Best Management Practices program.

The AWSA has carried out its mandate of source water protection extremely well, and will continue to do so under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program beginning in 2018-23. In addition, under the Government's new water management legislation (i.e. drainage) the AWSA will continue working in cooperation with the Water Security Agency to assist in the application process by acting as "*Qualified Persons*" in assisting agricultural producers with their licencing requirements.

I feel confident for the future of our raw water supplies knowing we have an identified Plan of Action for people to follow. I would hate to "turn on my kitchen tap and not have any water come out due to source water contamination."



Don Olson  
Board Chair,  
Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association



## Watershed Manager's Message



Last year marked a tremendous variance from what we've come to accept as "normal" in the Assiniboine Watershed. The vast majority of our watershed, like most of the prairies for that case, experienced very little moisture which lead to wide-spread drought-like conditions across much of the watershed. For the first time since 2010, wetlands in our watershed began shrinking rather than expanding; dugouts that for the past 8 years have been overflowing their banks, began drying up; creeks and streams were all but dry come summer; while crops and hayfields suffered, surviving only from the excessive sub-surface soil moisture reserves built up in the previous years.

Ironically, despite the lack of water in 2017, the practice of getting water off the rural landscape (i.e. drainage), dominated the time and efforts of the AWSA over this past year. We were contracted by the Water Security Agency to act as the Qualified Persons (QPs) to assist in bringing two large drainage networks into regulatory compliance. We kicked things off in January with the first of the projects- the Saline Lake basin north of Margo, SK, in the RMs of Sasman No.336, Hazel Dell No.335, and Invermay No.305. In April 2017 we began work on the Blackbird Creek basin west of Macnutt, SK, in the RMs of Calder No.241, and Churchbridge No.211. For the AWSA staff, the projects involved near-countless hours of one-on-one meetings with landowners, field verification, drone imagery, "town hall" meetings, and discussions with WSA Regional technicians. We've made a lot of progress, but the job is by no means finished. We will continue to work hand-in-hand with landowners and WSA towards the completion and successful Approval of Drainage Works in those networks in the coming year.

In the odd instance that we weren't swamped by our two drainage network projects, we began acting as QPs for "private landowners" looking to either get their existing and/or proposed drainage works through the approval process. The AWSA was the first in the province to offer QP services to landowners outside of the WSA-contracted drainage network projects. We're in the process of working with over 20 landowners on the approval of their private drainage works. It's encouraging to see landowners voluntarily coming in to our office because they recognize the need to follow the regulations and ensure they are taking the responsible steps for the approval of their drainage projects. We have a long way to go, but with more landowners like these agreeing to work with WSA and QPs like the AWSA, perhaps the days of "illegal", unapproved drainage will someday be a thing of the past. We can only hope that more landowners realize the importance of responsible, controlled, well-managed drainage for their operations and those of our future generations.

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 on a variety of water management projects. 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 composed of 12 advisory members: 2 from a rural municipality and 2 from an urban municipality from each of the three Advisory Committees: the Assiniboine River Advisory Committee, the Whitesand River Advisory Committee and the Yorkton Area Aquifers Advisory Committee.

### **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  
Conrad Vogel - R.M. of St. Philips No. 301

- (replaced Duane Hicks, R.M. of Clayton No. 333, at Feb.24, 2017 board elections)

#### **Whitesand River Advisory Committee**

Andrew Fahlman - City of Melville  
Tom Gall - Town of Springside  
Al Schatz - R.M. of Stanley No. 215  
Leanne Weinbender - R.M. of Sliding Hills No. 273

- (replaced Rod Semeschuk, R.M. of Sliding Hills No. 273, at Feb.24, 2017 board elections)

All Directors are elected for a two-year term at their respective Advisory Committee meetings. Directors are elected on a staggered two-year basis (i.e. 1/2 of board member's terms expire each year).

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 committee positions as the Board may determine.

The day-to-day business of the Association is overseen 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. Lastly, the AWSA receives revenue for the project management and administration of the Yorkton Creek Watershed Association Board and the Wallace Creek Watershed Association Board. 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.



## **Membership Representation**

### **2017 Board of Directors**

<b>Don Olson</b> Board Chair	Town of Sturgis
<b>Don Fogg</b> Board Vice Chair	Town of Langenburg
<b>Michael Buchholzer</b>	City of Yorkton
<b>Ben Pengilly</b>	R.M. of Cana No. 214
<b>Leanne Weinbender</b>	R.M. of Sliding Hills No. 273
<b>Wallace Butterfield</b>	R.M. of Keys No. 303
<b>Al Schatz</b>	R.M. of Stanley No. 215
<b>Conrad Vogel</b>	R.M. of St. Philips No. 301
<b>Garry Liebrecht</b>	R.M. of Wallace No. 243
<b>Grant McCallum</b>	Town of Saltcoats
<b>Tom Gall</b>	Town of Springside
<b>Andrew Fahlman*</b>	City of Melville

### **2017 Staff Members**

**Jesse Nielsen** – Manager  
**Katelyn Smith** – Coordinator (resigned Dec.31/16)  
**Caitlyn Peters** – Coordinator (came back from maternity leave April 4/17)  
**Cameron H-Preece** – Agri-Environmental Specialist  
**Janet Kristjanson** – Administrator  
**Jayden Buchberger** – Summer Student Technician

### **Assiniboine River Advisory Committee**

**Russ Thies** – Town of Churchbridge  
**Teesha Reiss** – Town of Kamsack  
**Don Fogg** – Town of Langenburg  
**Garth Harris** – Town of Preeceville  
**Don Olson** – Town of Sturgis  
**Shayne Wagner** – Village of MacNutt  
**Tim Mitschke** – R.M. of Langenburg No. 181  
**Neil Mehrer** – R.M. of Churchbridge No. 211  
**Roy Derworiz** – R.M. of Calder No. 241  
**Ken Kalmakoff** – R.M. of Cote No. 271  
**Conrad Vogel** – 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  
**Collin Redman** – R.M. Hazel Dell No. 335

### **Whitesand River Advisory Committee**

**Andrew Fahlman** – City of Melville  
**Brent Pelechaty** – Town of Canora  
**Tom Gall** – Town of Springside  
**Grant McCallum** – Town of Saltcoats  
**Garry 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  
**Leanne Weinbender** – R.M. of Sliding Hills No. 273  
**Ken Demchuk** – 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  
**Rodger Genoway** – R.M. of Invermay No. 305  
**Barry Marquette** – 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  
**Clinton Mauthe** – 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  
**Chris Jungwirth** - 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

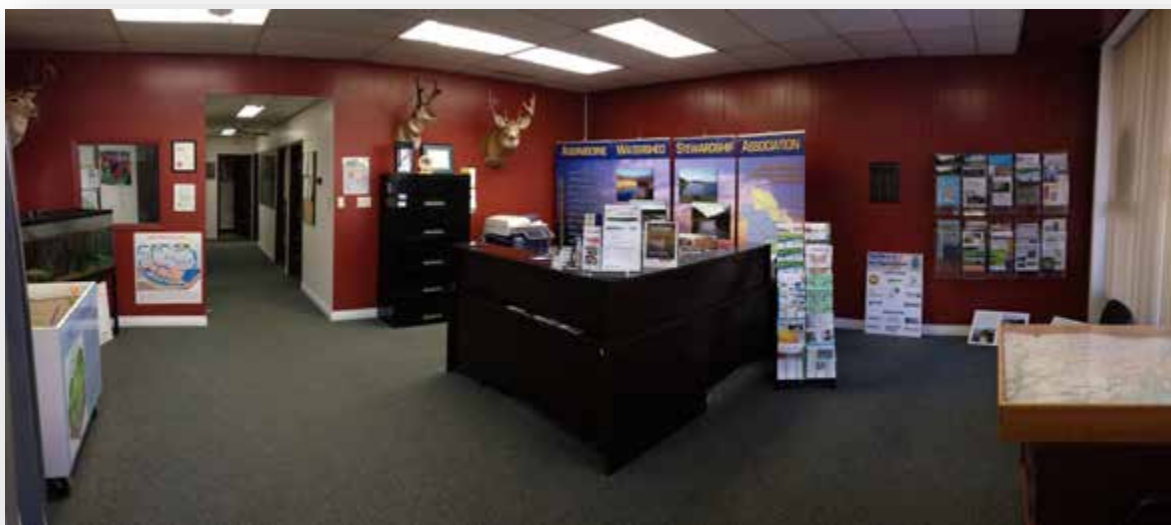
## **AWSA Office**

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association (AWSA) office is located on 29, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



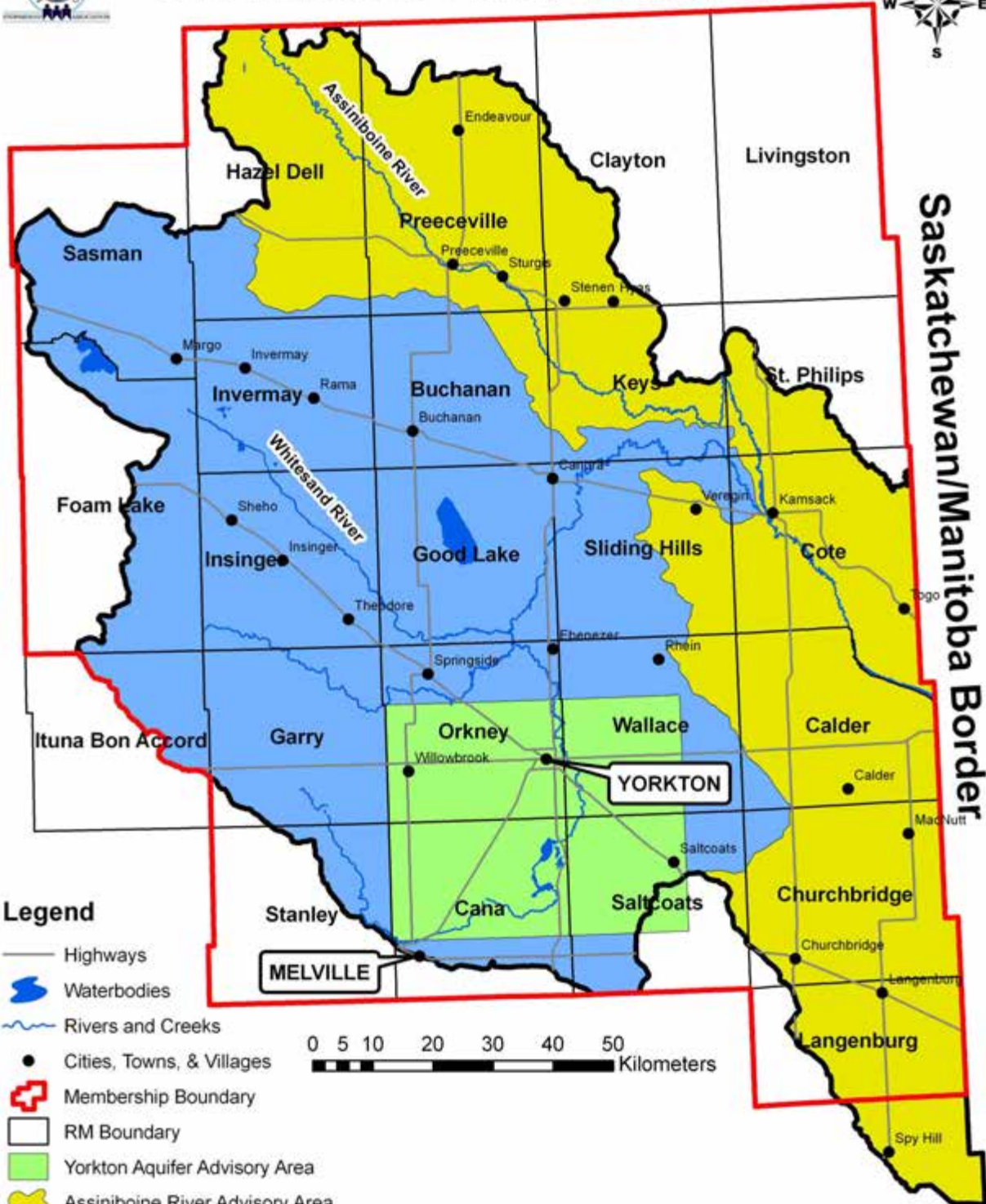
AWSA Office Windowfront



AWSA Office Interior

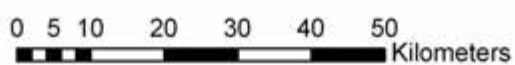


# Assiniboine River Watershed



## Legend

- Highways
- Waterbodies
- Rivers and Creeks
- Cities, Towns, & Villages
- Membership Boundary
- RM Boundary
- Yorkton Aquifer Advisory Area
- Assiniboine River Advisory Area
- Whitesand River Advisory Area

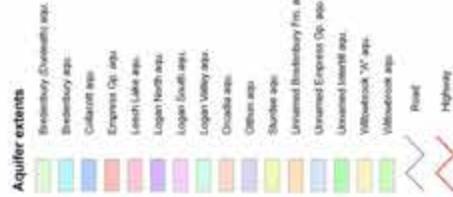


Projection: UTM Zone 13N  
Datum: NAD 1983

Created by: Jesse Nielsen



### Location and extent of major aquifers in the Yorkton study area

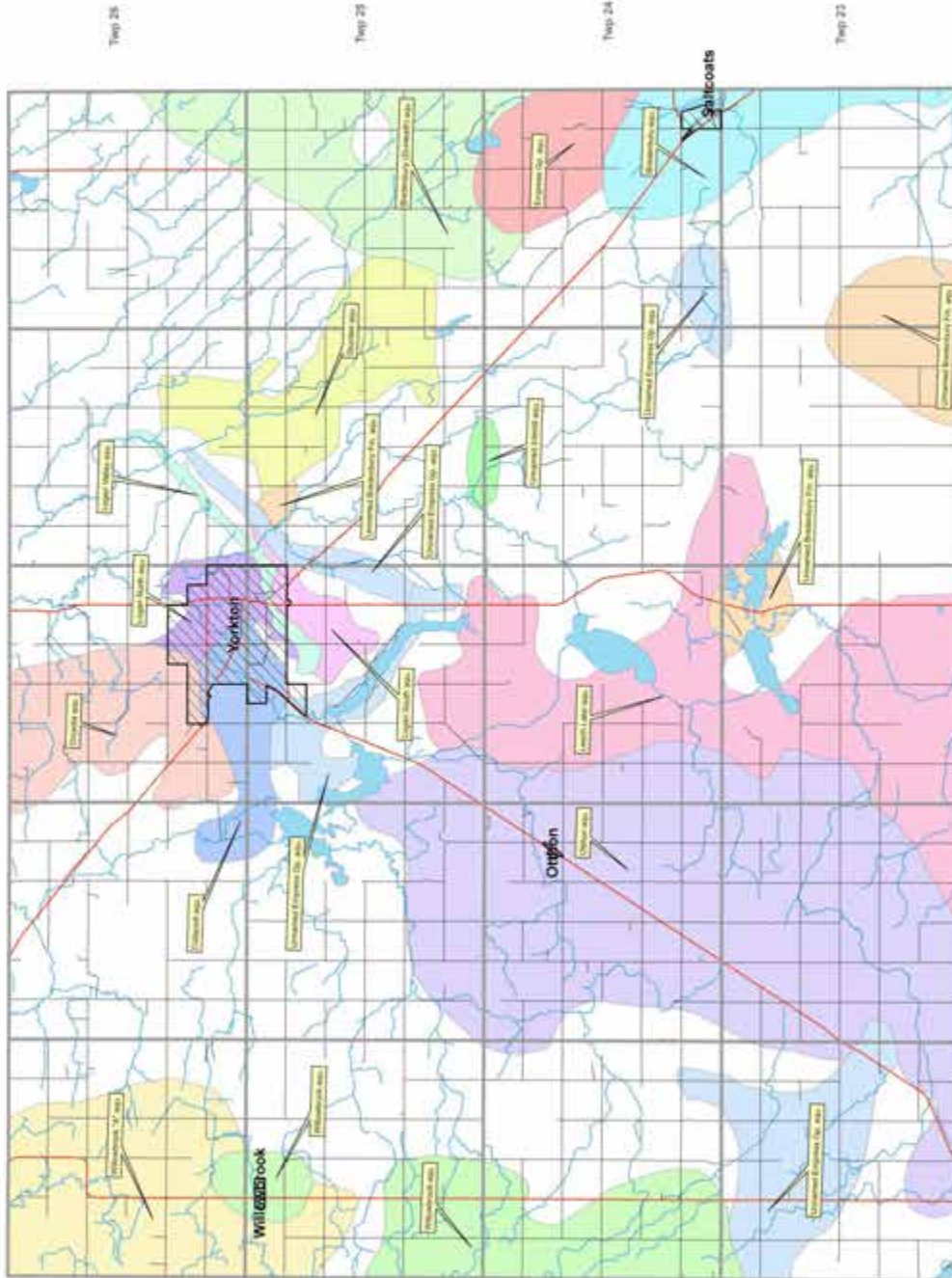
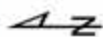


These maps are incorporated by a number of water control orders which require the subsurface with many the resources (shown in the data) taken from the Yorkton and with adjacent City of Yorkton. This information is used to assist the water control orders and to assist the water control orders. The water control orders are not intended to be used as a guide to the location of the aquifers, but only as a guide to the location of the aquifers. The water control orders are not intended to be used as a guide to the location of the aquifers, but only as a guide to the location of the aquifers.

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Map compilation report

Map scale: 1:50,000  
Map projection: UTM  
Map datum: NAD 83  
Map coordinate system: UTM  
Map datum: NAD 83  
Map coordinate system: UTM



## **2017 Notable Events**

1. November 3rd: Survey work at Surkan's – Willowbrooke, SK
2. November 7th: WCWAB meeting – Yorkton, SK
3. November 9th: 10th – ARBI Conference – Minot, ND
4. November 14th: 17th – Pine Tree Management Training – Regina, SK
5. November 21st: Agribition SAW Booth – Regina, SK
6. November 23rd: AWSA board meeting & Christmas Dinner – Yorkton, SK
7. November 24th: SaskFSA AGM – Yorkton, SK
8. November 29th: AEGP conference call – Yorkton, SK
  
9. December 1st: Drainage Workshop – Moosomin SK
10. December 9th: Grant Reid erosion control project field visit – Melville, SK
11. December 13th: ALUS Meeting – Yorkton, SK
12. December 15th: ALUS conference call – Yorkton, SK
13. December 15th: Katelyn Smith's going away party – Yorkton, SK
14. December 16th: Drainage meeting with LeeAnn Weinbender – Yorkton, SK
15. December 16th: Last day before Christmas Holidays
  
16. January 6th: Meeting with WSA and Darroll Wallin – Yorkton, SK
17. January 11th: AEGP 3rd quarterly report submitted – Yorkton, SK
18. January 12th: SUMA conference call – Yorkton, SK
19. January 17th: AEGP conference call – Yorkton, SK
20. January 18th - 19th: SAW manager's meeting – Moose Jaw, SK
21. January 20th: ARBI conference call – Yorkton, SK
22. January 24th: Meeting with RM of Wallace regarding Harris bridge – Yorkton, SK
23. January 24th: ALUS Webinar – Yorkton, SK
24. January 25th: ALUS conference call – Yorkton, SK
25. January 26th: SAW conference committee call – Yorkton, SK
26. January 26th: SUMA conference call – Yorkton, SK
27. January 30th: Meeting at Henry Stewart's farm with WSA – Margo, SK
  
28. February 2nd: Pasture Tour conference call – Yorkton, SK
29. February 6th: SUMA presentation for SAW – Saskatoon, SK
30. February 7th: Accept SK municipal award at SUMA – Saskatoon, SK
31. February 8th: Meeting with Matt Poier regarding recycling center – Yorkton, SK
32. February 10th: Call with Candace from SaskFSA – Yorkton, SK
33. February 14th: Edible aquifer presentation Yorkdale School – Yorkton, SK
34. February 16th: FRWIP field visit for well decommission – Dunleath, SK
35. February 21st: AEGP conference call – Yorkton, SK
36. February 21st: Tile Drainage Webinar – Yorkton, SK
37. February 22nd: Governance Training – Regina, SK
38. February 23rd: ESRI Webinar – Yorkton, SK
39. February 24th: AWSA AGM and AWSA board meeting – Yorkton, SK
40. February 27th: GSLWAB meeting – Canora, SK

## **2017 Notable Events**

41. March 2nd: Avonlea Drainage Workshop – Avonlea, SK
42. March 2nd: ALUS conference call – Yorkton, SK
43. March 2nd: Beef producer appreciation night – Yorkton, SK
44. March 8th: Drainage Meeting with Dave Popowich – Yorkton, SK
45. March 9th: Saline Lake meeting – Margo, SK
46. March 9th: Pasture tour conference call – Yorkton, SK
47. March 13th: Norquay school edible aquifer presentation – Norquay, SK
48. March 14th: Clifford Guy drainage map meeting – Yorkton, SK
49. March 15th: 4-H presentation – Melville, SK
50. March 16th: Calder school edible aquifer presentation – Calder, SK
51. March 16th: Building duck nests with scouts – Yorkton, SK
52. March 17th: ARBI conference call – Yorkton, SK
53. March 20th: Saline Lake mapping meeting – Yorkton, SK
54. March 21st: AEGP conference call – Yorkton, SK
55. March 22nd: ARBI board meeting – Moosomin, SK
56. March 22nd: RM of Clayton presentation on drainage – Hwas, SK
57. March 23rd - 24th: SCDA convention – Saskatoon, SK
58. March 28th: SAW conference call – Yorkton, SK
59. March 29th: Meeting at Darroll Wallin's – Margo, SK
60. March 31st: YCWAB meeting – Yorkton, SK
  
61. April 3rd: Lawrence Antony Black Bird Creek (BBC) mapping – Yorkton, SK
62. April 3rd: Tim Balabuck BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
63. April 4th: WCWAB meeting – Yorkton, SK
64. April 5th: Meeting with Betty for ALUS project – Yorkton, SK
65. April 5th: Skype Interview with Nora Lazurko – Yorkton, SK
66. April 5th - 7th: SAW conference – Esterhazy
67. April 7th – 9th: Spring Expo – Yorkton, SK
68. April 10th: BBC meeting – Macnutt, SK
69. April 11th: AEGP field visits – Norquay and Canora, SK
70. April 12th: SaskFSA tile drainage tour – Edgeley, SK
71. April 13th: AEGP final quarterly report submitted – Yorkton, SK
72. April 13th: Summer student interviews – Yorkton, SK
73. April 17th: Interview with Jayden Buchberger – Yorkton, SK
74. April 19th: Saline Lake mapping – Margo, SK
75. April 20th: Meeting with Del & Cory Andres – Yorkton, SK
76. April 20th: CRA conference call – Yorkton, SK
77. April 20th: Randy Slager BBC mappin – Yorkton, SK
78. April 21st: ASAP meeting – Yorkton, SK
79. April 24th - 25th: Manager's meeting – Moose Jaw, SK
80. April 25th: Neil Rathgeber BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
81. April 26th: Prairie Hub quarterly conference call – Yorkton, SK
82. April 26th: RM of Invermay drainage/AEGP presentation – Rama, SK
83. April 27th: Pasture tour conference call – Yorkton, SK

## **2017 Notable Events**

84. April 28th: Kevin Popp BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
85. April 28th: QP drainage training – Yorkton, SK
86. April 28th: RM of Sliding Hills AEGP & ALUS presentation – Mazzappa Hall , SK
  
87. May 1st: AEGP field visit with Ronald Pilipow – Goodeve, SK
88. May 1st: Jayden's first day of work – Yorkton, SK
89. May 3rd: Don Wasylyshyn field work – Gorlitz, SK
90. May 5th: Tim Balabuck BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
91. May 8th: Murray Prokopitz drainage meeting – Yorkton, SK
92. May 9th: AEGP conference call – Yorkton, SK
93. May 11th: ALUS database call – Yorkton, SK
94. May 12th: Setup Melville flow meter – Melville, SK
95. May 15th: Allan Beblow meeting – Yorkton, SK
96. May 16th: CWRA SK branch conference call – Yorkton, SK
97. May 19th: ARBI conference call – Yorkton, SK
98. May 23rd – 24th: Jesse QP training – Saskatoon, SK
99. May 25th: FSP pre-approval applications review – Yorkton, SK
100. May 25th: AWSA board meeting – Yorkton, SK
101. May 26th: Randy Slager BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
102. May 29th: Field verify drainage for Eugene Maleschuk – Margo, SK
103. May 29th: WSA meeting with Rick – Yorkton, SK
104. May 30th – 31st: Mud & Ticks in the sticks field day – Fort Qu'Appelle, SK
  
105. June 5th – 7th: CWRA conference – Lethbridge, SK
106. June 6th – 7th: Pizza Farm – Yorkton, SK
107. June 8th: AIS training – Moose Jaw, SK
108. June 13th: AEGP field visit with Marilyn Beres – Melville, SK
109. June 15th: Saline Lake meeting – Margo, SK
110. June 15th: Pasture tour conference call – Yorkton, SK
111. June 16th: Logan Green trout pond fish stocking – Yorkton, SK
112. June 16th: Watershed manager's meeting – Moose Jaw, SK
113. June 17th: Field work for Saline Lake – Margo, SK
114. June 20th: Culvert mapping & sizing BBC/Saline Lake – Yorkton, SK
115. June 20th: AEGP conference call – Yorkton, SK
116. June 21st: Flood and natural hazard risk assessment workshop – Regina , SK
117. June 21st: AEGP field visit for Vince Schnee – Langenburg, SK
118. June 22nd: Neil Rathgeber – Yorkton, SK
119. June 23rd: AEGP field visit with Erhardt's Livestock – Rhein, SK
120. June 23rd: Ducks drainage meeting – Yorkton, SK
121. June 23rd: Dale Prestie meeting regarding ALUS – Yorkton, SK
122. June 26th: AEGP field visit with Melody Burym – Danbury, SK
123. June 26th: Drainage meeting with Hull's – Yorkton, SK
124. June 27th: Creek crossing visit with Max Zbitniff – Springside, SK
125. June 29th: EFDRP training – Yorkton, SK
126. June 30th: BBC/Saline Lake draft applications submitted to WSA – Yorkton, SK
127. June 30th: FSP pre-approval applications review – Yorkton, SK

## **2017 Notable Events**

128. July 5th: Survey private drainage projects – Willowbrooke, SK
129. July 5th: ALUS interim report submitted, Yorkton, SK
130. July 6th: FRWIP field visits – Margo, SK
131. July 10th: Ducks meeting with Kevin Popp – Yorkton, SK
132. July 11th – 13th: Drone training – Regina , SK
133. July 14th: AEGP 1st quarterly report submitted – Yorkton, SK
134. July 17th – 19th: Moose Jaw river RTK survey – Moose Jaw, SK
135. July 20th: ALUS prairie hub quarterly call – Yorkton, SK
136. July 20th: WSA drainage budget call – Yorkton, SK
137. July 24th: FRWIP field day – Theodore, SK
138. July 25th – 25th: First Aid training – Yorkton, SK
139. July 27th – 28th: Jesse GIS mapping with Tammy – Yorkton, SK
  
140. August 1st: Private drainage works field day – Springside and Rhein, SK
141. August 3rd: Pasture field tour – Foam Lake, SK
142. August 4th: Meeting with Peter from BBC – Yorkton, SK
143. August 5th: AIS presentation – Good Spirit Lake and Mage Lake, SK
144. August 10th: ALUS database call – Yorkton, SK
145. August 11th: Saline Lake drone pictures – Margo, SK
146. August 14th: Private drainage meeting with Shirley Cole – Yorkton, SK
147. August 15th: Private drainage meeting with Ron Tetoff – Yorkton, SK
148. August 15th – 18th: Saline Lake drone pictures – Margo, SK
149. August 16th: Natural Edge conference call – Yorkton, SK
150. August 22nd: Town of Langenburg culvert mapping – Langenburg, SK
151. August 23rd: Survey Darrell Nielsen and RM of Good Lake – Springside, SK
152. August 24th: AWSA board meeting – Yorkton, SK
153. August 25th: Saline Lake drone pictures – Margo, SK
154. August 29th: Randy Baumung mapping for BBC – Yorkton, SK
155. August 30th: Meeting with Warren Kaeding – Yorkton, SK
  
156. September 1st: Conference call with Etienne – Yorkton, SK
157. September 5th: Del and Cory Andres BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
158. September 6th: Yorkton regional planning district commission meeting – Yorkton, SK
159. September 6th: LeeAnn Weinbender survey – Canora, SK
160. September 7th: Ducks meeting – Yorkton, SK
161. September 8th: Meeting with Andrew for drone pics – Melville, SK
162. September 12th: Trailer park drainage work – Yorkton, SK
163. September 13th – 14th: Pizza Farm – Yorkton, SK
164. September 15th: Bernie Trost field visit – Yorkton, SK
165. September 15th: Drainage meeting with Gary Redman – Yorkton, SK
166. September 19th: RM of Calder drainage survey – Calder, SK
167. September 20th – 21st: Manager meeting and Natural Edge demo site – Rowan's Ravine Park, SK
167. September 22nd: Gary Kahut BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
168. September 25th: Meeting with Darroll Wallin – Yorkton, SK



## **2017 Notable Events**

169. September 25th: Jim Calanchie BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
170. September 26th – 27th: ARBI meeting and tour – Minot, ND
171. September 26th - 27th: Removed AIS samplers – Assiniboine Watershed, SK
172. September 29th: Meeting with Tim and Neil for BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
  
173. October 4th: Randy Slager BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
174. October 5th: Neil BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
175. October 12th: GIS conference call – Yorkton, SK
176. October 12th: ALUS database call – Yorkton, SK
177. October 13th: AEGP 2nd quarterly report submitted – Yorkton, SK
178. October 13th: Survey Hulls – Willowbrooke, SK
179. October 17th: Meeting with Tim for BBC mapping – Yorkton, SK
180. October 18th: 20th – Saline Lake field work – Margo, SK
181. October 18th: Meeting with Clinton Molde and WSA regional managers – Yorkton, SK
182. October 19th - 20th: ALUS conference – Yorkton, SK
183. October 24th: Field checking ALUS projects – Assiniboine Watershed, SK
184. October 25th: St. Pauls school presentation for building duck nests – Yorkton, SK
185. October 26th: Meeting with Jason from WSA – Yorkton, SK
186. October 26th: YCWAB meeting – Yorkton, SK
187. October 30th: Meeting with WSA and DUC for BBC – Yorkton, SK
188. October 31st: Call with Etienne from WSA – Yorkton, SK



(Picture provided by the AWSA)



(Picture provided by the AWSA)

## **2017 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. **SWAUMP Fund**
5. **ALUS SK Assiniboine Project (ASAP)**
6. **Ministry of Environment (MOE) Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Funding**
7. **Wallace Creek Watershed Association / Yorkton Creek Watershed Association**

<b>Members</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Village of MacNutt	\$2,103.51					\$222.97		\$2,326
Village of Rhein	\$2,103.51					\$222.97	\$5,130.33	\$7,457
Village of Theodore	\$2,103.51					\$222.97		\$2,326
Town of Canora	\$2,103.51					\$222.97		\$2,326
Town of Churchbridge	\$2,103.51					\$222.97		\$2,326
Town of Kamsack	\$2,103.51					\$222.97		\$2,326
Town of Langenburg	\$2,103.51			\$2,500		\$222.97		\$2,326
Town of Preeceville	\$2,103.51					\$222.97		\$2,326
Town of Saltcoats	\$2,103.51			\$2,500		\$222.97		\$2,326
Town of Springside	\$2,103.51					\$222.97		\$2,326
Town of Sturgis	\$2,103.51					\$222.97		\$2,326
City of Melville	\$2,103.51			\$2,500		\$222.97	\$2,534.67	\$4,861
City of Yorkton	\$2,103.51					\$222.97	\$2,534.67	\$4,861
R.M. of Langenburg	\$4,521.84	\$212,196.79	\$11,137.50		\$3,762.60	\$222.97		\$231,842
R.M. of Churchbridge	\$18,587.84	\$27,205.67	\$17,600.00		\$1,271.40	\$222.97	\$5,130.33	\$70,018
R.M. of Saltcoats	\$4,521.84	\$32,372.82	\$61,035.00		\$6,465.06	\$222.97	\$7,665.00	\$112,283
R.M. of Cana	\$4,521.84	\$30,772.25	\$25,289.50		\$5,149.20	\$222.97	\$2,534.67	\$68,490
R.M. of Stanley	\$4,521.84	\$4,129.70	\$24,910.00			\$222.97		\$33,785
R.M. of Calder	\$18,587.84	\$10,000.00	\$23,048.00		\$9,272.70	\$222.97	\$5,130.33	\$66,262
R.M. of Wallace	\$4,521.84	\$24,437.90	\$46,093.20		\$655.90	\$222.97	\$7,665.00	\$83,597
R.M. of Orkney	\$4,521.84	\$15,839.03	\$137,056.96		\$854.20	\$222.97	\$2,534.67	\$161,030
R.M. of Garry	\$4,521.84		\$57,087.35			\$222.97		\$61,832
R.M. of Ituna Bon Accord	\$4,521.84	\$10,675.50	\$15,000.00			\$222.97		\$30,420
R.M. of Cote	\$4,521.84	\$6,177.00	\$157,050.00			\$222.97		\$167,972
R.M. of Sliding Hills	\$4,521.84	\$16,373.99	\$8,255.00		\$4,767.41	\$222.97	\$5,130.33	\$39,272
R.M. of Good Lake	\$4,521.84	\$17,950.80	\$22,506.50			\$222.97		\$45,202
R.M. of Insinger	\$4,521.84	\$32,855.99	\$24,513.75			\$222.97		\$62,115
R.M. of Foam Lake	\$4,521.84		\$63,992.50			\$222.97		\$68,737
R.M. of St.Philips	\$4,521.84	\$19,221.41	\$48,805.00			\$222.97		\$72,771
R.M. of Keys	\$4,521.84	\$9,730.00	\$163,148.84		\$6,031.18	\$222.97		\$183,655
R.M. of Buchanan	\$4,521.84	\$92,295.65	\$21,820.00			\$222.97		\$118,860
R.M. of Invermay	\$18,587.84					\$222.97		\$18,811
R.M. of Livingston	\$4,521.84	\$8,740.00				\$222.97		\$13,485
R.M. of Clayton	\$4,521.84	\$22,484.65	\$22,900.00			\$222.97		\$50,129
R.M. of Preeceville	\$4,521.84	\$39,553.12	\$39,903.00		\$6,253.58	\$222.97		\$90,455
R.M. of Hazel Dell	\$18,587.84	\$15,000.00	\$5,160.00			\$222.97		\$38,971
R.M. of Sasman	\$18,587.84		\$32,906.65			\$222.97		\$51,717
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$206,200</b>	<b>\$648,012.27</b>	<b>\$1,029,218.75</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>	<b>\$44,483.23</b>	<b>\$8,250</b>	<b>\$45,990</b>	<b>\$1,989,654</b>

# **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 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\*\*



## **Agriculture Waste Management;**

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



## **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



## **Manure Management;**

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

## **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\*\*



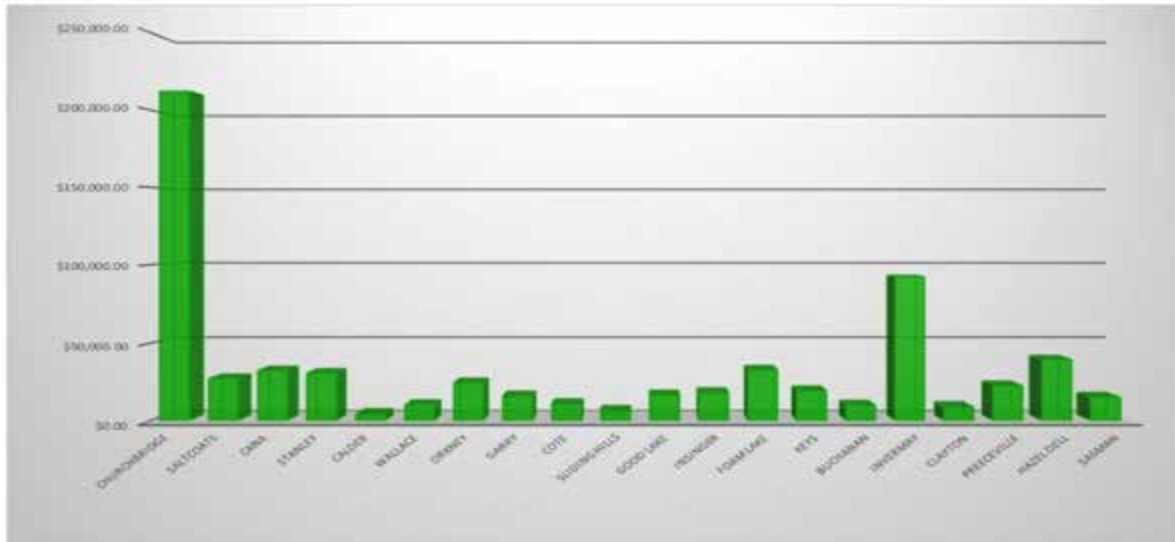
## **Environmental Solutions:**

- 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 79 project applications for an approximate total of \$648,012.27 in projects, on 144 quarter sections of land.



Rural Municipality	Project Cost Totals	Project Application	Quarter Sections
Churchbridge	\$212,196.79	14	47
Saltcoats	\$27,205.67	7	7
Cana	\$32,372.82	5	5
Stanley	\$30,772.25	5	14
Calder	\$4,129.70	1	1
Wallace	\$10,000.00	1	1
Orkney	\$24,437.90	5	5
Garry	\$15,839.03	4	5
Cote	\$10,675.50	1	3
Sliding Hills	\$6,177.00	1	1
Good Lake	\$16,373.99	3	3
Insinger	\$17,950.80	2	2
Foam Lake	\$32,855.99	5	5
Keys	\$19,221.41	3	3
Buchanan	\$9,730.00	2	4
Invermay	\$92,295.65	7	11
Clayton	\$8,740.00	2	2
Preeceville	\$22,484.65	5	6
Hazel Dell	\$39,553.12	3	14
Sasman	\$15,000.00	3	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$648,012.27</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>144</b>

## **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)**

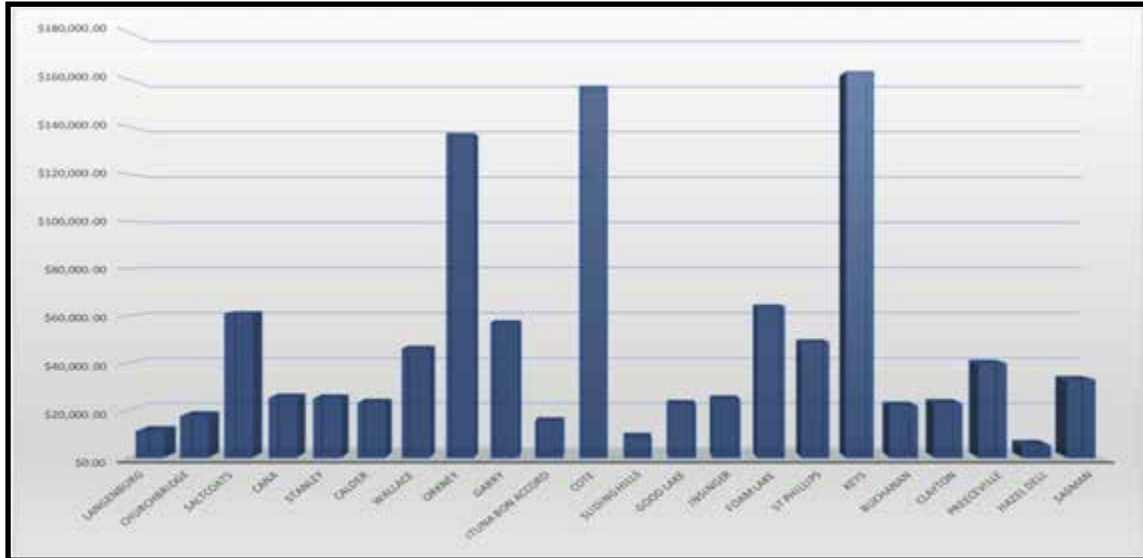
### **Producer Eligibility Criteria**

- 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 103 project applications for an approximate total of \$1,029,218.75 in projects, on 53 quarter sections of land.



Rural Municipality	Project Cost Totals	Project Application	Quarter Sections
Langenburg	\$11,137.50	3	2
Churchbridge	\$17,600.00	4	5
Saltcoats	\$61,035.00	5	6
Cana	\$25,289.50	6	8
Stanley	\$24,910.00	3	3
Calder	\$23,048.00	2	5
Wallace	\$46,093.20	11	10
Orkney	\$137,056.96	12	12
Garry	\$57,087.35	6	9
Ituna Bon Accord	\$15,000.00	1	1
Cote	\$157,050.00	5	5
Sliding Hills	\$8,255.00	3	3
Good Lake	\$22,506.50	5	5
Insinger	\$24,513.75	4	4
Foam Lake	\$63,992.50	5	6
St Phillips	\$48,805.00	4	4
Keys	\$163,148.84	7	7
Buchanan	\$21,820.00	4	4
Clayton	\$22,900.00	4	4
Preeceville	\$39,903.00	3	6
Hazel Dell	\$5,160.00	1	1
Sasman	\$32,906.65	5	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,029,218.75</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>115</b>

## Decommissioning Abandoned Wells

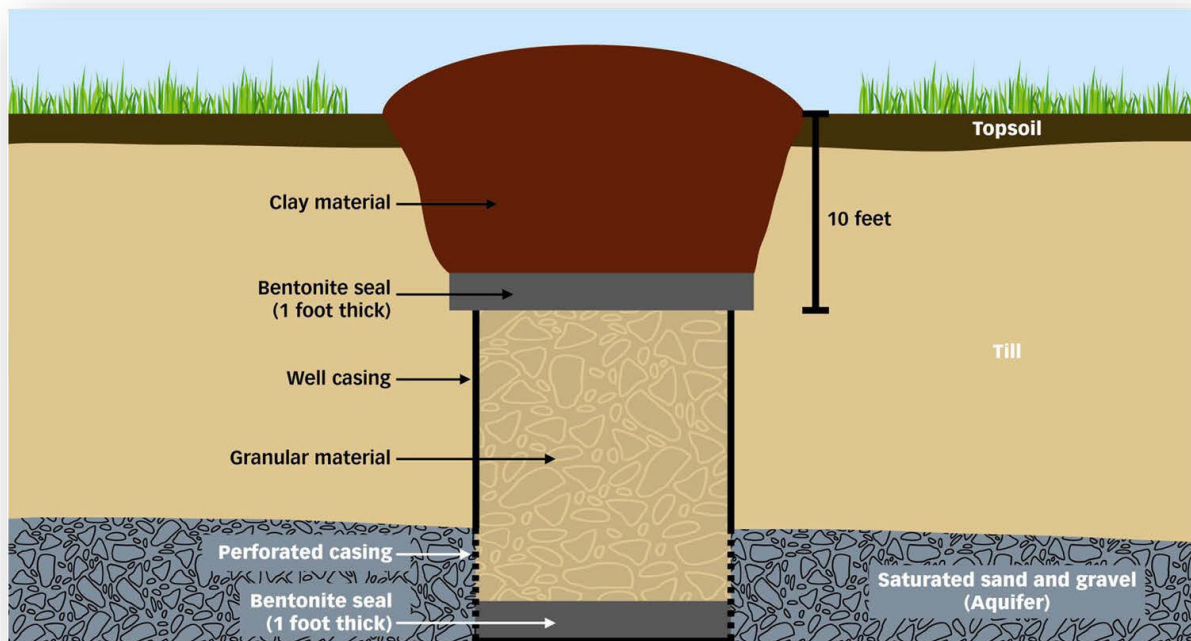
Groundwater is a critical resource in the Assiniboine River Watershed for the fact that over 90% of our residents rely on groundwater for their drinking water. In fact, Yorkton is the only city in Saskatchewan that relies solely on well water for its source water- all other cities have both groundwater 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 37 wells this fiscal year.

The AWSA is extremely proud to say that through the BMP funding offered under GF2, we have decommissioned **over 85\* wells** across our watershed in the past 5 years- by far the most of any watershed stewardship group in the province!

\*(Through GF2 we have applied to decommission a total of 93 wells. A small percentage of wells that are applied for never end up getting decommissioned for various reasons.)





These wells we've decommissioned are now no longer a contamination risk to the aquifer or a threat to human, livestock, or wildlife safety.



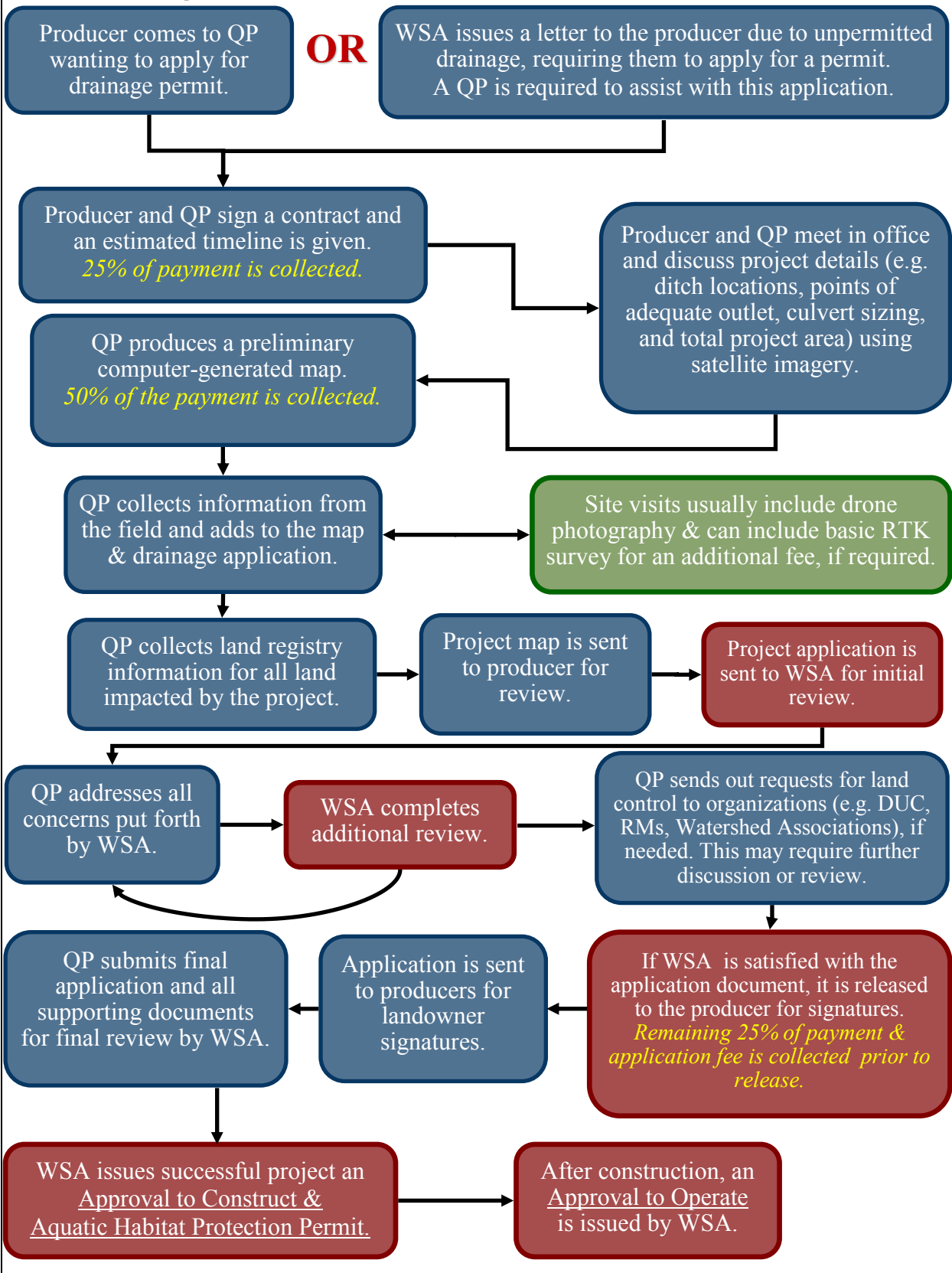
(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

## **Our Work as a Qualified Person (QP) under the new Ag Water Management Strategy**

The process as we understand it :

1. A producer comes to the QP wanting to apply for a drainage permit **or** the WSA has issued the producer a letter indicating they have unpermitted drainage and need to seek the services of a QP to create an application for these works.
2. The QP and producer meet in office. The QP provides satellite imagery of the project location for the producer to review and markup with project details (i.e. ditch locations, point of adequate outlet, culvert sizing and total project area).
3. A contract is signed and an estimated time line for the application preparation is given.  
*25% of the fee for service is collected at this time.*
4. A preliminary computer generated map is produced by the QP.  
*50% of the fee for service is collected at this time.*
5. Every effort is made to visit each project site by the QP. This will often include drone photography. We are also able to provide basic RTK survey work at a full or half day fee for service rate, if requested by the producer.
6. Information collected from the field is added to the drainage application and supporting map in office.
7. Land registry information is collected from the Information Services Corporation for all land impacted by the project boundary.
8. The project map is then sent back to the producer for a final review before submission to WSA.
9. Upon producer approval the map and application are sent to WSA for an initial review.
10. WSA reviews and provides comments or conditions required. The QP incorporates and address all concerns. Upon a 2nd quick review, WSA releases the application for the required signatures. *The remaining 25% of the fee for service is collected at this time.*
11. If required, requests for sanction or other forms of land control are sent to any organizations (ex/ DUC, RMs, Watershed Associations) by the QP. This may require further discussion on conditions requested for the organization to grant land control.
12. Once land control is secured from the larger organizations, the application is sent to the producer to collect the remaining landowner signatures.
13. Once all signatures are obtained, the QP sends in all supporting documentation along with the application for final review by WSA.
14. If successful, an approval to construct is issued by WSA, followed by an approval to operate for the term of the permit.

## The Drainage Qualified Person (QP) Process



## **QP Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q/ When do I need a drainage permit?**

**A/** If you are helping water move in any direction with any type of equipment, including a shovel or a tractor tire it is considered drainage work that requires a permit. The ONLY exception is when you are consolidating wetlands within the same quarter of land. If water is leaving one quarter section of land, no matter how small, or if you own the land it's moving to, it requires a permit. According to WSA's "What is Drainage" fact sheet: "Drainage is any action taken or intended for the removal or lessening of the amount of water from land, and includes the deepening, straightening, widening and diversion of the course of a stream, creek, or other watercourse, as well as the construction of dykes."

### **Q/ How do you justify a \$1000/quarter fee for service along with an additional fee of \$500/day for additional survey work (if requested)?**

**A/** It works out to \$0.42/acre/year (assuming a 15 year term). In our opinion this cost is cheap drainage insurance relative to other farm operation costs and ensures that you have the most technically complete application for WSA to review, ideally increasing the speed at which it is processed. Our survey work is extra due to the associated equipment costs and travel required. Rather than include this fee as an average in each QP contract we break it out so producers who don't require this service get a discount.

### **Q/ If I hire you do you guarantee I will get an approval?**

**A/** No. The AWSA strives to provide all of the required documentation and technical information required for a complete and satisfactory drainage application. We do everything in our power to provide the best package possible so that WSA has no reason not to approve the project. That being said, we don't have any regulatory power, and can not issue the approval ourselves.

### **Q/ How long does an approval take to obtain?**

**A/** This is a hard question to answer as it depends on the scope of the project. Ideally, the turnaround should be a month. Unfortunately, because this process is so new and WSA is still in the policy development stage, it is often longer. As we work through more projects we will have a better answer to how long the process takes on average.

### **Q/ Is there any way around dealing with larger organizations that have land within the project?**

**A/** This might be possible depending on the project situation. If you can re-route your water in a way that does not impact them in any way, it may be possible. Keep in mind, if you are draining a wetland that is within their land and yours, you need their permission. There is no exception to this. You cannot construct a berm and drain your portion of the water. Both parties have equal rights to maintain the current or natural conditions no matter how great or small their portion of the wetland is.



## **Water Security Agency Drainage Network Contract Project** **Blackbird Creek QP Work**

Registered letters were sent to landowners, by WSA, within the Blackbird Creek Network indicating that they need to get their drainage works in compliance with the Ag Water Management Strategy. We received a contract from WSA to complete the technical work. Jesse and Cameron attended the first town hall meeting in MacNutt April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 where more information and an open forum for questions and concerns were provided. After that we met with producers to map out their existing and proposed drainage within the project area.

Our WSA tech for the project is Jason Signarowski. He has been extremely helpful in getting direction and answers as issues arise.

In the network there are lands owned by Ducks Unlimited, Ministry of Environment, Keesekoose First Nations and the Crown. Each organization presents its own set of unique challenges. We have facilitated conversations between producers and these organizations, which are paving the way in policy development for future interactions regarding drainage.

We assisted producers in filling out FSP pre-approval applications for the water flow and erosion control BMP. The program was in it's final year, so there was a push to get applications completed as soon as possible.

A draft application was sent to WSA on June 30, 2017. The information in the application was very rough as we were basing the application solely on our office work using GIS and information from producers who came forward.

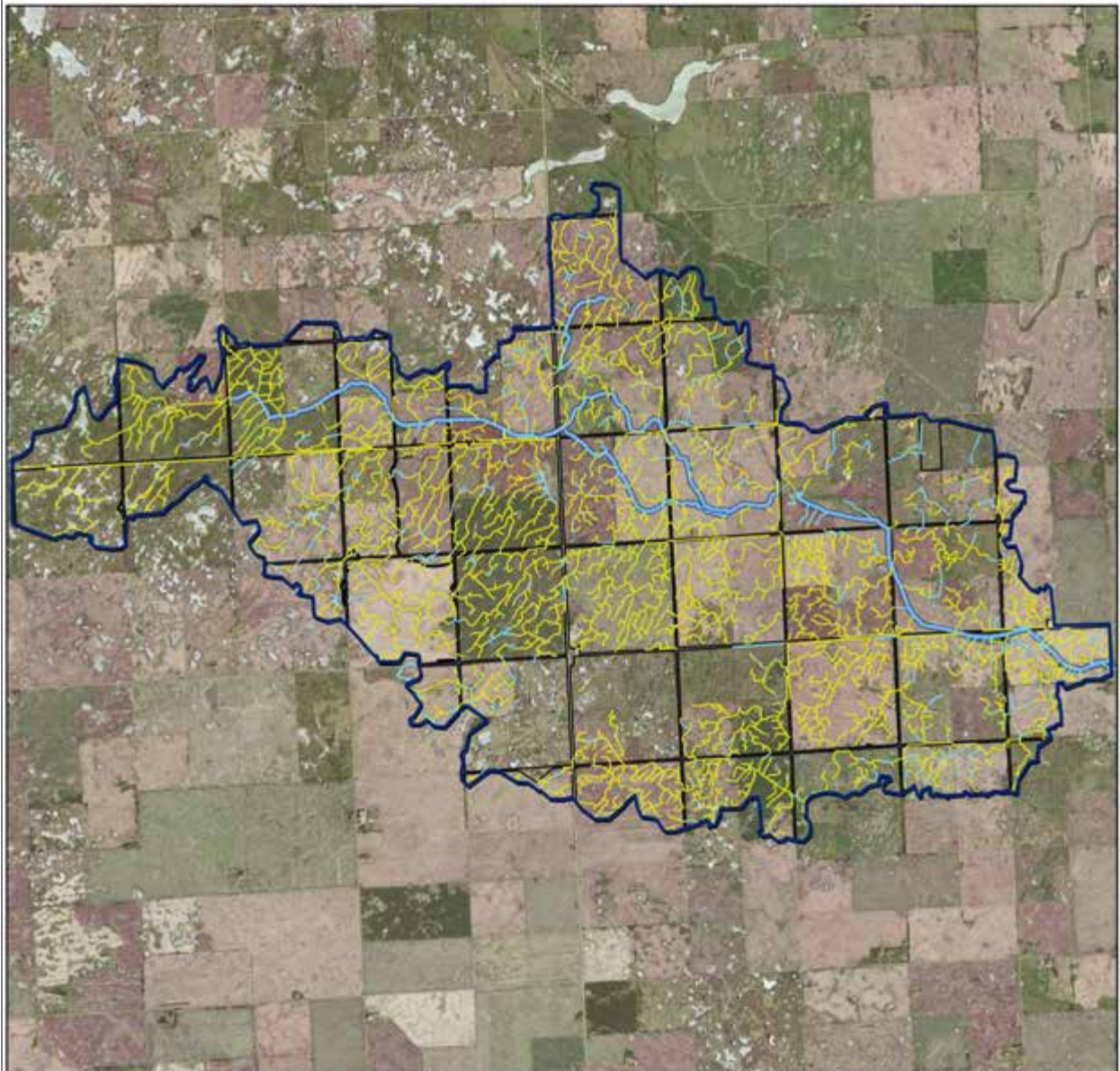
A 2<sup>nd</sup> registered letter was sent to landowners indicating the remaining work still to be done. WSA had set a deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup> for on-site verification. There were 2 more deadlines: October 15 to provide finalized site plans (including engineering plans if required) and then November 15 we were required to submit a final draft application and signed C&D petition, if applicable.

### Unique issues to the project:

- There are several conservation organizations with land that falls within the project boundary. Producers neighboring these groups need to obtain land control in order to proceed with any drainage of common wetlands.
- The project was pursued by WSA because of a long standing complaint against a landowner within the project area.
- Downstream are Manitoba landowners concerned with the project. They feel they should have input in the project and say on whether it is approved or not.
- The group still has in pursuing a C & D formation, but have not made any official decision on the matter to date.

We submitted the final draft application to WSA on November 15<sup>th</sup> which included the drainage application, mapped sketch plans for each quarter, overview map, pictures of the flow control locations, and elevation profile of the adequate outlet.

# Blackbird Creek - Overview



N 1:78,000

**Projected Coordinate System:**  
NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 13N

Date:  
January 04, 2011

Page Size:  
11" x 17"

Map Produced By:  
Caldor Systems, Aquatic Resource Management Systems

Disclaimer:  
AAA provides maps with varying degrees of accuracy and completeness depending on the circumstances and available data. AAAA makes no representation that the map will be sufficient for all uses. The user is advised to conduct his own investigation and verify the level that precision and accuracy of data are required.



## Legend

-  Drainage
-  Natural Flow
-  Blackbird Creek
-  BBC Watershed Boundary

0 2.5 5 Kilometers




PROJECT LOCATION OVERVIEW



ASSINIBOINE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION  
**Qualified Persons (QP) Services**



\$1000/quarter section =

**\$0.42 /acre /year**

- Preparation of application and approval for drainage works (ensuring completeness and quality)
- Latest satellite imagery/drainage data sources
- Drone photography
- RTK Survey @ \$500/day + mileage

**Why Should You Permit Your Drainage?**

- IT'S THE LAW!
- Responsibly managed drainage plays an important role in agriculture within East Central Saskatchewan.
- Permitted works allow a producer to continue farming operations as usual for the term of the approval without threat of closure.
- It is also an important feature when considering selling land.



Call the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Assoc. for more information.  
 Jesse at 306-783-1695 or  
 Caitlyn at 306-783-1692

**What Projects Require an Approval?**

- Operation of existing, unapproved drainage projects
- Alteration, modification, or extension of approved drainage projects
- Proposed new permanent and/or temporary drainage projects
- Continuing operation of approved drainage works with an expired permit.

**QP Work to Date**

# of clients who decided not to proceed with an application at this time: **6**

# of submitted applications to WSA for initial review: **10**

# of files we are currently working on preparing applications for: **9**

# of approvals that have been issued to our clients: **1**

# of applications that have been denied by WSA: **0**

This work has taken a great deal more time than anticipated. We continue to work with WSA to provide “front line” observations and recommendations as we complete more QP work and gain more experience to help improve and expedite this process.

## **Water Security Agency Drainage Network Contract Project** **Saline Lake QP Work**

Registered letters were sent to landowners, by WSA, within the Saline Lake Network indicating that they need to get their drainage works in compliance with the Ag Water Management Strategy. We received a contract from WSA to complete this technical work in addition to the Blackbird Creek Network.

Jesse and Cam met with landowners in Margo on March 9, 2017. WSA presented on the new drainage regulations, followed by an open discussion forum.

We met again in Margo March 20 to map landowner's drainage and potential locations of flow control structures.

We had a town hall meeting June 15 to fill out FSP pre-approval applications for the water flow and erosion control BMP.

We submitted a draft application to WSA on June 30. The information in the application was very rough as we were basing the application solely on our office work using GIS and information from producers who came forward.

We began ground truthing each individual quarter within the Saline Lake network in June as per direction of WSA. This involved using the drone to take pictures of the quarters and the proposed flow control locations. In addition, RM infrastructure including size and location were mapped.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> registered letter was sent to landowners within the Saline Lake network indicating that they need to get in compliance with the Ag Water Management Strategy. The letters were mailed out by Water Security Agency on August 17.

There was a deadline of October 15, 2017 which required a submitted plan to WSA showing finalized flow control locations and sizes for the network. The final deadline for the revised draft application was November 15, 2017.

We sent letters out October 13<sup>th</sup> to let producers know we are planning on field verifying the flow controls in October. If they had any issues with us accessing their land or where the flow controls were mapped to get in contact with us as soon as possible. The letter also included an invitation to the town hall meeting we had planned for November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

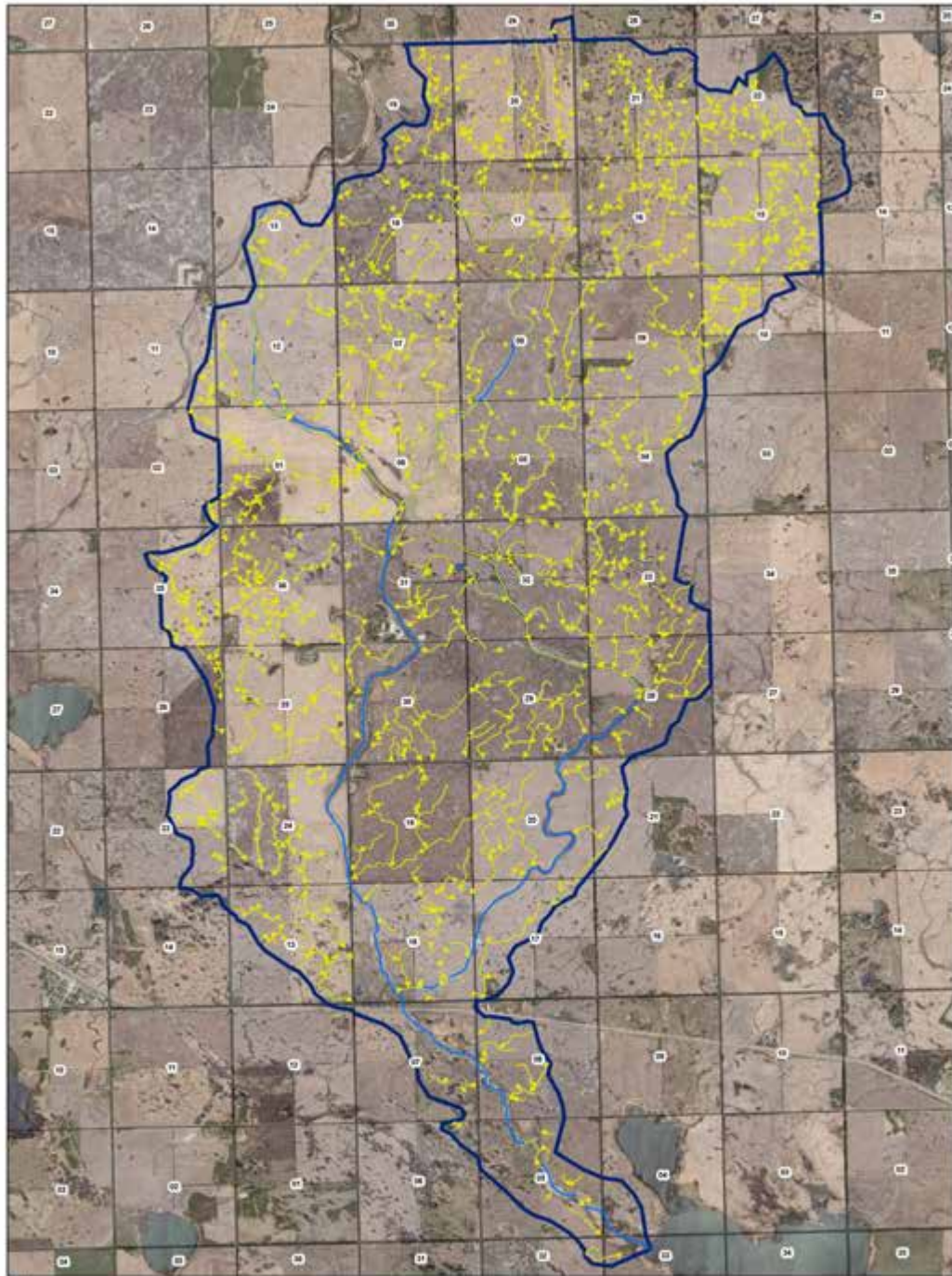
We field verified all the mapped flow control structures in October. This involved using the truck/ATV to drive out to each flow control, recording measurements and taking pictures.

We had a meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Margo Town Hall which involved 12 landowners, and 1 representative from each RM involved in the project (3 in total, RM of Invermay, Hazel Dell and Sasman). At the meeting we did a presentation that outlined the work we had done up to that point and what needed to be done and submitted for the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

We submitted the final draft application to WSA on November 15<sup>th</sup> which included the drainage application, mapped sketch plans for each quarter, overview map, pictures of the flow control locations, and elevation profile of the adequate outlet.



# Saline Lake - Overview



**Scale:**  
 1:50,000  
 Projected Coordinate System:  
 NAD 1983 CSRS UTM ZONE 13N

**Date:**  
 May 11, 2017

**Client:**  
 [Redacted]

**Map Produced By:**  
 [Redacted]

**Disclaimer:**  
 [Redacted]

- Legend**
- Drainage
  - Creek
  - Saline Lake Boundary



**PROJECT LOCATION OVERVIEW**

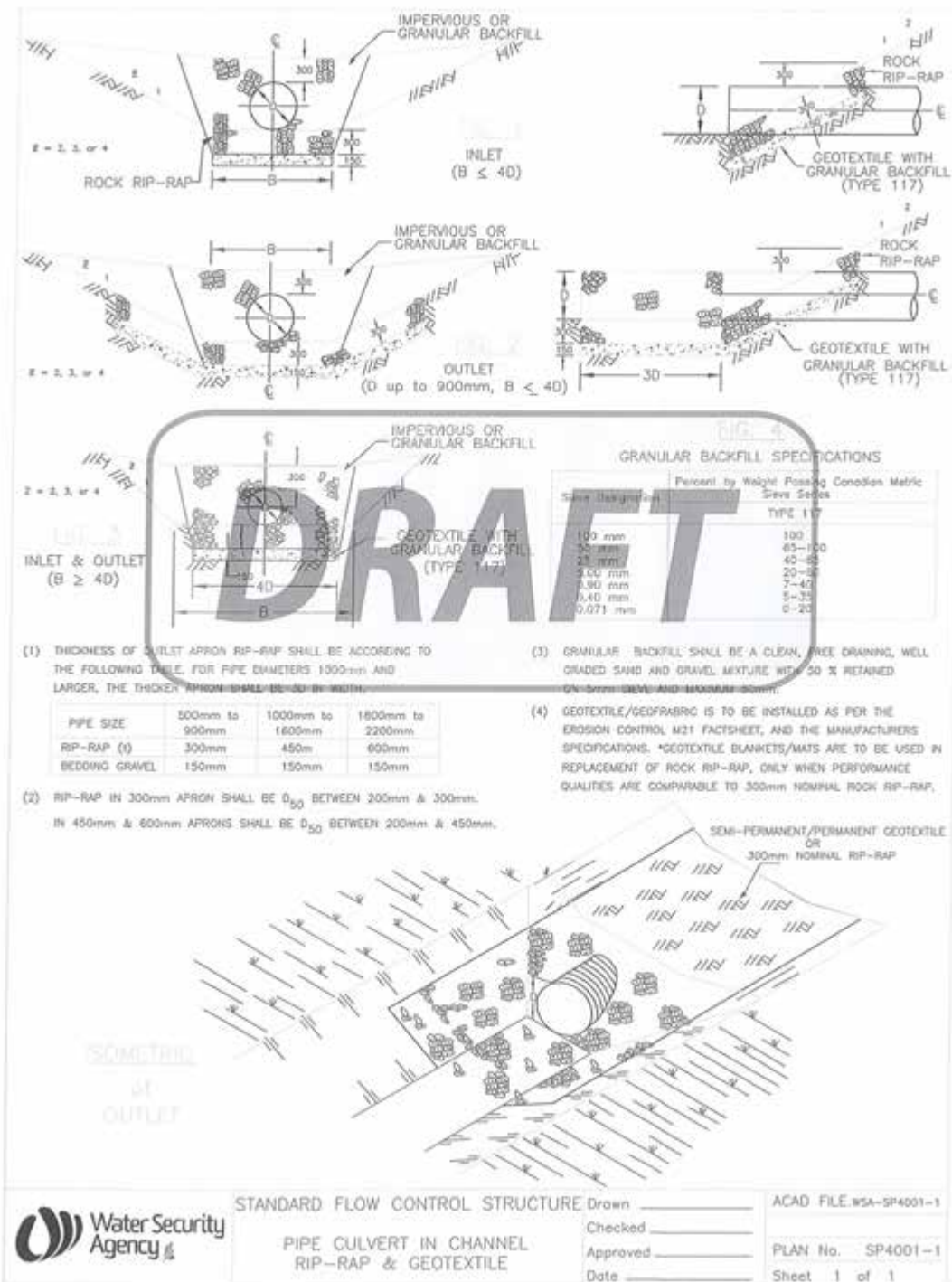




## Standard Flow Control Design & Installation



(Pictures provided by the AWSA)



**Standard Flow Control Construction Drawing  
 Provided By WSA**

## **Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Project**

ALUS is an agriculture-based conservation program. Core support comes from ALUS Canada through various federal government and private organizations. The AWSA is the delivery agent and program administrator within the Assiniboine Watershed.

Our Current Program Funding Structure:

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.
Hen House	\$10/year	Artificial nesting structures designed to provide mallards with a safe place to nest, requiring yearly maintenance of flax straw and structure prior to nesting season.

We reimburse the producer 50% of their forage establishment cost which works out to \$42.50/acre.

In 2017 we signed up 9 new participants. This includes a combined total of 837 acres of forage, conserved wetlands and upland habitat.

We attended the ALUS Prairie Workshop October 19-20 in Yorkton. In attendance were: WUQWATR, Little Sask. River Conservation District (Manitoba), Lynn Bishop - ALUS Canada Director of Operations, Michelle Primus - Director of Grants and Funding, Western, Prairie, and Eastern Hub Managers. The workshop included 5 Sessions: 1) Coordinator Go Around and Discussion 2) Database Tutorial 3) Green Infrastructure and ALUS 4) ALUS Canada 3 Year Plan & New Acre Program 5) Grant Writing & Local Funding. It was a great opportunity to network and learn from each other. Other groups were very impressed with our project numbers and when we toured 2 of our participant sites they were in awe with the size and quality of the projects.

Although we were encouraged by this, we continue to face the reality that we have not had as much interest in the program as we originally anticipated. Our goal in the coming year is to engage our Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) and rely on their connections to find ideal candidates for the program and generate greater program awareness. We are also looking for the opportunity to partner with organizations involved with forage or cattle group workshops, seminars and information nights.

If you would like to get involved with our PAC or know of an opportunity to reach more producers please speak with someone from the AWSA office.



## ALUS Fall Photos



Top Left Side: ALUS project monitoring photos, fall 2017

Above: ALUS producer, Garry Richards gives a talk on soil health during our fall 2017 ALUS field tour

Left: A photo op at ALUS producer, Randy Slager's project site during our fall 2017 ALUS field tour

(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).

Rhein Highway 309  
Culverts  
Looking  
Upstream  
Beginning of  
August 2017

Board Chair, Gary  
Liebrecht, said he  
doesn't ever recall  
the creek being  
so dry.

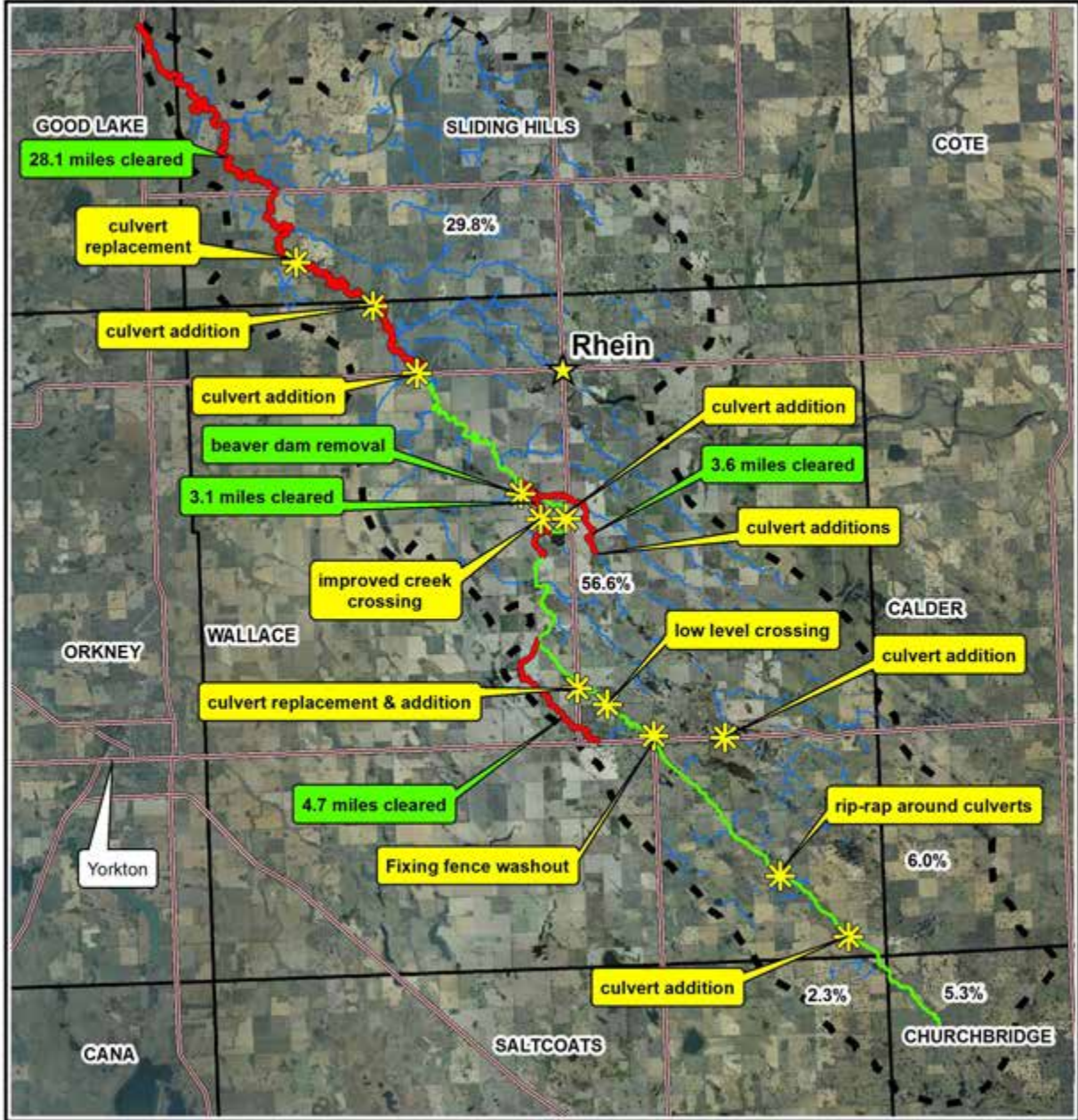


Rhein Highway 309  
Culverts  
Looking  
Downstream  
Beginning of  
August 2017

(Pictures provided by AWSA)

# Wallace Creek Watershed Association Board No.11

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



### Legend

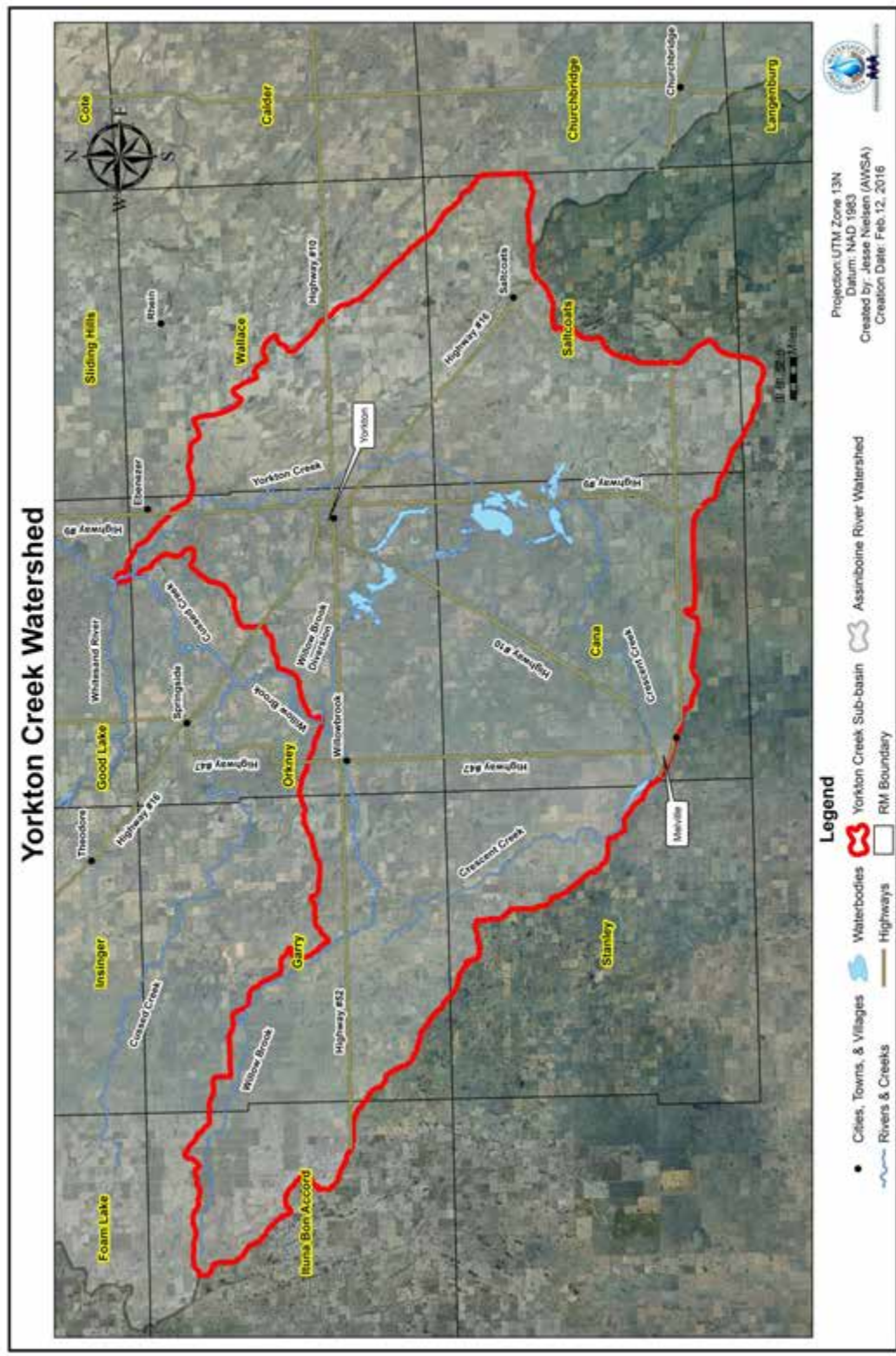
1:225,000

- Channel Clearing Completed
- Infrastructure Projects
- Wallace Creek
- Waterways
- Highway
- RM Boundary
- Watershed Boundary



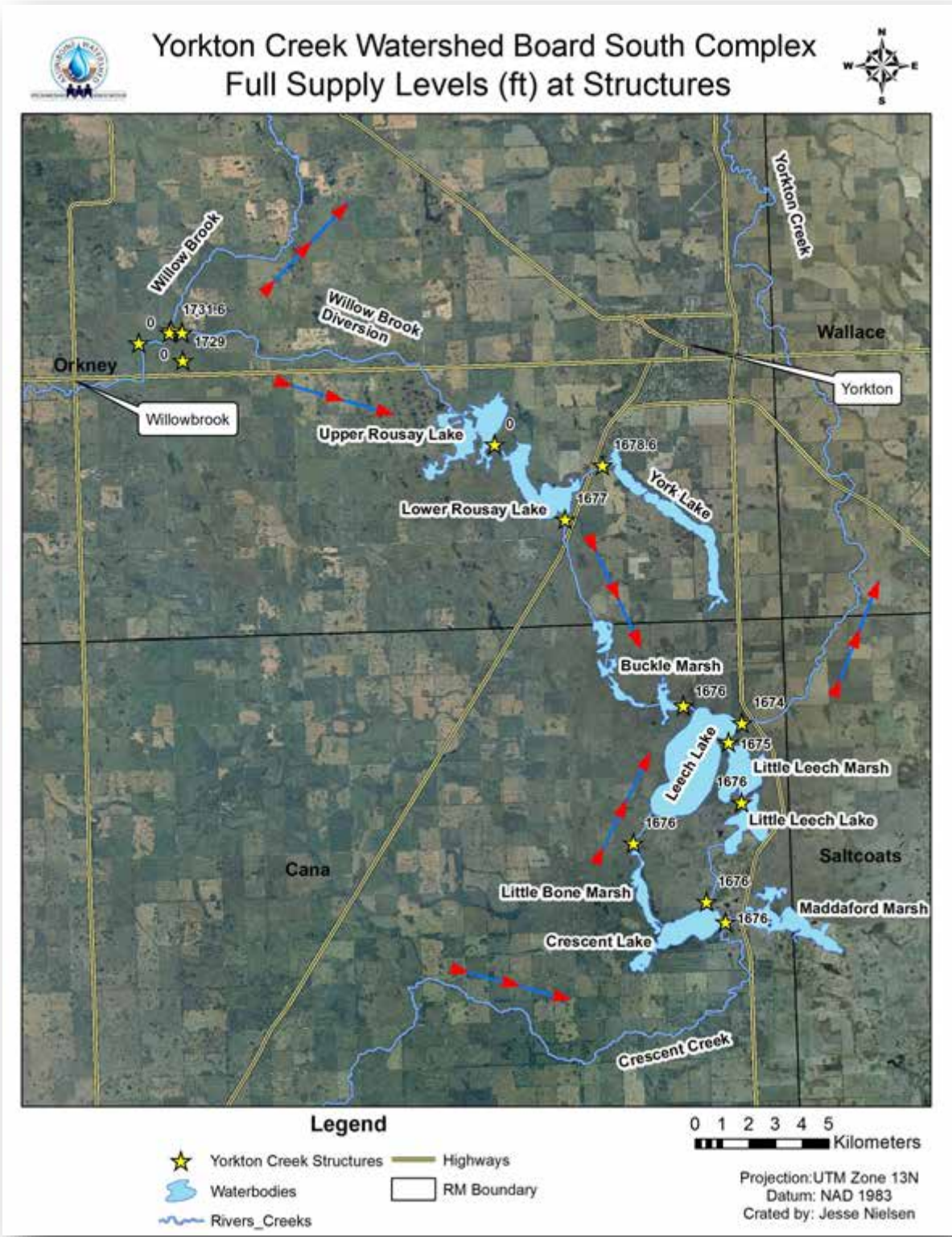
Created: Dec. 2, 2016  
 Projection: UTM Zone 13N  
 Datum: NAD 1983  
 Created by: Jesse Nielsen (AWSA)

# Yorkton Creek Watershed Association Board No.4





# Yorkton Creek Watershed Association Board No.4



# Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring

The AWSA (summer student, Jayden Buchberger) joined the effort against the spread of zebra and quagga mussels in the summer of 2017 by monitoring 5 lakes in and around the Assiniboine River Watershed. The monitoring was part of a provincial-wide initiative, with funding coming from the Ministry of Environment to the watershed stewardship groups for monitoring and education purposes.

We were given the following lakes to monitor for the Ministry of Environment:

- Batka Lake (Duck Mountain Provincial Park)
  - Main Dock
- Fishing Lake
  - Leslie Beach
  - Chorney Beach
  - KC Beach
  - Buckhorn Bay
  - Ottmann Beach
- Good Spirit Lake
  - Main Provincial Park
  - Provincial Beach
  - Canora Beach
  - Burgis Beach
  - North Shore
- Lake of the Prairies
  - Rickers Campground
  - Pyott's West Campground
  - Lost Meadow Resort
  - Concession Boat Launch
  - Shellmouth Dam
  - Dropmore South
  - Prairie Lake Lodge
- Madge Lake
  - St. Michael's Camp
  - Midway Beach
  - Jubilee
  - Pickerel Point
  - Ranger Bay



Good Spirit Lake AIS Signage

Monitoring involved a substrate sampler (a piece of PVC pipe 1/2 filled with concrete) attached to the dock at each location, suspended approximately 1 foot above the bottom. Jayden went to the sites monthly, where she'd pull up the sampler and give a thorough visual inspection for the presence of mussels. We're happy to report that no mussels were detected by any of the groups monitoring across the province!



Substrate Sampler



Jayden Educating the Public at Madge Lake



(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

## Pizza Farm

The AWSA is proud to have volunteered once again at the Ministry of Agriculture's Pizza Farm in 2017. 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 the AWSA and Ministry of Agriculture)

## 2017 Poster Contest

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association participated in the SAW provincial poster contest yet again in 2017. The theme was “Water Conservation”, and the contest was open to all grade 5, grade 6, and grade 7 students. Entries could win several local prizes, and first place posters were judged at the SAW conference for a chance to win \$1000, with \$500 going to the winning student and \$500 to their school. The AWSA would like to thank all participating students and their schools, and hope to welcome them back in 2018!



**1st place**  
Keira Gilbert  
Grade 5  
Melville, SK



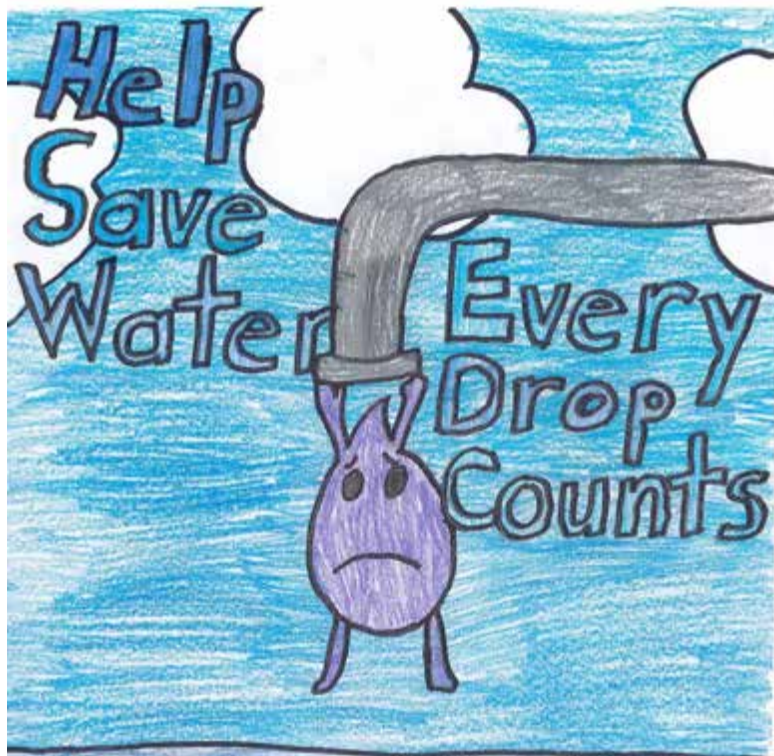
Cam giving a presentation  
about Water Conservation to  
Yorkdale School students  
Yorkton, SK



# 2017 Poster Contest



**2nd place**  
Macy Burkell  
Grade 5  
Yorkdale Central School  
Yorkton, SK



**3rd place**  
Alexa Olson  
Grade 7  
Norquay School

To see our top ten poster contest finalists, check out the *What We're Doing* tab on our website!

# Help for Our Feathered Friends - Yorkton Project

This project was aimed at improving mallard duck nesting habitat within the City of Yorkton. Through funding obtained by WWF's Go Wild Community Grants, presented by Telus, the AWSA teamed up with children from the 1<sup>st</sup> Melville Scout group and the 8<sup>th</sup> Yorkton Scout group to build and install 7 nesting tunnels on the Ravine Ecological Preserve in Yorkton.

Cam and Jesse attended an evening Scout meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> where they gave a presentation on the Assiniboine River Watershed and the many animals (including mallard ducks) that rely on wetlands for their home. After the presentation, the AWSA staff assisted the children in the construction of the nesting tunnels, built out of Paige wire and flax straw. 13 children were involved that evening.

The AWSA staff were joined by 5 members of the Yorkton Scout group on March 25<sup>th</sup> to install the nesting structures on the Ravine Ecological Preserve - a City of Yorkton designated park & recreational site featuring a large wetland with walking paths and picnic areas located behind the Gallagher Recreational Center in the City of Yorkton. The Scouts had an opportunity to drill holes through the ice, pound in the mounting brackets, and stuff the nesting tunnels with freshly-shredded straw. The 7 structures will serve to increase mallard duck nesting success by reducing predation rates. Following the installation activities the AWSA treated the Scouts to a pizza supper to wind-up the project. A sign was installed at the viewing platform near the wetland to educate the public as to the importance and benefit of these artificial nesting structures.

The AWSA staff had tremendous fun doing this project and looks forward to doing more projects like this in the future!

**Mallard Hen Houses**

**What is a Mallard Hen House?**

- It is an artificial nesting structure designed to provide mallards with a safe place to nest
- Mallards have a **2% success rate** when nesting on the ground, this is due to:
  - Habitat loss from urban development and agriculture = loss of nesting cover
  - The majority of nests on the ground are lost to predation of raccoons, skunks, coyotes, and foxes
- Mallards have a **60-80% success rate** when nesting in hen houses
  - If the hen succeeded with incubation, it is more likely that she will return in the following year to the same nest or a different one within close proximity
  - Ducklings can jump from the tunnels directly into the water, instead of walking over land which exposes them to predation

The 7 houses you see before you have been constructed by the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association, with help from the 1st Melville Scout group, and the 8th Yorkton Scout group. Funding provided by WWF's Go Wild Community Grants, presented by Telus.

**Can You Spot them?**

Female & male mallards, dabbling for food

Incubating female mallard

7 ducklings in a nest

Male mallard

A female mallard

(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

# Help for Our Feathered Friends - Yorkton Project



(Pictures provided by the AWSA)

## Logan Green Trout Pond Restocking

On June 16<sup>th</sup> the Logan Green Trout Pond was stocked with 300 eight inch trout. This marked the third stocking (the original 750 six inch fingerlings in 2014 and 500 six inch fingerlings 2016). Water in the pond is supplied from the backwash water (water from cleaning filters) from the City's water treatment plant as well as storm water from north-west of Logan Green. Water seeping from the pond back into the underlying shallow groundwater aquifer, coupled with evaporation, means no water actually leaves the pond.

The Logan Green Trout Pond is catch and release, and better yet you don't need a license. Massive fish can be caught at the pond. The growth and the survival of these big fish is indicative of the success of the Logan Green Water Management System (LGWMS).

Did you know that Yorkton is the largest urban centre in Saskatchewan that relies solely on underground aquifers for fresh water? The LGWMS greatly enhances Yorkton with its beauty, recreational activities, and provides a solution to waste water while ensuring water security.



(Pictures provided by the AWSA)



## **2017 Saskatchewan Pasture Tour**

The AWSA co-hosted the Saskatchewan Pasture Tour field day August 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Foam Lake area. Participating organizations included: University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Forage Council, Saskatchewan Cattleman's Association, Ducks Unlimited, Government of Saskatchewan and the AWSA. The field day was a peer-to-peer interaction day that included the latest information on forage species, pasture management, plant ID, and farm stewardship programming. The field tour started at the Foam Lake community hall where participants boarded the tour bus and travelled to Matt Fox's farm. Matt gave the group a tour of his intensive grazing operation and the positive impacts it had on his operation. The next stop was at Rob Wunder's farm that included a tour of Rob's cover crop rotations, a winter watering system and a discussion on the benefits of using cover crops. The group then stopped for lunch in the field at Kris Springer's farm. After lunch Kris gave the group a tour of an alfalfa seed field that included cutter bees. Kris gave a brief presentation on the use of cutter bees for alfalfa seed and the process involved with taking care of the bees. The last stop of the tour was at the Foam Lake community pasture that included a plant ID session where everyone got a chance to participate. The tour wrapped up back at the Foam Lake community hall where a delicious supper was prepared for the group.



(Pictures provided by the AWSA and the SK Forage Council)

# 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



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  
**CAP** – Canadian Agricultural Partnership  
**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 area of the landscape where topography dictates that all water within that area drains to a common outlet stream, creek, river, or lake.

**Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship  
Association Inc.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Year Ended October 31, 2017**

# Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.

Yorkton, Saskatchewan

October 31, 2017

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## Table of Contents

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Statement of Responsibility	1
Independent Auditors' Report	2
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	4
Statement of Operations	5
Statement of Cash Flows	6
Notes to Financial Statements	7-10



## Statement of Responsibility

The accompanying financial statements are the responsibility of the Board Members of the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc. and have been prepared in compliance with legislation, and in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards including the 4200 series.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Board Members maintain appropriate systems of internal and administrative controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are executed in accordance with proper authorization, that assets are properly accounted for and safeguarded, and that financial information produced is relevant and reliable.

The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.'s board has approved these financial statements.

Collins Barrow PQ LLP, as the organization's appointed external auditor, have audited the financial statements. The Independent Auditors' Report is addressed to the Board Members and appears on the following page. Their opinion is based upon an examination conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, performing such tests and other procedures as they consider necessary to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatements and present fairly the financial position and results of the organization in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards including the 4200 series.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member



## Independent Auditors' Report

To the board members  
Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.

### *Report on the Financial Statements*

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc., which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at October 31, 2017, and the Statements of Operations, Changes in Net Assets and Cash Flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc. as at October 31, 2017, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

**Collins Barrow PQ LLP**

*Collins Barrow PQ LLP*

Yorkton, SK  
February 12, 2018

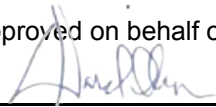
**Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.**

Yorkton, Saskatchewan

Statement of Financial Position as at October 31, 2017

	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	261,992	280,687
Accounts receivable - note 4	75,401	7,784
Prepaid expenses	5,229	4,562
	<u>342,622</u>	<u>293,033</u>
<b>Capital Assets - note 5</b>	24,613	35,470
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Security deposits	<u>1,230</u>	<u>1,230</u>
	<u>\$ 368,465</u>	<u>\$ 329,733</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities - note 6	23,600	9,318
Deferred revenue - note 7	51,469	35,407
	<u>75,069</u>	<u>44,725</u>
<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>		
Deferred revenue - note 8	<u>174,987</u>	<u>175,300</u>
	<u>250,056</u>	<u>220,025</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Invested in capital assets	24,613	35,469
Internally-restricted - SWAUMP	10,000	15,000
Internally-restricted - education and training	11,447	18,964
Unrestricted net assets	72,349	40,275
	<u>118,409</u>	<u>109,708</u>
	<u>\$ 368,465</u>	<u>\$ 329,733</u>

Approved on behalf of the board:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets  
For the year ended October 31, 2017

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	Internally-Restricted			Unrestricted Net Assets	2017 Total	2016 Total
	Invested in Capital Assets	SWAUMP	Education and Training			
Balance, beginning of year	35,469	15,000	18,964	40,275	109,708	93,819
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	( 10,006)	( 5,000)	( 7,517)	31,224	8,701	15,889
Interfund transfer - tree planting revenue	( 850)			850		
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 24,613</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>	<u>\$ 11,447</u>	<u>\$ 72,349</u>	<u>\$ 118,409</u>	<u>\$ 109,708</u>

*The notes to financial statements are an integral  
part of these financial statements.*

# Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.

Statement of Operations  
For the year ended October 31, 2017

	Unrestricted	Capital Assets	SWAUMP	Education and Training	2017	2016
<b>Revenue</b>						
Environment Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada	38,247				38,247	61,852
Water Security Agency - Core and miscellaneous	100,150				100,150	105,341
Water Security Agency - Drainage	57,313				57,313	28,871
Water Security Agency - Wetland Conservation						12,250
Ministry of Agriculture	59,318				59,318	58,097
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds	5,363				5,363	425
Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)	32,151				32,151	13,485
Wallace Creek Watershed	14,208				14,208	17,614
Yorkton Creek Watershed	12,750				12,750	15,943
Precision Weather Solutions						1,325
Membership fees	50,045				50,045	50,045
Private drainage applications	21,150				21,150	
Rental income		850			850	900
Sponsorship						2,100
Interest	1,281				1,281	999
World Wildlife Fund	1,000				1,000	
Employment and Social Development Canada	3,854				3,854	
Other	10,495				10,495	7,353
	<u>407,325</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>408,175</u>	<u>376,600</u>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Administration	238				238	228
Advertising and promotion	6,563				6,563	13,812
Amortization		10,856			10,856	11,286
Board of Directors travel and meals	17,048				17,048	10,749
Courses and seminars	4,124			7,517	11,641	6,659
Equipment rent and repairs	4,370				4,370	3,069
Insurance	3,864				3,864	1,027
Licenses and memberships	15,375				15,375	13,582
Meals	3,422				3,422	3,284
Office, printing and postage	7,616				7,616	8,065
Professional fees	7,833				7,833	7,289
Projects	54,217		5,000		59,217	45,482
Rent - building	19,625				19,625	17,219
Salaries and wages	203,724				203,724	200,277
Telephone	6,034				6,034	4,858
Travel	22,048				22,048	13,825
	<u>376,101</u>	<u>10,856</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>7,517</u>	<u>399,474</u>	<u>360,711</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses for the Year</b>	<u>\$ 31,224</u>	<u>\$ ( 10,006)</u>	<u>\$ ( 5,000)</u>	<u>\$ ( 7,517)</u>	<u>\$ 8,701</u>	<u>\$ 15,889</u>

*The notes to financial statements are an integral part of these financial statements.*

# Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.

Statement of Cash Flows  
For the year ended October 31, 2017

	2017	2016
<b>Cash Provided By (Used In):</b>		
Operations		
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	8,701	15,889
Add items not requiring cash resources		
Amortization	10,856	11,286
Change in long-term deferred revenue	( 313)	84,875
Net change in working capital	<u>( 37,939)</u>	<u>34,130</u>
	( 18,695)	146,180
Investing activities		
Capital asset purchases	<u>0</u>	<u>( 23,201)</u>
<b>Net Cash Increase (Decrease) for the Year</b>	( 18,695)	122,979
Cash position, beginning of year	<u>280,687</u>	<u>157,708</u>
<b>Cash Position, End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 261,992</u>	<u>\$ 280,687</u>
<b>Represented By:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 261,992</u>	<u>\$ 280,687</u>
Net change in working capital consists of:		
Decrease (increase) - accounts receivable	( 67,617)	87,798
- prepaid expenses	( 667)	( 3,374)
Increase (decrease) - accounts payable and accrued liabilities	14,283	( 7,713)
- other current liabilities	<u>16,062</u>	<u>( 42,581)</u>
	<u>\$( 37,939)</u>	<u>\$ 34,130</u>

*The notes to financial statements are an integral  
part of these financial statements.*

# Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements  
For the year ended October 31, 2017

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## 1. Nature of Operations

The organization was incorporated on January 23, 2007 under the Non-Profit Corporations Act. The Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc. works to protect and enhance source water in the Assiniboine River Watershed as guided by the Assiniboine River Watershed Water Protection Plan and the Yorkton Area Aquifers Source Water Protection Plan. The organization is not subject to income tax.

## 2. Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements are the responsibility of management and have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting (PSA) standards. Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc. has adopted the standards for government not-for-profit organizations, set forth at PSA Handbook section PS 4200 to PS 4270.

### (a) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents represents cash on hand and cash held in banks.

### (b) Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization.

The assets are amortized on a straight-line basis at the following rates:

Vehicles	10%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	12.5%
Computer equipment	25%
Computer software	25%
Signage	25%

In the year of purchase, capital assets are amortized at one-half the above rates.

### (c) Revenue

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions, subject to external stipulations, are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Restricted contributions for which the related restrictions remain unfulfilled are accumulated as deferred contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Deferred contributions are the portion of grants received prior to year end which relate to programs and services to be delivered after year end.

Members' fees are set annually by the board of directors and are recognized as revenue proportionately over the fiscal year to which they relate.

Investment income comprised of interest from cash and fixed income investments are recognized on an accrual basis. Interest on fixed income investments is recognized over the terms of these investments using the effective interest method. Other investment income is recognized when it is received.

## Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements  
For the year ended October 31, 2017

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### 2. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

#### (d) Financial instruments

##### *Measurement of financial instruments*

The organization initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value, except for certain non-arm's length transactions.

The organization subsequently measures all its financial assets and liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in excess of revenue over expenses.

##### *Impairment*

Financial assets measured at cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in excess of revenue over expenses. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in excess of revenue over expenses.

#### (e) Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reported period. These estimates are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the statement of operations in the period in which they became known.

Significant estimates have been made in the following financial statement areas:

- Useful life of capital assets
- Deferred revenues, accounts receivable and recognized grant revenues - the ultimate approval of the eligibility of expenditures relating to restricted grants lies with the granting body

### 3. Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

The organization is not exposed to significant risks through its financial instruments with the exception of credit risk.

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The organization is exposed to credit risk from the potential non-payment of accounts receivable.



## Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements  
For the year ended October 31, 2017

	2017	2016
<b>4. Accounts Receivable</b>		
Accounts receivable are comprised of the following items:		
Accounts receivable	13,386	6,583
Grant accounts receivable	59,950	
Goods and services tax receivable	2,065	1,201
	<b>\$ 75,401</b>	<b>\$ 7,784</b>

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value 2017	Net Book Value 2016
<b>5. Capital Assets</b>				
Vehicles	9,267	1,390	7,877	8,803
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	7,589	3,582	4,007	4,790
Computer equipment	22,892	13,320	9,572	15,295
Computer software	8,220	5,063	3,157	4,421
Signage	17,286	17,286		2,161
	<b>\$ 65,254</b>	<b>\$ 40,641</b>	<b>\$ 24,613</b>	<b>\$ 35,470</b>

	2017	2016
<b>6. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities are comprised of the following items:		
Accounts payable	7,405	868
Government remittances	3,546	2,793
Accrued wages	12,649	5,657
	<b>\$ 23,600</b>	<b>\$ 9,318</b>

	Balance, Beginning of Year	Less Amount Recognized	Plus Amount Received	Balance, End of Year
<b>7. Deferred Revenue - Short-Term</b>				
Lake Winnipeg Basin Stewardship Fund - Wetland Restoration	1,747	1,747		
Agri-Environmental Group Planning	14,261	59,317	60,200	15,144
Ducks Unlimited Wetland Project	6,311			6,311
Memberships	8,400	50,045	50,045	8,400
Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)		16,561	37,750	21,189
Water Security Agency - Core		100,150	100,575	425
Water Security Agency - Drainage	4,688	4,688		
	<b>\$ 35,407</b>	<b>\$ 232,508</b>	<b>\$ 248,570</b>	<b>\$ 51,469</b>

## Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association Inc.

Notes to Financial Statements  
For the year ended October 31, 2017

### 8. Deferred Revenue - Long-Term

	Balance, Beginning of Year	Less Amount Recognized	Plus Amount Received	Balance, End of Year
Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)	147,800	15,590	42,777	174,987
Environment Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada	<u>27,500</u>	<u>36,500</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>          </u>
	<u>\$ 175,300</u>	<u>\$ 52,090</u>	<u>\$ 51,777</u>	<u>\$ 174,987</u>

### 9. Commitments

The organization leases a 2016 Toyota Tundra with Toyota Financial Services under a lease expiring on September 8, 2019. Monthly lease payments are \$675 per month.

The organization leases premises which are located at 29, 2nd Avenue N., Yorkton, Saskatchewan. The lease agreement is for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2017 with an option to renew for one additional term. The lease calls for annual payments of \$19,200 plus taxes.

### 10. Economic Dependence

In 2017, the organization received 39% (2016 - 39%) of its operating revenue from the Water Security Agency, 17% (2016 - 4%) from Alternative Land Use Services and 15% (2016 - 15%) from the Ministry of Agriculture, and is economically dependent on them.

### 11. Restrictions on Net Assets

The accounts of the organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. For financial reporting purposes, accounts with similar characteristics have been combined in the following major funds:

(a) Unrestricted

The unrestricted fund reflects the primary operations of the organization including revenues received for operations and administration.

(b) Invested in capital assets

Invested in capital assets is a restricted fund that reflects the equity of the organization in capital assets. The capital fund includes revenues designated for the acquisition of capital assets and revenues received for rental of equipment. Expenses consist primarily of the amortization of capital assets and tree planting equipment expenses.

(c) Internally-restricted for SWAUMP

The Source Water and Urban Municipal Project (SWAUMP) reflects funds that have been approved by the board for use by municipalities for water management related projects. A total of six municipalities will be selected for funding of \$2,500 each.

(d) Internally-restricted for education and training

The education and training reflects funds that have been approved by the board to be reserved to be used by staff for voluntary job related education and training via conferences, workshops, seminars, classes, etc.





STEWARDSHIP



ASSOCIATION

# 2017 EDITION

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