Water Security Agency

The 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan

February 2013

OUTLINE

- Challenges
- The Plan
- The Agency
- Implications for Agriculture

Water Security Plan Development

- Consultation in 2011 with 174 individuals in 91 organizations
- Strong support for a water strategy and a single water agency
- 2011 Platform Commitment

Plan Development

- Draft strategy spring 2012
- Meetings with 57 organizations - including municipal, agriculture, mining, forestry, wildlife and environmental interests and the FSIN
- Consultation document online and people invited to comment
- Numerous written submissions were received

Major Challenges Identified

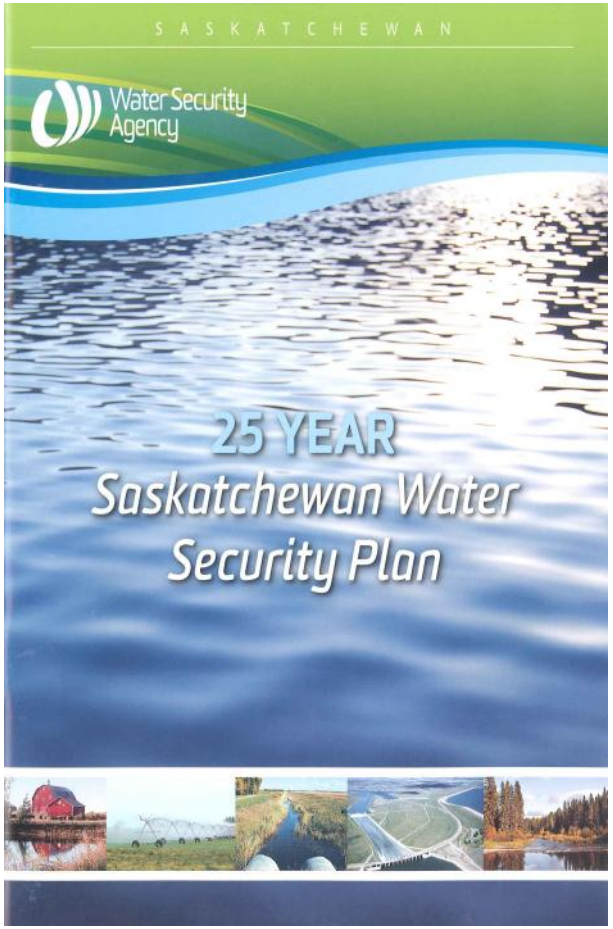
- Challenge of growth
- Increasing water demand
- Flooding
- Drought
- Water quality
- Overlap, gaps and duplication
- Need to ensure safe drinking water
- Outdated legislation
- Deteriorating water infrastructure

Why a 25 Year Water Security Plan?

- The Plan's 25 year perspective recognizes that decisions affecting water have a long term impact
- Actions are scheduled over the next 5 years; the Plan itself will be renewed in 5 years time, again with a 25 year perspective

25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan

- Vision
- 7 Principles
- 7 Goals
- 29 Action Areas
- 89 Actions
- Released October 15, 2012
- Available online at www.wsask.ca



25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan

“ Water supporting economic growth, quality of life and environmental well being”

Principles

- Long Term Perspective
- Water for Future Generations
- Integrated Approach to Management
- Partnerships and Participation
- Shared Responsibility
- Value of Water
- Continuous Improvement

Goal 1: Sustainable Supplies

- Efficient water use
- New infrastructure (supply to Buffalo Pound)
- Water allocation system (updated policy and regulations)
- Climate change adaptation
- Water availability study (aquifer mapping, value of water)

Goal 2: Safe Drinking Water

- Municipal systems (review and update, need for regional systems)
- Semi-public systems
- Private systems
  - education
  - encourage testing

Goal 3: Protection of Water Resources

- Water quality
  - water quality objectives
- Wetland conservation
  - new wetland policy
- Ecosystem health and biodiversity protection
  - establish environmental flows, DFO protocols
- Source water protection planning approach

Goal 4: Safe Dams

- Dam safety and maintenance
  - infrastructure renewal plan
- Sustainable operation
  - reservoir operating plans

Goal 5: Flood and Drought Damage Reduction

- Flood damage prevention and emergency response
  - Statements of Provincial Interest in community plans, improve forecasting, develop a federal - provincial flood mitigation program

"In 1852, a year memorable in Rupert's Land for the great floods which covered an immense tract of country, the Indians represent the Qu'Appelle Valley as filled with a mighty river throughout its entire length" (Hind 1860)

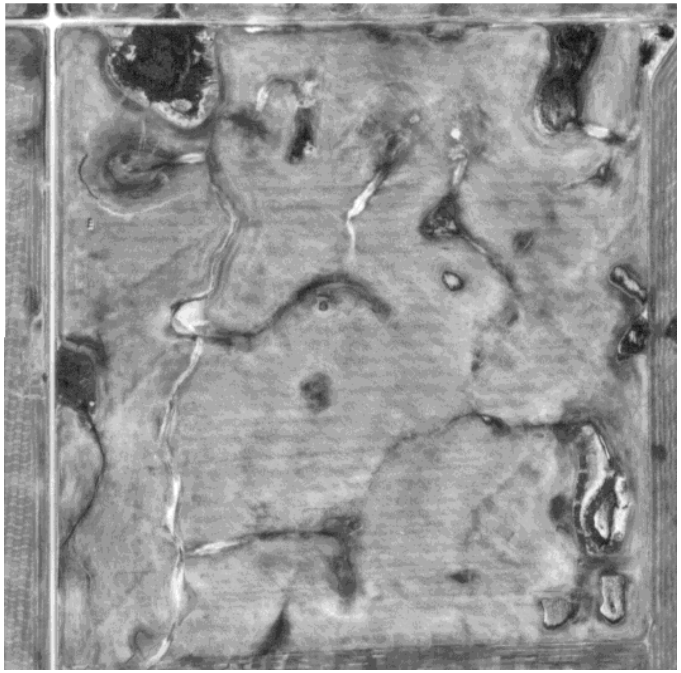
- Drought response – water allocation regulations to help manage shortages

Agricultural Drainage (Goal 5 cont'd)

- Assess the range of alternatives and implement strategic actions to manage drainage (2013)
- Develop a results-based drainage works approval process and associated enforcement strategy, including the potential use of financial penalties (2014)

Agricultural Drainage

- Develop new strategies to effectively address excessive moisture concerns
- Including provision of information and advice on proper drainage design and management
- Consideration of the benefits of wetland retention and restoration (2014)



Options

Goal 6: Adequate Data, Information and Knowledge

- Data collection and management
- Communication and information
  - User friendly information portal
  - Publish State of the Watershed Report every 5 years
- Research partnerships
  - Global Institute for Water Security
  - Prairie Adaptive Research Collaborative

Goal 7: Effective Governance and Engagement

- Modern legislation
- Provincial and federal coordination
  - DM's Water Committee
- Engagement and consultation with First Nations and Métis
- Provincial Water Council
- Engagement with public and local governments
- Interjurisdictional water management

Water Security Agency

- Established to lead implementation of the Saskatchewan Water Security Plan
- Mandate is the management of infrastructure, protection of water quality and the maintenance of aquatic habitats and sustainable water supplies

Water Security Agency

- Brings together, for the first time, all of government's core water management responsibilities and technical expertise
- Ensures a comprehensive and integrated approach
- Simplifies the water-related regulatory processes and establishes a one window approach
- Helps ensure drinking water safety through source to tap approach

Water Security Agency

- Transfer existing water management programs and services from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Heath
- Regulatory authority over water supply including water allocations, water quality, municipal drinking water and wastewater systems and similar larger private systems, works such as dams and channels, drainage, and protection of aquatic habitat

To Water Security Agency

Ministry of Environment
- Drinking and wastewater
- Water quality programs
- Aquatic habitat protection permits

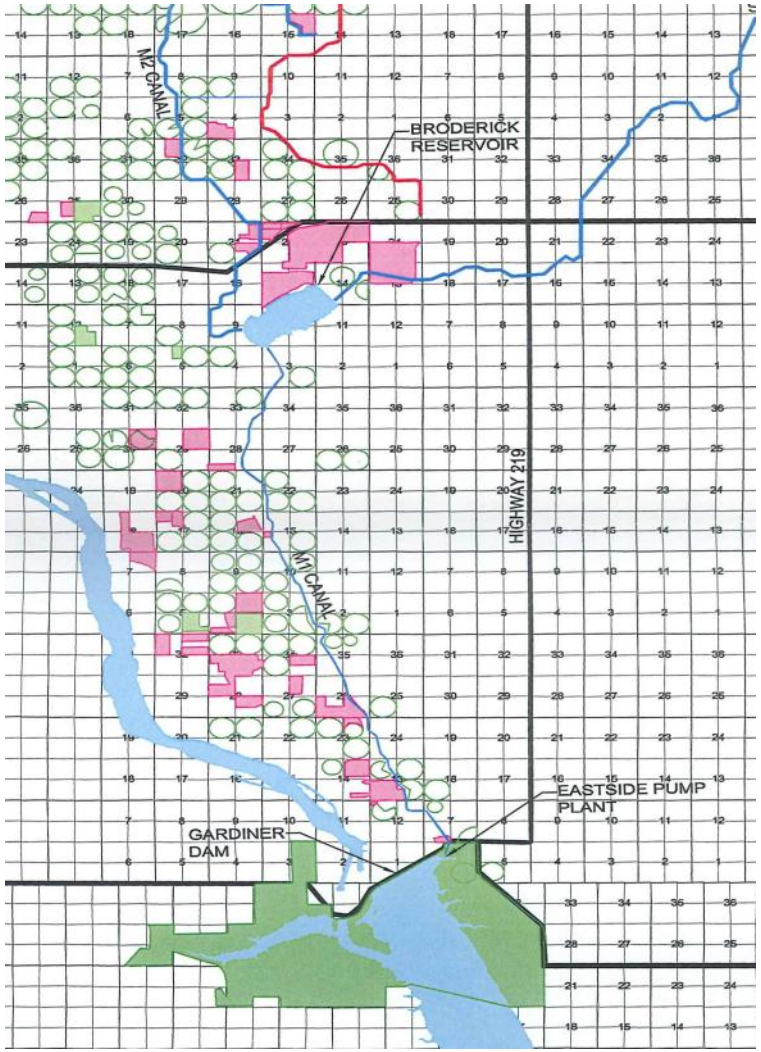
Ministry of Health
- Small systems (less than 18 cu metres/yr)
- Municipal wells, work camps, etc

To Water Security Agency

Ministry of Agriculture

- Irrigation – M1 canal
  Diefenbaker to Broderick
- Eastside pump station
- Pumping program

M1 Canal



Water Security Agency

- Headquartered in Moose Jaw
- About 240 staff
- Regional Offices in Yorkton, Swift Current, Nipawin, North Battleford, and Weyburn
- Offices in Regina, Saskatoon and a number of other communities

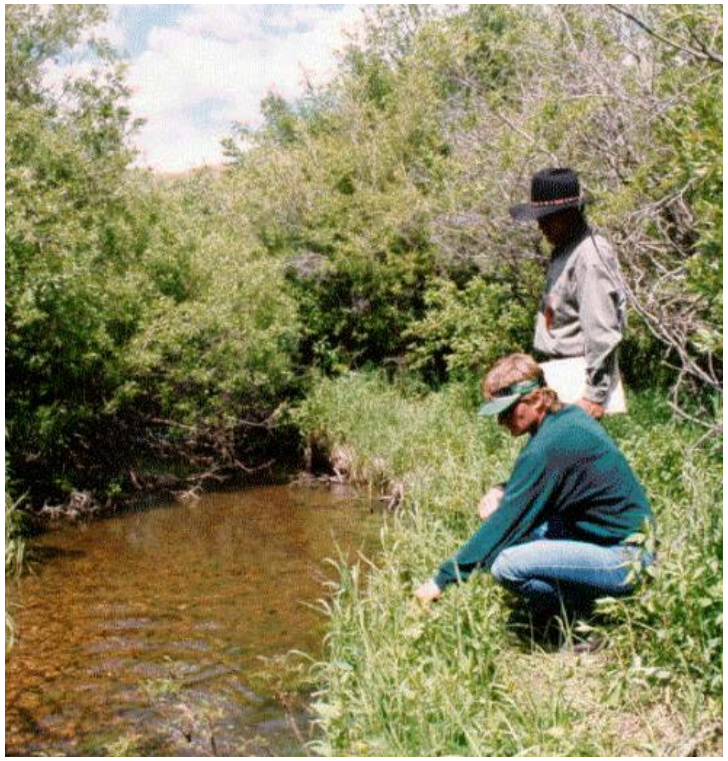
Agriculture and the 25 Year Water Security Plan
Local Examples

- Agricultural BMPs
- Drought and Flood Adaptation
- Drainage Management
- Research
- Aquatic habitat

Agricultural BMPs

Goal : Protection of Water Resources

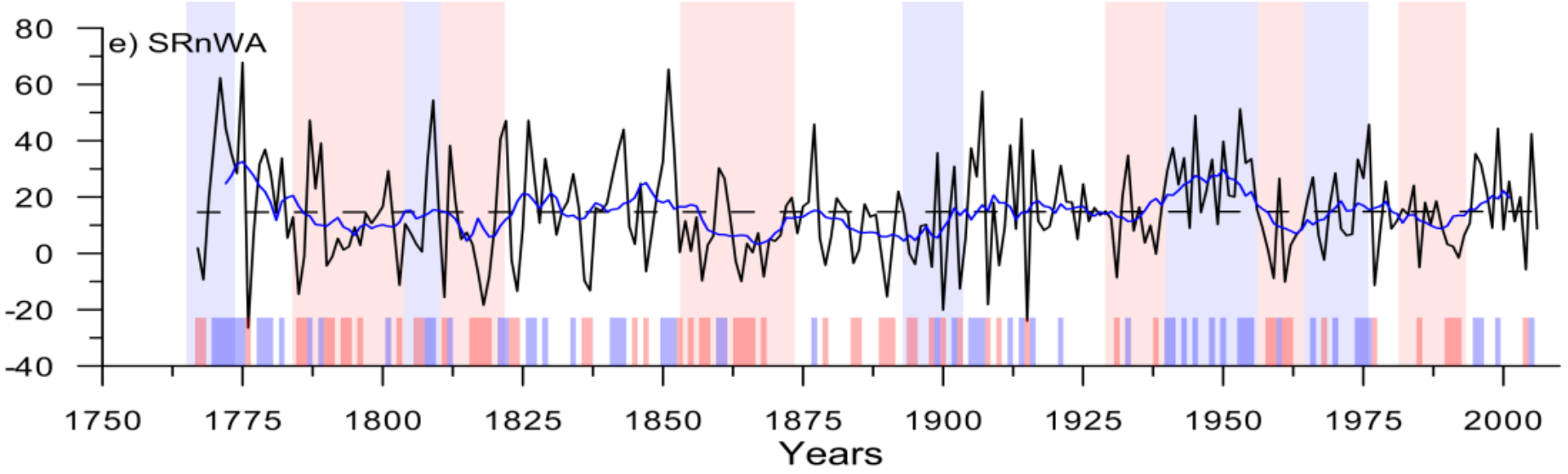
- Calling Lakes Farm Stewardship Group - $1.5 million
- Eastern Lower Qu'appelle AEGP - $1.2 million
- Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association - $2.3 million
- New plan in the Lower Qu'appelle



Flood and Drought Adaptation

Goal: Sustainable Supplies

- Prairie Regional Adaptation Collaborative
  - Drought and Excessive Moisture Planning
  - Vulnerability of grasslands



Drainage management
Goal 5: Flood and Drought Damage reduction

- Moose Jaw River Watershed –Okabena project ($800K)
- Assiniboine watershed – Cupar Creek

BMP Research

Goal : Adequate Data, Information and Knowledge

- Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial Management Practices (AAFC led)
  - Perennial cover
  - Nutrient management
  - Wetland restoration
  - Winter site management

Aquatic Habitat

Goal : Protection of Water Resources

- SWF Fish passage on Whitesand and Assiniboine
- Application for three projects in 2008
- 3 of 5 crossings have been removed by 2012

Region 3 Participates in River Study

In April/May of 2005, Region 3 branches of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation took part in a study on the Whitesand and Assiniboine Rivers in eastern Saskatchewan. This study was to determine the current fish blockage on the two rivers and how the design of each structure affects the passage of spawning fish in the spring.

SWF members from River Ridge, Kamsack, Norquay, Yorkton, and Melville clubs inventoried those low level crossings for about 3 weeks to determine the amount of fish that were or were not able to cross these different structures. The study will provide information about the different designs to be used to help build fish crossings that would not hamper fish spawning.

Ken Stanogg is the Region 3 Fisheries Chairman and is a member of the Upper Assiniboine Advisory Committee, which is another one of the organizations taking part in this project, along with DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada) through their Stewardship in Action Program.

Jason Puckett from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has been giving the study a lot of help with his knowledge of fish habitat, as well as information on the fish spawning cycles. Jason was measuring water velocity and flow of the Assiniboine and Whitesand Rivers for this study as well.

The goal of this project is to increase fish passage for spring spawning along both rivers.

L to R: Jim Menzies, Melissa Menzies, Dylan Ranconner, Rebekah Thomas, Ian Thomas

L to R: Don Macek, Teila Macek, Doug Lapitsky

L to R: Sarah Severson, Darrell Severson, Doug Lapitsky, Dave Severson, Elsie Severson, Don Macek

L to R: Richard Boychuk, Damon Paley, Barry Signarowski, Brent Van Parys, James Kluk, Clinton Kraynick, Keith Ostafie

L to R: Robin Ludba, Brad Thompson, Jason Puckett, Damon Paley, Garth Bates, Kathy Thomas, LeeAnn Thomas, Rebekah Thomas, Kerry Perepeluk, Ian Thomas, Dustin Perepeluk, and Hal Thomas.

L to R: Walter Lesiuk (manned the Kamsack overflow alone for over 3 weeks), Doug Lapitsky

14 SASKATCHEWAN EDITION Outdoor edge

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