

South Sask River Watershed Stewards Inc.

Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) Report for June 23rd 2008 AGM

Planning Objective 6.1 Watershed Education

We have been working along with organizations such as Sask Watershed Authority (SWA), Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin (Partners SRB), Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAB), Agriculture Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) to deliver information and raise awareness in the Watershed through the following initiatives:

- Creation and ongoing development of the SSRWSI Website providing access to literature and information on programs, events, watershed relevant issues and individual stewardship opportunities. (www.southsaskriverstewards.ca)
- Creation and distribution of the SSRWSI informational brochure.
- Visits to RM and Town Council Meetings.
- Creation and distribution of letters requesting a response indicating their support of the Source Water Protection Plan to Sask Gov't Agencies (SWA, Sask Ag, Gov't Relations, Environment, Highways, and Industry & Resources), Federal Gov't Agencies (PFRA, PPWB, DFO, and Env. Canada), as well as various NGO's (Partners SRB, DU, Sask Wildlife Federation, Sask Stock Growers, Sask Env'l Society, Regional Health Boards Sask Waste Reduction Council, and REDA).
- Hosting Tradeshow Booths at SUMA and SARM Conferences.
- Production and delivery of an informational PowerPoint presentation covering organizational structure, present and potential projects and programming (delivered at the January WAC meetings and posted on the Website).
- Two sets of 3 Watershed Advisory Committee meetings, (one in Jan. 08 & one in Apr. 08) where programs such as stewardship awards, well decommissioning workshops, rural water quality testing and agri-environmental group planning (AEGP) were promoted.
- Gathering and compiling educational information, games / activities and promotional materials for distribution to schools within the watershed.
- Attending conferences such as "We Are All Upstream" (held in Winnipeg in Nov. 07) to learn about the problems encountered in Lake Winnipeg and other watersheds and what actions are being taken to address these problems.
- Attending community meetings:
 - Fish Farming on Lake Diefenbaker meeting in Lucky Lake (Feb. 08)
 - National Energy Board Meeting in Outlook (Mar. 08)
- Establishing connections and relations with other Watershed Steward Organizations and organizations referred to in Key Actions in the SWPP.
- Participation in training sponsored by Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAP) designed to facilitate and improve communications with watershed residents.

- Promotion of river related initiatives such as Canadian Rivers Day and Heritage River Designation in conjunction with outreach and awareness events such as the Open House in our new location within the Town of Outlook office building.
- Distribution of posters for Rivers Day to schools, parks and communities creating an opportunity to make connections within each of those domains.
- Press releases and articles in local papers, publicizing the initiation of the plan, the appointment of the Watershed Coordinator and the SSRWSI Open House on Can. Rivers Day.
- Articles in publications such as SWA's Prairie Update and Farming for Tomorrow.
- Compilation of watershed photos and material to use on Website, in the newsletter and in SSRWSI publications and literature.

Planning Objective 6.1 Watershed Education (cont'd)

Upcoming plans and initiatives – Summer & Fall 2008:

- Completion and distribution of South Sask River Watershed Newsletter.
- Design and contract for a display package to be used at outreach events.
- Organize fall school visits.
- Beneficial Management Plan Workshop/Field Day in the West WAC area, with Rick Jensen of the Gull Lake Regional Water and Development Committee.
- Well Decommissioning Workshop/Field Days – 3 or 4 throughout the watershed.
- Xeriscaping Workshop – location to be determined.
- Composting Workshop – location to be determined.
- Attend fairs and exhibitions throughout the watershed to promote watershed initiatives.

Planning Objective 6.2 Providing Safe Drinking Water to Watershed Residents

- Promotion of Rural Water Quality Advisory program through SWA.
- Partnering with the City of Saskatoon on water quality assessment program.
- Collaborating with other organizations such as REDA, University of Saskatchewan and Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) to coordinate collection and compilation of water quality data.

Planning Objective 6.3 Groundwater Threats and Protection

- Promotion and distribution of the Landowner's Guide to Water Well Management through opportunities such as WAC meetings, Tradeshows and community events.
- Well Decommissioning Workshops (summer and fall 2008).
- Promotion and distribution of information on the Rural Water Quality Advisory Program through opportunities such as WAC meetings, Tradeshows and community events.

Planning Objective 6.4 Gravel Pits

- WaterWolf Land-use Planning Project (operating out of the MidSask REDA/CF office) is working with the R.M. of Dundurn to develop this bylaw, which we will have access to, once the strategic and legal details have been established, at which point we will be able to share the information with the other R.M.s in our Watershed.

Planning Objective 6.6 Landfills (Waste Disposal Sites)

- Promotion of Recycling and Composting at outreach events noted above.
- Liaising and information-sharing with organizations such as Saskatchewan Environmental Society and Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council.

Planning Objective 6.8 Effluent Releases

- Attended Field day on Effluent Irrigation at Agri-Forestry Pilot project in Outlook with Lana Shaw from Sask Agriculture.
- Used the website to promote proper disposal of farm chemicals. (Sask Clean Farms program)

Planning Objective 6.9 Lake Diefenbaker Water Levels & the Operation of Gardiner Dam

- Ongoing collaboration and communication with Sask Watershed Authority personnel.

Planning Objective 6.10 Watershed Development

- Attendance at planning meetings and liaison with project personnel who are promoting responsible development around Lake Diefenbaker through the MidSask REDA WaterWolf initiative.

Planning Objective 6.11 Water Conservation

- Promotion of Water Conservation Plan from SWA and water conservation measures through the website and at various outreach events.

Planning Objective 6.15 Fish Migration and Habitat

- Fish Habitat Mapping Project funded through Sask Environment Green Initiatives Fund.

Planning Objective 6.17 Wetland Conservation

- Establishing a Wetlands Committee (Krista Connick, SWA and Paul Holtkamp, DUCs)
- Working on inventory of existing wetland conservation programs.