

Upper Souris Watershed Association (USWA) Projects



Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)

The federal and provincial government have partnered to provide funding to agricultural producers for Farm Ranch Water Infrastructure Projects (FRWIP) and Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) environmental Best Management Practices (BMP). USWA's Agri-Environmental Technical Services will assist producers with applications to receive funding assistance for approved projects.



Water Management Strategy – New Approach to Ag Drainage

New regulations, legislation and policies have been implemented to support responsible drainage. USWA works closely with Water Security Agency (WSA) and assists landowners to complete drainage applications to ensure the landowners drainage projects are in compliance with regulations.

USWA has completed the largest drainage approval in the province's history "Dry Lake". This project was 113 quarters of land or 18000 acres.

This spring USWA completed the "Vipond Creek" project that was 113 quarters or 17500 acres.

USWA continues to work on 3 other large projects and has been approached on 2 other large projects.

Other smaller networks are either underway or have been completed.

No other individual or organization has come close to gaining the level of involvement on grappling with the water management in Saskatchewan.



Water Security Agency (WSA) - Forage Program

Producers converting cultivated cropland to perennial forage within the targeted North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) area have received funding to assist with seeding costs. USWA assessed the eligibility of interested producers and assisted producers to complete the WSA Forage Agreement.

CAP programing has a forage component which is more lucrative for the producer, so USWA uses this program to fill in for producers that the FSP will not work for. USWA typically runs approximately 1500 acres through this program.



Grain Bag Recycling

Grain producers with used grain bags can utilize the Clean Farms Grain Bag Recycling program to properly dispose of the grain bags. USWA has 2 grain bag rollers that are well used by area producers. USWA currently has 2 collection depots and is working to set up an additional site within the Upper Souris Watershed to make disposal convenient for producers.



Wetland Restoration

Funding is available to restore previously drained wetlands within targeted areas of the Upper Souris Watershed. USWA will assess proposed projects and will assist in developing a restoration plan, and funding agreement on approved projects, with the landowner.

Over the years USWA has restored 285 acres of previously drained wetlands and continues to look for wetlands suitable for restoration.

USWA currently is working with 3 other watershed stewardship groups and the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative to offer wetland restoration in SE Saskatchewan.



Aquatic Invasive Species Aquatic Invasive Species are a serious risk to the Upper Souris Watershed. USWA works closely with the Ministry of Environment and, industry, boaters, fishers, and the general public to provide education on the risks, and the prevention programs that have been implemented at targeted locations, to reduce the potential spread of the invasive species into our waterbodies.

USWA is the lead with the Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Stewards and Assiniboine Watershed Stewards Association in offering AIS awareness, education and monitoring in Southeast Saskatchewan. USWA provides monitoring with substrate samplers and Veliger sampling on all 6 major lakes in USWA. Collectively our team monitors substrate samplers in 19 lakes across SE Saskatchewan. It should be noted that in the provincial stats our team accounted for approximately 60 % of the monitoring activity in the province.

The USWA team of watersheds also performed 975 Clean, Drain, Dry demonstrations on watercraft entering our waters (USWA did 685). The USWA team also presented to 1930 anglers and residents on the risk to the ecosystem that AIS presents.

Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program

USWA is trained and offers its services to the EFDRP to provide rapid assessment of need should flooding occur in SE Saskatchewan. To date USWA has not been pressed into service by Water Security agency. There is comfort in knowing that should a resident be in imminent risk of property damage due to flooding that USWA has the capacity to be on site within 24 hours.