



**Saskatchewan Farm
Stewardship Association**
PO Box 147, Yorkton SK
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www.saskfsa.org // info@saskfsa.org

UPDATE:

We hope you are reading this in the grain truck as you are getting into the harvest season.

Since the last newsletter dated - March 2014 we have undertaken a lot of activities. We completed our advertizing campaign in the Western Producer "The Fight for Fair Farmland Policy isn't Sexy.... So Who'll be Your Superstar?" It may not have generated a lot of new memberships but it certainly got some media attention. In addition we printed similar looking posters and have them placed in most RM offices in eastern Saskatchewan.

Board meetings have been held on March 17, April 14, June 9, July 23, and Aug. 18. During these meetings we planned our various engagements that we have had throughout the summer.

We had a very informative meeting with: Environment Minister Moe, Deputy Minister - Cam Swan, Chief of Staff - Megan Griffith, Asst Deputy Minister Kevin Murphy and Wayne Dybvig President Water Security Agency.

In other meetings we met with: Warren Thomson and Doug Johnson – Water Security Agency;

Aron Hershmillier, Jesse Nielsen and Katelyn Smith of Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association;

Carmen Sterling – Division 1 SARM director;

Michael Champion and Chuck Deschamps – Ducks Unlimited,

Jim Fisher and Jonathan Scarth – Delta Waterfowl.

In general we met to advance the cause of SFSA and inform the various groups of our position on surface water management, role and risk of conservation easements and role we can play in assisting in the establishment of a well developed regional strategy in water management.

We also met with the RM of Wawken, RM of Calder and hosted or participated in membership meetings in Yorkton, Kamsack, Wawota and Zenon Park.

SFSA was invited to attend the Assiniboine River Basin Planning meeting held in Virden and also Minot, ND. A comprehensive strategy among the stakeholders of the Assiniboine basin is being developed with input from major organizations and the state and provincial governments. We also sent directors to the SCDA annual meeting in Saskatoon in late March.



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A significant amount of time had been devoted to encouraging our board and membership to take a more active role in the interactive Inshtrix (<http://agdrainage.inshtrix.com/>) web-site forum that was instigated by the provincial government to get public input in the role drainage has within the province. Although it ended with mixed results, with a lower than expected participation by serious stakeholders, SFSA played a significant role in moving the process forward. We had 2 of 10 people at the table in the next level discussion initiated by Inshtrix. Our 2 board members were invited specifically to attend the meeting due to their well thought out and direct discussions on the interactive website.

ON OUR CALENDAR:

We would like to remind our members that our next **Annual Meeting will be held in Yorkton, Thursday, November 20 at the Legion Hall starting at 2 PM.** The Legion Hall is located at: **380 Broadway St W, Yorkton, SK.** We will be hosting a couple of interesting guest speakers to discuss tile drainage and also provide some insight into the direction the provincial government may be headed with the new Water Management Strategy.

Our website is currently undergoing some significant changes. As we mature and evolve into a more specific role, the board would like the website to represent our association in a more clear and concise message. Please review and check the content often by the end of September and provide the board with some insight and critique to help make our association what you want it to represent.

We plan on hosting further membership meetings throughout the winter. We will be meeting with the Environment Minister again and would like to include the Minister of Agriculture and Crop Insurance in further discussions. We will continue to meet and have conversations with SARM, APAS and WSA to find common ground on our position on surface water management. Our strength will be in our numbers.

MEMBERSHIP:

Our membership is now close to 145 members representing over 620000 acres of managed land.

Continue to refer new members to the website or to one of your directors. As we have been told by numerous supporters "the power is in the numbers!"

Remember to renew your membership in November at the annual meeting.

Contact Ken Waldherr if you have any questions about your membership fee or application.

**"THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF YOUR ORGANIZATION.
TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!"**