



SK AG WATER MANAGEMENT - OBSTACLES ON THE TABLE

Several key components of the current AG Water Management Strategy as of November 2016 will have severe negative repercussions on the Saskatchewan agriculture producer, and ultimately the GDP of Saskatchewan as outlined below:

1. LAND CONTROL

- . WSA success for pilot projects – 80% concept which means 20% of landowners do not agree = 100% failure (projects require 100% land control)
- . WSA endorsing extortion to gain land control
- . Projects are highly vulnerable unless protected by signed joint agreement, drainage easement or development of a C&D (limited information)
- . Drainage applications now require land control from RM's

2. ADEQUATE OUTLETS

- . Adequate outlets are not defined – suggest designation of adequate outlets to promote efficiency / direction for applicants
- . If not, applications will need revision, delayed approval times, frustration, resubmittals, and increase workload to producer and WSA

3. INFILLING

- . Policy draft states NO INFILLING
- . Not economically or physically feasible to construct works in this manner

4. WETLAND INVENTORY & CLASSIFICATION OF WETLANDS.

- . Wetland Inventory Mapping – inaccurate, recommend direct input from land owners
- . Classification of wetlands – all classes of wetland are considered the same when looking at restorations acres. Class 1, 2, 3 should be categorized differently than class 4 and 5 wetlands through the application process, as they are structurally different.

5. QUALIFIED PERSONS (QP) BASE PLAN MAPPING

- . QP's are utilizing "base PDF plans" as methods to confirm drainage works. These plans use the Wetland Inventory Mapping as well as "referencing aerial imagery from 1956 & 1974 as representation of slough extents during wet years". These baselines represent higher than average wetland levels – why not choose an average year?

6. WETLAND RESTORATION

- . 10% RESTORATION of wetlands - NOT REASONABLE, NOR FEASIBLE to ask producers to take productive land out of production to holdback 10% of previously drained wetlands (derived via the Wetland Inventory Mapping)
- . Solution - 10% RESTORATION at the discretion of the producer, not mandatory
- . 10% RETENTION - pending location of the 10% holdback acres and consideration of existing habitat acres on the land base

7. PERMIT TERMS

- . Extreme Risk Areas (Quill Lakes) – no permits will be issued, except for consolidations, no or limited consideration of working towards long term solutions
- . High Risk Areas – maximum length of term is 10-15 years - limited protection of the producer's investment of design, construction and registration of the project. This should be left at the discretion of the producer to decide - 10-25 years.
- . Medium to Low Risk Areas – 10- 25 years

8. QUILL LAKES

- . WSA has mandated that all drainage within the 2.2 M ac basin be closed / consolidated so no inflow enters the basin.
- . 30,000 ac of private land have been lost, 58,000 ac of crown land and another 40,000 acres of private land is at risk of being lost
- . Producers in the area have received closure letters. Producer's only options are to consolidate water / implement ditch blocks therefore potentially back-flooding productive ag land. Once full, the temporary solution projects will all drain towards the basin.
- . SaskFSA will be working with the Quill Lakes Watershed, The Quill Lakes Flood Impact Group and producers within the basin towards a long term solution

9. AQUATIC HABITAT PROTECTION PERMIT (AHPP)

- . Required for water conveyance projects such as channel clearing; channelization; wetland infilling/drainage; existing drainage ditch maintenance; and construction of new ditches – BASICALLY FOR ANY TYPE OF DRAINAGE PROJECT
- . AHPP is now included on the drainage application, permit conditions are restricting/not realistic and there are significant delays for approvals