



2017 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

SASKATCHEWAN FARM STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

SaskFSA has been working directly with Susan Ross (WSA Acting President) and Doug Johnson (WSA Executive Director) on a working group platform specific to the AG Water Management policy and WSA communication strategies. Highlights of WSA progress and other important updates below, please do not hesitate to contact any SaskFSA board director for more information or to inform SaskFSA of what is happening in your area.

SASKFSA & WSA WORKING GROUP MEETINGS – JAN 24TH, FEB 7TH & FEB 28TH – INFLUENCING POLICY

SaskFSA is at the AG Water Management Policy table with WSA. Specific progress has been made in areas of communication, emphasis on working with producers, submitting drainage applications to test the system, identifying land control challenges and how to address them, evaluating a system for determining adequate outlets, direct input into the infilling guidelines, the Request for Assistance (RFA) policy, review of compliance and enforcement documentation, evaluation of the Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit (AHPP) process, defining the Qualified Person (QP) program and identifying what information producers require to make informed decisions to bring drainage works into compliance. **These meetings are crucial to influencing the policy that will define the AG Water Management Strategy and water management on your farm moving forward.**

BILL 44 – AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER SECURITY AGENCY ACT

Minister Moe is moving BILL 44 ahead with the second reading of the bill on March 6th. Refer to – [Hansard-Bill 44 2nd Reading](#) for the Hansard records, where the points on bill 44 are recorded on pages 14 through 20. Bill 44 focuses specifically on removal of the formal complaint system, prohibition against litigation in respect to pre-1981 drainage works and an increase in fines under the Environmental Management Protection Act (EMPA). Specifically, **SaskFSA has been instrumental in having WSA consider a “replacement” for the water appeal system** to provide support to producers. In place of an appeal board, two advisory boards will be developed to replace this strategy and to provide a forum to landowners to review WSA decisions if they're unsatisfied. Per WSA, these are the options under consideration:

- Water Advisory Board - comprised of stakeholders representing various interest groups, which will be consulted on policy and development and refinement of the strategy, with a focus on providing advice to WSA on policy development to further the water management strategy – **essentially what SaskFSA is doing right now.**
- Technical Review Body - to act as an independent appeal on some of the decisions relating to approvals. For example, if a landowner disagrees with adequacy of an outlet, they would submit the technical work to a review body and the technical review body would use this information to determine if the outlet is adequate or not.

SARM ANNUAL CONVENTION – MAR 14-16TH 2017 – BILL 44 RESOLUTIONS

If you are interested in having a voice on BILL 44, talk to your RM Councilor or Reeve and attend the SARM convention. Various RM's have submitted resolutions to table or rescind BILL 44. The 2017 Annual Convention Resolutions ([2017 Resolutions](#)) will be read and voted on March 14th. Minister Moe has also organized a pre-meeting on the morning of the 14th at 9 AM to discuss and clarify BILL 44. SaskFSA board directors will be at the convention and the Bear Pit session with Minister Moe is the 15th. Agenda as follows - [SARM Convention Agenda](#).

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MOA) & AG INDUSTRY ALLIANCE – GETTING INVOLVED?

SaskFSA has been in active discussions within the AG industry. **As a SaskFSA member, get involved and have a conversation or send a letter to your commodity organizations and representatives of the MOA.** Make a specific request for them to actively get involved in support of progressive and responsible water management for agriculture. Have a candid discussion on how water management impacts your farm. Refer them to SaskFSA for more information.

PRODUCER SUPPORT & MEETINGS ACROSS THE PROVINCE

SaskFSA is working with producers throughout Saskatchewan, particularly within the “priority basin” network to provide information, producer support and direction for getting drainage networks into compliance and permitted. Meetings have been held with Quill Lakes, Saline Lake and Redvers producers. **WSA is in the process of evaluating and designating other areas as “priority basins” and sending out registered letters to producers.** If you have any drainage works, you will eventually be on this mailing list. Keep SaskFSA up to date on WSA activities in your area.

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 12TH!

A SaskFSA membership meeting will be scheduled for April 12th – MEETING DETAILS AND LOCATION TO FOLLOW – the agenda will include a complete WSA regulation and policy update (by SaskFSA), how to submit a drainage application and potential for a tile drainage field tour.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT & TALK TO YOUR FARMER FRIENDS TO GET INVOLVED!