

IMPORTANT: All water management projects (drainage) require a permit through the Water Security Agency (WSA). The Ag Water Management policy is still in development phase. SaskFSA's priority is work with government to develop simple, practical and effective policy that enables progressive agriculture. While approved drainage is the ultimate measure of success, currently the application process is complicated and restrictive. SaskFSA is the chair of the provincial Agricultural Water Management Policy Advisory Committee (AWMPAC), working with the ministry and other industry stakeholders to improve and further develop the policy. At this time, we do not recommend undergoing the application process until there are substantial changes to the drainage policy. If you do proceed with an application, following is a checklist on what to consider when beginning the drainage application process, how to get a project registered, contacts and information links.

Contact [SaskFSA](#) if at any point throughout the process you require guidance or additional information.

EVALUATE THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT:

- Will the project will be a sole application (affecting your land base only) or a joint application involving others.
- In the event the water may impact / flow through other landowners, this becomes a joint application and you will need signed consent (land control) for your application. Start communicating with all involved landowners.
- Land control involves the name of the person on the land title. Verify involved project partners through the [Information Services Corporation \(ISC\) Land Titles Registry](#).
- Larger scale projects may consider formation of a Conservation Development Area Authority (often referred to as a C&D) or development of a Watershed Association. More information on how to form a C&D can be found within the [Conservation and Area Authority Guide](#) and the [How to Form a Watershed Association Factsheet](#).
- You will also need to work together with your local rural municipality (RM) for water flow, permission (land control) and flow controls if the works involve passage of water along-side a road or increasing the natural flow through RM infrastructure (culverts, bridges etc.)
- As a landowner you are the local expertise. Use technology, satellite imagery, drone photography, and your knowledge of the land to draft your initial drainage map.
- Evaluate overall flow control within your project – consider where controls already exist, where additional controls or temporary holdbacks could be established and if there are options to consolidate excess water.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WSA OFFICE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT AND TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION FORM:

- Make contact with your local [WSA Regional Office](#) to start your application.
- Contact a Qualified Person (QP) – QP's are certified through WSA to consult with and assist you with the application process. QPs are certified through WSA and a [QP Listing](#) can be found on the WSA website.

OTHER RESOURCES TO CONSIDER:

- Talk to other landowners that have completed or are in the process of an application – [SaskFSA](#) can assist with connecting you to a landowner with experience of the application process.
- Agronomy consultants understand your business and how water drives agriculture. [CropPro Consulting](#) offers various mapping services, including drainage mapping.
- Easy to use, drainage planning mapping tools are offered through [Green Aero Tech](#).
- Tile drainage installers are an excellent resource for technical applications and knowledge of the rules.
- Equipment manufacturers such as Pattison Ag and Rocky Mountain Equipment have specialized water management divisions.
- Depending on the project, engineered hydrology plans may also be required.

- In the event you may need to form a C&D, contact the [Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association \(SCDA\)](#) for assistance.

FILL OUT THE APPLICATION FORM AND COMMUNICATE WITH ALL INVOLVED LANDOWNERS AND RM'S:

- Communicate effectively, work together and be respectful. It is recommended to determine a project lead / coordinator (landowner or QP).
- Determine adequate outlet – be prepared to justify what makes sense, WSA will make the final decision
- Map out the project – map the contributing water flow area, flow controls and adequate outlet
- Determine duration of approval – this will depend on the risk area. NOTE: the application will need to be renewed at the end of this term, no projects are secure in perpetuity unless protected by a drainage easement
- Legal land descriptions (LLD) for all land the water will impact
- Names on Title – required to be written on the application EXACTLY as it appears within the Information Services Corporation (ISC) database. **NOTE: applications will not be valid if names are not exact.** Once approved ISC will send a notice that WSA has a registered interest on the land title to simply verify the approval to manage water on that land
- Specify type(s) of water management works – surface and/or tile drainage, flow controls, etc. Incorporate all the planned drainage at the beginning of the application. Project amendments may be possible but will involve additional work.
- Determine maintenance of water management works – develop a maintenance plan

ONCE APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED:

- Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit (AHPP) – must be obtained prior to beginning any work. Types of work that require an AHPP are listed in the [Aquatic Habitat Protection Guidelines](#) section on the WSA website
- Approval to Construct – Limitations, liability and conditions, refer to application form
- Approval to Operate - Limitations, liability and conditions, refer to application form and develop an operational plan
- No application is guaranteed even once approved. WSA can suspend or cancel the application. WSA can also request additional mitigation conditions on landowners' subject to environmental conditions and policy development.

OTHER DEFINITIONS AND INFORMATION

- What is Land Control - [Land Control Requirements](#)
- Drainage Easements – [Instructions for Easements](#), [Easement Template](#)
- Funding for water management projects - [Farm Stewardship Program](#)
- Resource links and information downloads available on the [SaskFSA website](#)

YOUR ROLE:

Responsible AG water management (drainage) is a large part of land development and improvement. In addition to soil and crop health, drainage is a very effective tool for increasing farm efficiency and productivity. Benefits of responsible drainage extend beyond the farm to your neighbors, downstream landowners and local communities. As a landowner, share your story about how responsible drainage is important to your farm. Share it with the public, share it with us. Email info@saskfsa.ca, we can help.