

# Water Security Agency Updates

SEPTEMBER 2022

## **INTRODUCING NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT**

**Leah Clark** is the new interim Executive Director of Agricultural Water Management with the Water Security Agency (WSA). Prior to joining WSA, Leah was an extension/provincial Agrologist for the Ministry of Agriculture for several years working out of regional offices. While working in the field, Leah was introduced to policy and became passionate about supporting the creation of policy and programs that are practical for Saskatchewan producers. In early 2022, this led her to WSA's Irrigation Development Branch before transitioning to this newest position.

## **A MADE-IN-SASKATCHEWAN MITIGATION APPROACH TO AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT**

Over the next year, WSA is undertaking broad-based engagement with agricultural, Indigenous communities, environmental, municipal, science and research, and other partners and stakeholders to inform a made-in-Saskatchewan mitigation policy that will support our province's growing economy.

Agricultural producers and Indigenous communities are adaptive, and they continue to innovate and adjust their farming practices to changing conditions. Learning from these experiences through the engagement process facilitates innovation and better processes. This also helps ensure that the policy considers the local/regional conditions and aligns with the needs and interests of Saskatchewan people.

[Read the full details here.](#)

## **AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT RESEARCH DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**

In 2020, the Water Security Agency (WSA) began undertaking 11 agricultural water management demonstration research projects across the province that would enhance the production and profitability of farmers and ranchers, while safeguarding neighbouring farms, local infrastructure, water quality, habitat and the environment.

This will inform a new mitigation policy set to be introduced in 2023 and best practices to help farmers and ranchers manage water on their land and protecting their operations, especially during flood and drought years.

This fall, WSA will begin introducing you to these projects – giving you a glimpse into what is being researched and what the landowners have to say. If you would like to access these bi-weekly stories, [you can find them here](#). WSA will be introducing new stories every two weeks until Feb 2023.

Earlier this year, the government announced funding to advance three other agricultural water management research projects focused on innovative drainage techniques – including tile drainage, and opportunities to enhance soil health, wetland carbon storage, and water quality.

[You can read the full story here.](#)

## **AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT FUNDING**

This summer, WSA announced two new funding programs to support drainage and drainage related projects.

### ***Agricultural Water Management Fund***

The Agricultural Water Management Fund supports responsible drainage by assisting producers or local governments in achieving approvals.

Eligible recipients can receive up to \$95,000 per project based on a cost-sharing approach to cover costs for QP support, technical and engineering, and mitigation and rehabilitation works.

[For more information, click here.](#)

### ***Channel Clearing Funding***

If you are a member of a Conservation and Development Association (C&D) or Watershed Association (WAB) you may also be eligible for channel clearing funding.

WSA is providing \$1 million as part of the Channel Clearing and Drainage Maintenance rebate program in 2022-23.

The cost sharing program assists RMs, C&Ds and WABs to remove debris, sediment and beaver dams from natural watercourses and eligible drainage projects to mitigate the flooding of roadways and agricultural land caused by obstructed creeks and channels.

[For more information and to apply, click here.](#)

## **WATER SUPPLY REPORT**

WSA has recently released Saskatchewan's Water Supply Report for September 2022.

The report can be accessed on [wsask.ca](http://wsask.ca).

## **AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS**

### ***AgH2onward***

Starting this fall and into 2023 WSA partners are offering free in-person and online workshops called AgH2Onward. AgH2Onward provides innovative agricultural water management solutions for landowners planning drainage projects that will help you become more resilient in the face of droughts, flooding and other extreme weather events in a changing climate.

If this is something you or someone you know may be interested in, please visit [agH2onward.ca](http://agH2onward.ca).

## CWRA “Working Landscapes” Workshop

“Working Landscapes” is a one-day workshop hosted by Discovery Farm focused on sharing new science in drainage management between producers and industry practitioners and the academic research community.

[Click here to register.](#)



# Working Landscapes

Agricultural Water Management Technical Workshop

Wednesday, October 26, 2022, from 9:30 am to 4:15 pm Discovery Farm Langham, Home of Ag in Motion	
9:30	<b>Registration, Networking</b>
10:00	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
10:15	<b>Keynote</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Jeff Schoenau, University of Saskatchewan: Drainage and Soil Management</li><li>- Helen Baulch, University of Saskatchewan: State of Drainage Knowledge in Saskatchewan</li></ul>
10:55	<b>Morning Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- South Country John Deere: Software for Drainage Design</li><li>- Patrick Lloyd-Smith, University of Saskatchewan: Landowner Drainage Economics Survey</li><li>- Gary Bergen, PAMI: New Advances in the Agronomics and Economics of Drainage</li></ul>
11:40	<b>Lunch</b> <i>(provided with registration)</i>
12:40	<b>Field Tour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Blake Weiseth, Discovery Farm and Saskatchewan Polytechnic: 4Rs to Manage Water Quality</li><li>- Olaf Boettcher, Precision Drainage Solutions Ltd.: Tile Drainage Design in Saskatchewan</li><li>- CropPro Consulting: Use of SWAT Maps in Precision Agriculture</li></ul>
2:10	<b>Coffee, Networking</b>
2:40	<b>Afternoon Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Colin Whitfield, University of Saskatchewan: Hydrologic Modelling</li><li>- Jillian Brown, SIPA: Irrigation Approaches to Offset Downstream Impacts of Drainage</li><li>- SCDA / Associated Engineering: Case Studies</li></ul>
3:30	<b>Panel Discussion: Key Takeaways</b>
4:00	<b>Wrap-up and Next Steps</b>



PROMOTING  
**EFFECTIVE**  
WATER MANAGEMENT

