

The River Current

Fall 2004



Our Mission: Promoting watershed sustainability through awareness, linkages and stewardship.

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Full Conference Agenda:

***Climate Variability:
Floods, Drought &
Gradual Change
October 6-8, 2004***

Letter to the Editor

Conference Listings

Call to Members:

Are you a PFSRB Member who is interested in being featured in the River Current? If so, please submit a brief description of your organization or a specific project and email it to partners@saskriverbasin.ca

Watershed Planning Initiated in the Saskatchewan River Watershed

A key component of sound management of Saskatchewan's watershed and aquifers is effective planning. In this regard, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has commenced the development of watershed plans that will protect the quantity and quality of source water in the Saskatchewan River Watershed.

The Saskatchewan River Watershed in Saskatchewan has been divided into three separate planning areas; South Saskatchewan River, North Saskatchewan River and after their joining, the Saskatchewan River. Watershed planning has commenced in the South and North areas with Jeff Olson being assigned as lead planner on the South Saskatchewan River and John Durbin as the lead planner on the North Saskatchewan River. Although local interests are different, similar processes are being used for both the South and the North Saskatchewan Rivers.

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority supports this planning process through the development of Watershed Advisory and Technical Committees. Watershed Advisory Committees represent diverse interests including rural, urban and aboriginal governments, conservation area authorities, watershed associations, irrigation district representatives and other interest groups. The Technical Committees are comprised of technical people from conservation organizations and federal and provincial agencies.

"The planning process will be built on consensus, collaboration and stakeholder involvement that can be applied to a broad range of planning scenarios. This will encourage stakeholder discussion to develop common goals, and share responsibility for actions that achieve sound water management and source water protection. The final watershed plan will be the result of local decisions", said Olson.

"When the plan is finished we will have a background report and an environmental scan of the watershed, a good analysis of issues and threats, and recommendations for key actions, timelines, accountability measures and evaluation criteria. The key element in the planning process will be the implementation of the actual plan. We are targeting each watershed plan to be completed in two to three years", he said.

The North Saskatchewan River has been subdivided into four planning units with a watershed advisory committee for each. In late June, "Know Your Watershed" tours were conducted in each of the planning units. The tours had a wide range of stops including hog barns, demonstration forests, parks, industries, and local cattle producers.

For more information on this planning process go to this website www.swa.ca/stewardship/watershedplanning or contact your local Watershed Advisory Committee member identified in the above website.

Partners and Canadian Water Resources Association present
Climate Variability: Planning for Flood, Drought and Change
October 6-8, 2004, Sheraton Cavalier, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Preliminary Program

Oct 6, 2004 ***Wednesday Evening Registration***

7:00 to 10:30 Wine and Cheese Reception

Oct 7, 2004 ***Thursday Sessions***

7:00 to 08:30 Registration and Display Set-up

8:30 to 8:50 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Overview of Canadian Water Resources Association – Gord Bell

Overview of Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin– Ray Fast

8:50 to 09:50 Keynote Speaker – Don Wilhite

9:50 to 10:30 REFRESHMENT BREAK & Display Viewing

SESSION 1 **Background/Introductory/Broad – based on conference theme**

10:30 to 11:00 Variability – Elaine Wheaton and Barrie Bonsal

11:00 to 11:30 Drought – Phil Adkins

11:30 to 12:00 Flood – Ray Keller

12:00 to 1:00 LUNCH Keynote Speaker – Aly Shady

SESSION 2 **Panel Session - Water Management Plans – How They Have Changed**

1:00 to 2:00 Presentations from each of the Panel Members:

Alberta – Water for Life – Bev Yee

Saskatchewan – Priority Watersheds – Wayne Dybvig

Manitoba – Water Stewardship – Steve Topping

Federal – National Water Management Initiatives – Terence McRae

2:00 to 3:00 Question Period

3:00 to 3:30 REFRESHMENT BREAK

SESSION 3 **Case Studies**

3:30 to 4:00 Winnipeg's Water Strategies – To be Determined

4:00 to 4:30 Paleo-Climat – Dave Sauchyn

4:30 to 5:00 Ecosystem Impacts – Fred Wrona

BANQUET @ the Top of the Sheraton Inn

6:00 to 7:00 Reception

7:00 to 8:00 Dinner

8:00 to 8:15 Awards Presentation

8:15 to 9:15 Entertainment:

9:15 to 12:00 Social Time

Display: Cartographer Miloslav Drtina

Noted for their distinct imagery and for the mastery of traditional techniques, Miloslav Drtina's handpainted bird's eye views and pen and ink maps communicate fresh geographical perceptions.

Entertainment: Martin Janovsky

Martin's stage performance consists of music and comedy. Originally from Prague, the comedy revolves around Martin's (supposed) misunderstanding of the English language.

Oct 8, 2004

Friday Sessions

SESSION 4 Socio-Economic Impacts

8:00 to 8:30 Water and the Economy - An Overview – Harvey Hill
8:30 to 9:00 Impact of Climate Variability on the Citizens of the Bow River Basin – Mark Bennett
9:00 to 9:30 Irrigation and the Economic Impacts – Graham Parsons
9:30 to 10:15 REFRESHMENT BREAK

SESSION 5 Science in the Basin

10:15 to 10:45 Overview of Physical side of South Saskatchewan River Basin – Al Pietroniro
10:45 to 11:15 Overview of Socio-Economic side of SSRB – Lawrence Martz
11:15 to 11:45 Overview of Physical and Institutional Adaptations to Climate Change – Comparative Study of
Dryland River Basins in Canada and Chile – Dave Sauchyn, Polo Diaz and David Gauthier
11:45 to 12:00 CLOSING REMARKS, EVALUATIONS AND ADJOURN

Notice of Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin Annual General Meeting
To be held at the Sheraton Cavalier Board Room on October 6th, 2:30pm
For additional information, contact Partners at (306) 665 6887

Application for Conference Attendance

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Conference Fees (Please Circle One)

CWRA or PFSRB Member - \$125 Non-Member - \$150 Display (Includes Conference Pass) - \$300

Payment may be made by Cheque or Credit Card

Credit Card Type (Circle One): VISA Mastercard

Number: _____ Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Please make cheques payable to:
Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
Please fax or mail form to the address on the back page

Alternatively, you may register online at <http://www.saskriverbasin.ca/conference>

Letter to the Editor

Permit me to commend your publication and author Paul Hanley for your recent article on storm water management (*"Urban Stormwater Best Practices Mimic Natural Watersheds"* Summer 2004 edition – The River Current). With this somewhat wetter summer and some up-stream headwaters portions of the Basin, in particular, being lashed by severe weather episodes your timing is great. It is always encouraging to see much-needed attention brought to this important issue. Mr. Hanley does a good job of providing an overview of the subject.

I would also like to draw attention to a website on urban storm water management <http://www.urbanswm.ab.ca>. This site was developed by the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) to provide a comprehensive resource on urban storm water management in the Bow River Basin in southern Alberta, Canada. The information is intended for municipalities, developers, businesses, professionals, policy makers, students, and the interested public. This website is the culmination of a lot of work from volunteer BRBC members. I am confident that for any of your readers interested in learning more about this subject area, our website will prove to be a valuable resource. I would also like to encourage anyone who reviews the site to provide his or her feedback. Just follow the contact instructions provided on the home page.

Thank you.
Yours truly,
Mark Bennett,
Executive Director
Bow River Basin Council

Conference Listings

Living Lakes Conference

September 26-October 2 Fairmont Hot Springs, BC <http://www.ekes.org/livinglakes.html>

The Living Lakes Conference is about exploring land use and water use strategies that protect the natural values of lake and wetland ecosystems now and for future generations.

Second Annual Integrated Water Resources Management Workshop

November 2-3 Regina, SK <http://www.cwra.org>

Canadian Water Resources Association presents the Second Annual Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Workshop: Building Capacity for Watershed Stewardship. The first workshop identified the status of integrated water resources management in Canada. This IWRM workshop will explore strategies and actions in IWRM by building capacity for watershed stewardship.

North American Lake Management Society 2004: 24th International Symposium

November 3-5 Victoria, BC <http://www.nalms.org>

NALMS returns to Canada for the fourth time in the 24-year history of NALMS. The theme for the 2004 conference in Victoria, BC is "Lakes - habitat for fish, habitat for people" and will consider some of the challenges associated with the co-existence of people with one of the other groups that live in lakes - the fish.

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