

The River Current

Summer 2002



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

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Partners FOR the
Saskatchewan River Basin
Thursday, October 3, 2002
12:30 pm
Sheraton Cavalier
612 Spadina Cres. East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Please see page 4 regarding
proposed changes to Section
7.6 of the Bylaws of Partners
FOR the Saskatchewan
River Basin.**

**"Just Add Water" is presented by
Partners FOR the Saskatchewan
River Basin
in partnership with**

**Saskatchewan Legal Education
Society Inc.**

**Saskatchewan Environmental
Society**

**Centre for Studies in Agriculture,
Law and the Environment**

"Just Add Water"

**Conference & Annual General Meeting
Keynote Speaker: Dr. David W. Schindler**

**October 3 & 4, 2002
Sheraton Cavalier, Saskatoon, SK**

We are facing increasing pressures to come up with sustainable water policies. Plan to attend the 2002 conference to learn more about the challenges of managing water and land resources in the prairie provinces. Will our existing policy frameworks sustain the river system and our surface and ground water resources for the next generation? What are the legal ramifications around issues such as drainage, contamination, water shortages, and the role and responsibilities of various levels of government. Should stakeholders be more actively involved in watershed management planning? Speakers from the various levels of government, the scientific and research community, the legal profession, as well as those involved in working with community stakeholders will present their perspectives on these issues.

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin has partnered with a number of organizations to deliver the "Just Add Water" conference. Our conference theme centers around water jurisdiction and policy, and the challenges of current and future water related issues. This year we are offering an afternoon breakout session with two streams: integrated watershed management and legal issues.

We are very pleased to have Dr. David Schindler, Killam Memorial Professor of Ecology at the University of Alberta participate as the conference keynote speaker. Dr. Schindler was recognized in 2001 with the Gerhard Herzberg Gold Medal for Science and Engineering. Dr. Schindler will be speaking about the cumulative effects of climate change and other human activity on the freshwaters of the prairies. His research has led him to identify a number of concerns pertaining to both quantity and quality of freshwater on the prairies and to warn that we are facing an ecological crisis in Canada. He argues that solutions can be found, at least partially, through comprehensive watershed planning and water conservation measures.

While the presentations are pertinent to anyone who would like to better understand current water management issues and concerns, this conference will be of particular interest to water managers and administrators, politicians and decisions makers, environmental consultants, rural residents, the legal profession, and environmental interest groups and organizations.

Attend this conference to broaden your knowledge about future and current water management issues, and to lend your voice to the discussions about how these issues can be most effectively addressed. We look forward to seeing you there!

"Just Add Water " Conference Program

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Sheraton Centre Room

- 8:30 **Registration**
8:50 **Welcome** - Dr. Ray Fast, Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
Introduction & Overview - Gary Meschishnick, Wallace Meschishnick Clackson and Zawada
- 9:00 **Jurisdiction over Water**
A review of Federal, Provincial, Municipal and Aboriginal Jurisdiction over Water Resources
Tom Irvine, Saskatchewan Justice
- 9:30 **Keynote Speaker** : Dr. David W. Schindler, Killam Memorial Professor of Ecology, University of Alberta
"The Cumulative Effects of Climate Change and Other Human Activity on Freshwaters of the Canadian Prairies"
- 10:30 **Break**
- 10:45 **Panel #1: Saskatchewan Regulations & Policy**
Panel representative to be confirmed.
- 11:45 **Lunch (SouthWest Room)**
12:30 Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin Annual General Meeting
- 1:00 **Panel #2: Federal Regulations & Policy** Chair: Dr. Ray Fast, Chair - Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
Prairie Provinces Water Board - Jim Vollmershausen, Chair, Board of Directors
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration - to be confirmed
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Central and Arctic Region - Henry Majewski, District Manager, Habitat Management
First Nations - to be confirmed.

2:00 - 4:15 Breakout Sessions

Integrated Watershed Management

The Public Can Make Law: Alberta's Water Management Plans - Cindy Chaisson, Executive Director, Environmental Law Centre

Watershed Planning with Communities - Diane Martz, Director, Centre for Rural Studies and Enrichment

Using the Saskatchewan Water Quality Index for Improved Watershed Management - Terry Hanley, Environmental Protection Branch, Saskatchewan Environment

Public Perceptions of Water and Water Management Issues in the Saskatchewan River Basin - 1994 to 2002, Maxwell Ofosuhene, University of Saskatchewan

Legal Issues

The Well is Contaminated - Rod MacDonald, Solve-It Project Consultants Inc.

The Well is Dry -to be confirmed

The Role of Government - Scott Hopley, Cuelenare Kendall Katzman Watson and Hagen

Drainage Law - to be confirmed

Crown Liability - Robert Gibbings, Scharfstein Gibbings Walen & Fisher

5:30 - 8:30 pm Reception and Banquet (Top of the Inn)

5:30 No Host Bar

6:00 Banquet

7:15 Sponsor Recognition

7:30 **Banquet Speaker** - Susan Ormiston, CBC Broadcaster "Troubled Waters"

Friday, October 4, 2002

Sheraton Centre Room

8:30 **Registration open**

9:00 **Climate Change** - Elaine Wheaton, Saskatchewan Research Council

9:40 **Intensive Livestock Operations** - Cathy Holtslander, Saskatchewan Eco-Network

10:20 **Break**

10:35 **Safe Drinking Water: Using or Abusing Science** - Dr. Hans Peterson, Executive Director, Safe Drinking Water Foundation

11:15 **Water Allocation** - Sharon Mascher, College of La, University of Saskatchewan

11:55 **Adjourn**

Registration and Accommodation Information

The conference will take place at the Sheraton Cavalier, 612 Spadina Cres. East, Saskatoon, SK. A block of rooms is reserved under the "Just Add Water" conference for October 2 & 3, 2002 at a rate of \$89.00 Single/Double. These rooms will be held until September 4, 2002. Please make your own arrangements for accommodation by contacting the Sheraton at (306) 652-6770 or 1-800-325-3535.

REGISTER ONLINE AT: www.saskriverbasin.ca OR complete the form below and fax or mail with payment to:

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
402 Third Avenue South
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3G5

Telephone: (306) 665-6887 or 1-800-567-8007
Facsimile: (306) 665-6117
email: partners@saskriverbasin.ca

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM Please complete one registration form for each person attending. Please note a half day rate of \$50 is available for those who wish to attend Dr. Schindler's presentation on Thursday morning. Contact PFSRB for details.

Name _____	Registration Fees (includes banquet)
Organization _____	PFSRB Members \$140.00 __
Address _____	Non-members \$150.00 __
City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____	Extra banquet ticket \$35.00 __
Phone _____ Fax _____	Exhibit Space
E-mail _____	Corporate \$200.00 __
Method of Payment:	Non-profit \$50.00 __
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque enclosed	Subtotal _____
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA / Mastercard / AMEX - circle appropriate card and provide:	ADD GST 7% (Reg.No. 88772 3153 RT or provide GST exemption # _____)
card # _____ exp. date: _____	TOTAL _____

River Ripples

Alberta's State of the Environment Reports now available

Alberta Environment is pleased to announce three new publications covering the topics of wildlife, air quality and terrestrial ecosystems. These State of the Environment Reports describe environmental conditions and trends, pressures on the environment, and what is being done about these conditions and pressures.

Order your free printed reports from the Information Centre by calling the Provincial Government's toll free number (310-0000) and asking to be connected to (780) 944-0313. You can also visit the Information Centre web site at www.gov.ab.ca/env/info/infocentre/index.cfm to order copies or download electronic versions (Adobe PDF) of the reports.

Call for Papers: 1st International Water Conference

The Red River Basin Institute for Flood Damage Reduction, Natural Resource Studies and Watershed Education is sponsoring the 1st International Water Conference on April 23-24, 2003. Oral presentations and/or poster presentations are sought on the following topics, or other topics broadly related to the conference theme of "Water, Science and Decision-making."

Public Survey on Water Issues Under Way

In 1994 Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin commissioned a survey of residents and water management professionals to determine public perception and understanding about issues related to water and water management. At that time it was found that there was significant gap between what the public understood, and what professionals, involved in water management research and planning, felt be true.

Eight years have passed, and we're curious to learn how public knowledge and interest in water related issues has changed. With funding support provided by the Community University Institute for Social Research, we are working with Dr. Jim Randall and a graduate student, Maxwell Ofosuhene, from the University of Saskatchewan Geography Department, to repeat the public perception portion of the survey. Survey results will be posted to our website, and provided in summary form in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

We are also repeating a survey of water management professionals. We have posted those questions on our website, and invite people involved in work related to water management to submit their comments online at www.saskriverbasin.ca

Proposed Amendment - PFSRB Bylaw #1

Section	Amendment	Comments
7.6	Existing wording: Directors shall be appointed for a term of two years by the Patrons' Board and are eligible for reappointment, to a maximum of three terms. Proposed wording: Directors shall be appointed for a term of two years by the Patrons' Board and are eligible for reappointment, to a maximum of three terms unless otherwise extended at the annual meeting.	This provides for unique situations such as: Where a major turnover of board is expected and only a few experienced board members remain OR The organization faces a major turnover in times of crisis. Adding this separate approval process keeps the principle that there should be planned board turnover.

The River Current is published quarterly by Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin. Articles and news items will be considered for publication. For further information about Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin Project, or to submit items, please contact:

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
c/o Meewasin Valley Authority (Managing Partner)
402 Third Avenue South, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3G5

Phone: (306) 665-6887 or
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Check out our web site
<http://www.saskriverbasin.ca>

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