

The River Current

Spring 2006



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

Online Questionnaire

In order to help us help you, please take a few minutes to fill in our online questionnaire. You may have a chance to win a free registration to next year's conference. We want to ensure that our activities will help your organization reach your goals, while helping us fulfill our mission.

Visit
www.saskriverbasin.ca

Click on Climate

...kits now available

Click on Climate is an **action-based program** for children aged eight to thirteen. It helps them understand the causes and impacts of climate change and what they can do about it.



The goal of the Click on Climate program is to **develop conservation practices and other stewardship behaviour** in children that reduce human impact on climate. The main event of this program is a field trip that takes place in the community.

Each Click on Climate Kit contains the leadership and educational materials as well as field trip supplies needed for 5 children. The program is designed for the leader to choose from a variety of activities.

We will be conducting in-services in local communities to train leaders from watershed/stewardship/community groups on how to get the most out of Click on Climate. If



you would like further information on this program, or to order free copies or sign up for an in-service, please contact us at 1-800-567-8007, email partners@saskriverbasin.ca or visit us online at www.saskriverbasin.ca.

A big thanks to Eco-Action and the various foundations which have enabled us to provide these kits free of charge!



F. K. Morrow Foundation



Newest Employee

Hello to all residents across the Saskatchewan River Basin. My name is Jennifer and I am the new Communications Coordinator here at the Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin. I have a real heart for the environment and particularly watersheds. I have spent the last three years as a watershed planner at the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. Before that, I was a coordinator starting a stewardship group for the Moose Jaw River Watershed. I have two degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, an undergraduate degree in Environmental Earth Science and a Masters degree in Soil Science. I have always been actively involved in environmental issues. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, quilting, painting, and Toastmasters.



I look forward to working with you all in the near future and hope to meet you soon. If you have any questions, or if there is anything I can help you or your group with, please don't hesitate to ask!

Jennifer Nelson
Communications Coordinator

Climate Change and Water in the Prairies Conference

Delta Bessborough, Saskatoon

June 22-23, 2006

Preliminary Conference Agenda

Wednesday June 21, 2006 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

- Wine and Cheese Reception

Thursday June 22, 2006 8:30 am - 5:15 pm

8:30 - Lunch

- Welcome from Conference Organizers and Dignitaries
- Water Issues in full Prairie Scope: South Saskatchewan River Basin Project
- The Full Water Cycle: Climate Change and Water Dynamics
- On World Water Assessment, Canadian and Global Stakeholders

Lunch

1:00 - 2:15

- CWRA Stakeholder Initiatives; Student and Young Professional summaries
- Vulnerability and Stakeholder Participation – Canada in Context

2:15 - 5:15 Concurrent Sessions (and coffee break)

A1) Institutional and Inter-jurisdictional Issues Inter-jurisdictional Water Law

- Inter-jurisdictional Water Law - South Saskatchewan River Basin
- A Legal Assessment of Water Markets as a Sustainable Water Management Tool
- Governance and Adaptation to Climate Change: the cases of Chile and Canada.

A2) The Full Water Cycle: Watershed Planning and Extreme Events

- Are We Prepared for 21st Century Droughts in the Canadian Prairies
- Consequences of dry-trends on open and closed-basin prairie Lakes
- To Be Announced

B1) Advances in Modeling Hydrological Processes

- Water Availability under Climate Change in the South Saskatchewan River Basin
- Physically Based Modeling of Prairie and Mountain Hydrology
- Monitoring Prairie Lake Area Fluctuations

B2) Advances in Modeling Stakeholder and Socioeconomic Response

- Stormwater Reuse for Irrigating Public Lands
- The Impact of Economic Growth on Water Scarcity under Climate Change in the South Saskatchewan River Basin
- Modeling Water in Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation on the Prairies

7:00 pm Banquet and Entertainment

Friday June 23, 2006 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

8:30 - 9:00

- Climate Change and Water: Policy Issues, Public and Political Debates
- Issues for Particularly Vulnerable Groups

9:00 - 11:00 Concurrent Session #3 (and coffee break)

A3) Policy Options for Changes in Water Supply and Water Quality

- To Be Announced
- Developing Water Availability Standards for Agriculture in Canada
- The Role of Water Pricing and Trading in Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change

B3) Water Use in Agri-Food Systems and Irrigation Demand

- Alternative Strategies for Modeling Irrigation Water Demands and their Implications for Water Management
- Economics of Water Use in the Bow River Irrigation District in Southern Alberta
- Non-linear Macroscopic Root Water Uptake Model with Salt and Moisture Stresses

11:00 - 12:00

- Debate Session

12:00 Wrap-up

Conference Focus

This conference will explore the science and challenges of combining physical and socio-economic planning in a region facing:

- population, commercial and industrial growth
- increasing demands for water and other natural resources
- socio-political and legal issues related to water access
- licensing, and inter-jurisdictional and inter-basin transfers
- and trade-offs between commercial opportunities and recreational and ecological water use.

Key results from the Climate Change and Water in the South Saskatchewan River Basin research project will be discussed, along with policy implications highlighted by project collaborators and other participants. Issues related to water supply and climate change, adaptation and risk perception on the part of community members will be discussed, especially those dealing with water access, water pricing, drought and extreme events. The need to consider water quality, water/land use interfaces, and the full water cycle, including groundwater, will be emphasized. The conference will be of interest to academic generalists and specialists working across social and physical science disciplines, as well as engineers, planners, policy-makers, students, and key stakeholders (agriculture, energy, commerce, and industry).

Application for Conference Attendance

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Conference Fees:

Regular: \$180 +GST = (\$192.60)

Student: \$100 +GST = (\$107.00)

GST Exempt #: _____

Payment may be made by Cheque or Credit Card

Credit Card Type (Circle One): VISA MasterCard

Number: _____ Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Please fax or mail the form to:

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin
402 Third Avenue South
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3G5
Fax: (306) 665-6117

Please make cheques payable to:

Partners FOR the Saskatchewan River Basin

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

South Saskatchewan River Basin Project

The South Saskatchewan River Basin contains four major sub-basins: the Red Deer, Oldman, Bow and South Saskatchewan, all of which face distinct challenges. According to Environment Canada, the Canadian Prairie provinces have seen a warming trend over the past 50 years, with the largest increases in the winter months (about 3°) and the least over the summer months (about 0.2°). With the rise in temperature, snow-fall precipitation has decreased, while spring snow melt is occurring earlier. Climate change projections also suggest that further warming of about 1° to 3.5° will occur across Canada over the next century. Projections for regional precipitation remain more uncertain, and the soil moisture conditions and the availability of water in rivers and reservoirs will depend upon the combined effects of changes in precipitation. With the region's focus upon agriculture, the Canadian Prairies have been identified as an area particularly vulnerable to climate change. Natural Resources Canada has accordingly funded an integrated physical and socio-economic study of the sensitivity of regional systems to changes in water supply. Vulnerability and adaptation prospects for the economy and public stakeholders are of concern. **The results from this integrated study will be highlighted in this conference.**