LAKE MANITOBA
LAKE ST. MARTIN
OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

Newsletter – July 2021 Issue 8

LET'S TALK

Manitoba Infrastructure continues to meet with Manitobans living within the flood-affected areas around Lake Manitoba, including Indigenous groups and communities; the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale; and property owners around the lake. This process of sharing information and receiving feedback is essential to completing the licensing process before construction of the Outlet Channels Project can begin, to protect lives and property from the potentially devastating impacts of future flood events. A highlight of recent and upcoming meetings is included below:

July 19 Peguis First Nation	Meeting to continue review and discuss questions about the Outlet Channels Project from Peguis First Nation and Manitoba Infrastructure's responses.
July 20 Manitoba Heavy Construction Association	Meeting with the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association to introduce the proposed construction sequencing plan for work on the Outlet Channels Project.
July 27 Winnipeg Construction Association	Meeting with Winnipeg Construction Association to introduce the proposed construction sequencing plan for work on the Outlet Channels Project.

Indigenous Consultation

The Manitoba government is currently in Phase 2 of its consultation and engagement process. To date, highlights include:

- Manitoba Infrastructure is continuing to consult, engage and implement the remainder of consultation activities under work plans with Indigenous communities.
- As of July 19, 2021, the Manitoba government has communicated by letter (807), meetings (197), and emails/ phone (3,442) with 39 Indigenous groups and communities about the Outlet Channels Project.

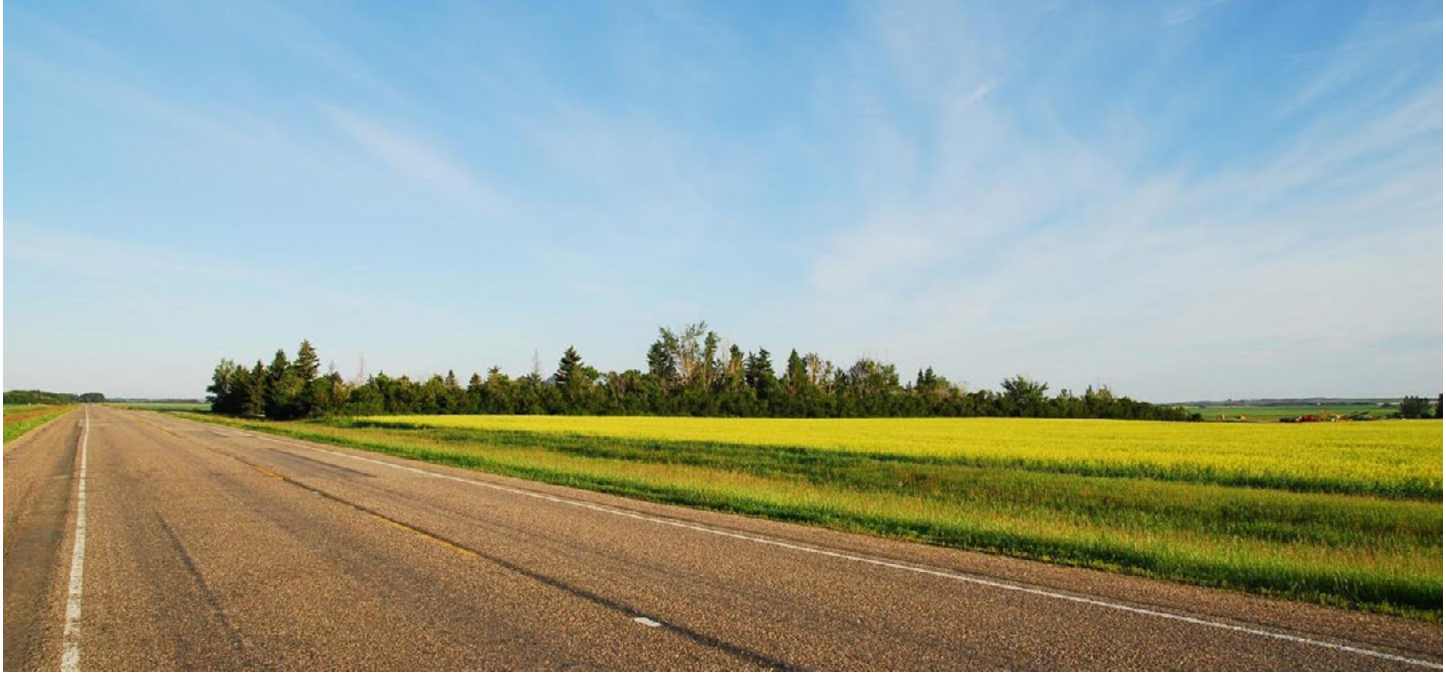
Outlet Channels Project – Message from the Minister

The Honourable Ron Schuler, Minister of Infrastructure provided a Progress Update on the Outlet Channels Project at a news conference on June 30, 2020.

"The province of Manitoba has moved Heaven to push this project forward. It is up to the federal government and our Indigenous partners to allow us to move earth."

- Minister Ron Schuler

The video of the news conference, can be viewed on the Manitoba government YouTube channel.



DESIGN

The Outlet Channels Project involves the construction of the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel, Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel and other components such as outside drain, construction road, bridges, water control structures, Manitoba Hydro distribution line, PR 239 realignment and municipal roads re-connections. Manitoba continues to plan for construction to begin in the winter of 2021/22, pending receipt of provincial and federal environmental licences and construction is anticipated to take four years to complete.

Design Work

Detailed design work is underway and will incorporate feedback received from federal and provincial environmental assessment processes as well as from key stakeholders and Indigenous communities.

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Construction will involve tree clearing, composite excavation, solid rock excavation, aggregate crushing, constructing pavement surfaces, placing concrete and steel culverts, and concrete pouring.

Tree Clearing

- Right-of-way (ROW) clearing will generally be 400 metres wide and will consist of the removal and disposal of trees, shrubs, fallen timber and surface litter.

- Whenever possible, clearing will not take place between April 1 and August 31 of any year in order to avoid sensitive breeding periods for migratory birds.

Excavation

- Includes, peat moss removal, top soil removal, till excavation, and solid rock excavation.
- These activates will take place along the proposed channel alignments year-round.

Blasting

- Will occur to produce aggregate and different sizes of riprap. Channel excavation will also involve blasting of rock outcrops to reach the design grades.
- The timing of blasting activities will consider area-specific environmental sensitivities, such as minimizing disturbance to stakeholders, avoiding disturbance to rare species and sensitive time periods, and to minimize potential effects on animal species hunted by Indigenous communities.

Bridges, Water Control Structures and Drop Structures

- Bridges, water control structures (WCSs) and drop structures will be constructed under dry conditions, with some minor exceptions.
- Since most construction will take place in dry conditions, scheduling of work relative to fish spawning windows will not be required.
- It is anticipated that construction will take place year-round.

Access Roads and Road Realignment

- Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel: Construction activities do not impact existing road network.
- Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel: Road work includes PR 239 realignment, municipal roads realignment, and shoofly detours. Temporary and permanent sections of roads and shoofly detours will be constructed to minimize interruption to traffic during and post construction. Traffic will be managed and controlled during construction activities through a Traffic Management Plan and dust control will be utilised on haul roads to maintain safety for all road users.

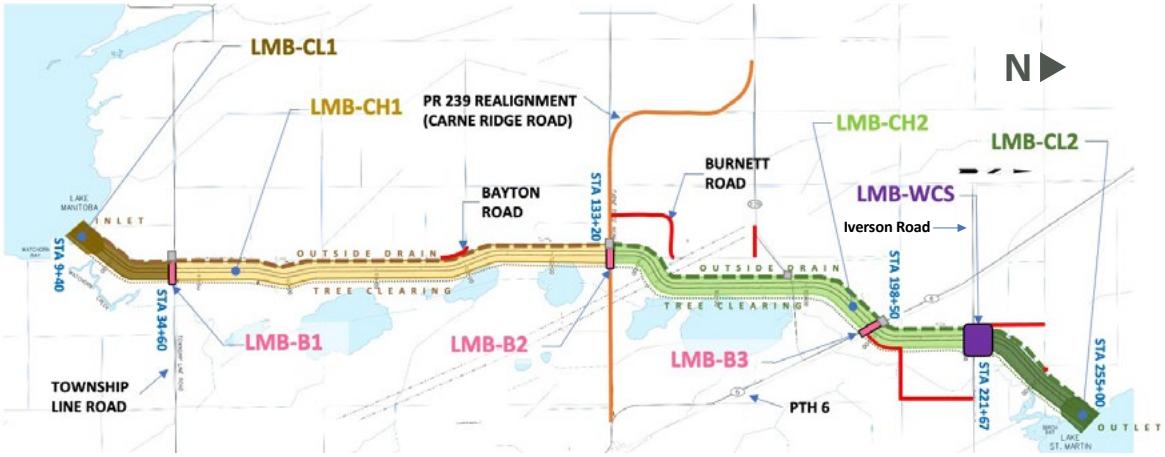
CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCING

Overall construction of the Outlet Channels Project will follow a work schedule that balances the timing of activities to minimize environmental impacts.

Lake Manitoba

The Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel is approximately 24.1 km long and connects Watchorn Bay on Lake Manitoba to Birch Bay on Lake St. Martin. The Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel includes a water control structure at Iverson Road, three bridges (Township Line Bridge, Crane Ridge Road Bridge (new PR 239), and PTH 6) and realignment of PR 239 (Carne Ridge Road as below) and adjacent municipal roads.

Figure 1: Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel: Construction Sequence

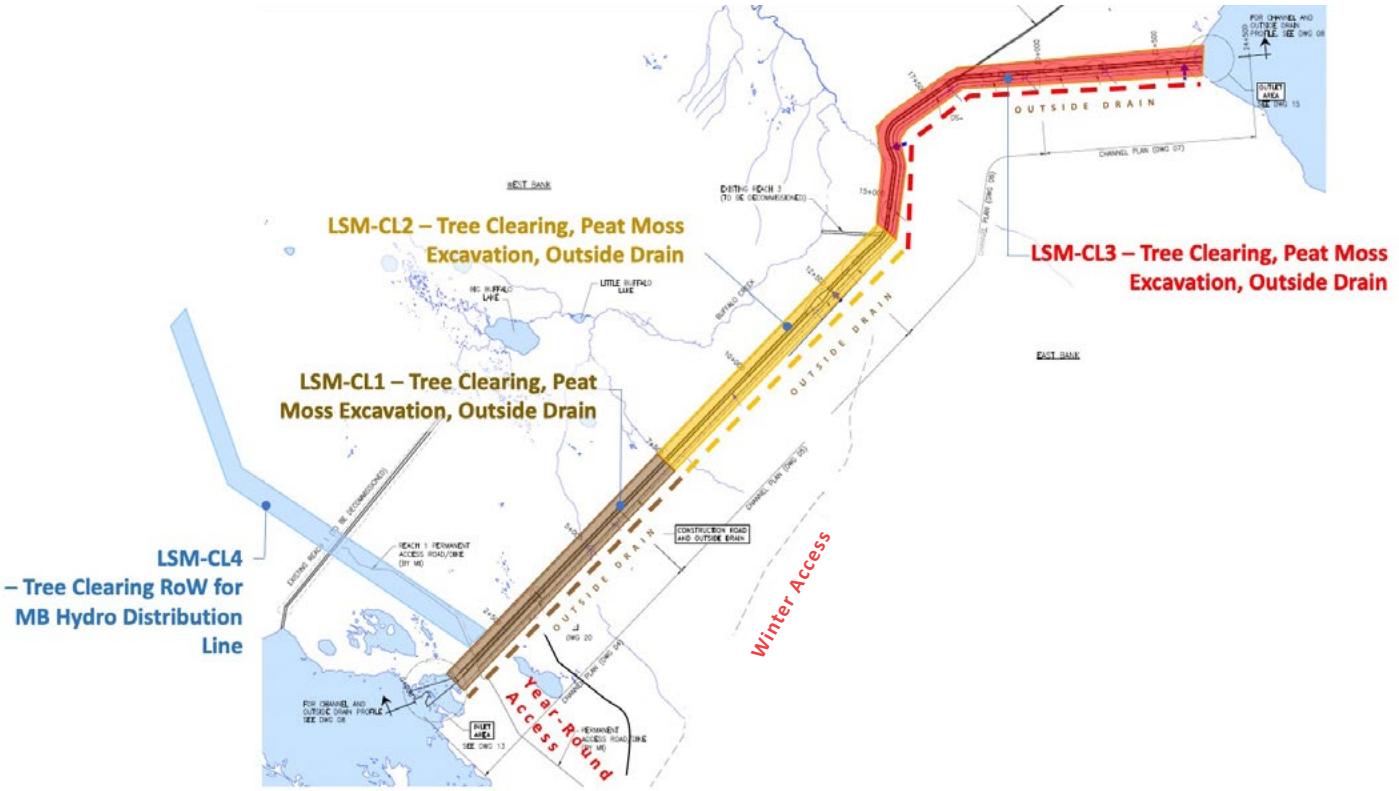


ID	Contract Title	Construction Schedule	Scope of Work
LMB-CL1	Inlet Excavation Including Clearing	Year one	▪ Clearing from Lake Manitoba to new PR 239 ▪ Outside drain excavation from Lake Manitoba to new PR 239 ▪ Channel excavation from Lake Manitoba to Township Line Road
LMB-CL2	Outlet Excavation Including Clearing	Year one	▪ Clearing from new PR 239 to Lake St. Martin ▪ Outside drain excavation from new PR 239 to Lake St. Martin ▪ Channel excavation from Iverson Road to Lake St. Martin
LMB-CH1	Channel Excavation	Year two and three	▪ Channel excavation from Township Line Road to new PR 239
LMB-CH2	Channel Excavation	Year two and three	▪ Channel excavation from new PR 239 to WCS
LMB-B1	Township Line Road Bridge	Year one	▪ Bridge construction ▪ Road detours and culverts for outside drain ▪ Channel excavation ▪ Approach roadworks ▪ Groundwater depressurization ▪ Utility relocation and new lines
LMB-B2	PR 239 Bridge (Carne Ridge Road)	Year one	
LMB-B3	PTH 6 Bridge	Year two	
LMB-WCS	Water Control Structure	Year two and three	▪ Bridge/control structure ▪ Gates, Guides and Hoists, and ancillary features ▪ Excavation and erosion control
LMB-R1	Municipal Road Realignments	Year one	▪ Bayton Road ▪ Burnett Road ▪ Rafkillsen - Klatt Road ▪ Bankert Road ▪ Road 46W ▪ Road 160N
LMB-R2	PR 239 Realignment	Year one	▪ Clearing and grubbing ▪ Grading and paving ▪ Removal of old PR 239 alignment ▪ Utility relocation
LMB-MBH	Manitoba Hydro Distribution Line + Relocations	Year one and two	▪ New 3-phase line to WCS ▪ Distribution relocations and linework ▪ Transmission corridor works

Lake St. Martin

The Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel is approximately 23.8 km long. A channel inlet is positioned at the east end of Lake St. Martin and the outlet near Willow Point in Sturgeon Bay of Lake Winnipeg. The Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel includes a water control structure near the channel inlet, several drop structures and a Manitoba Hydro distribution line to power the control structure.

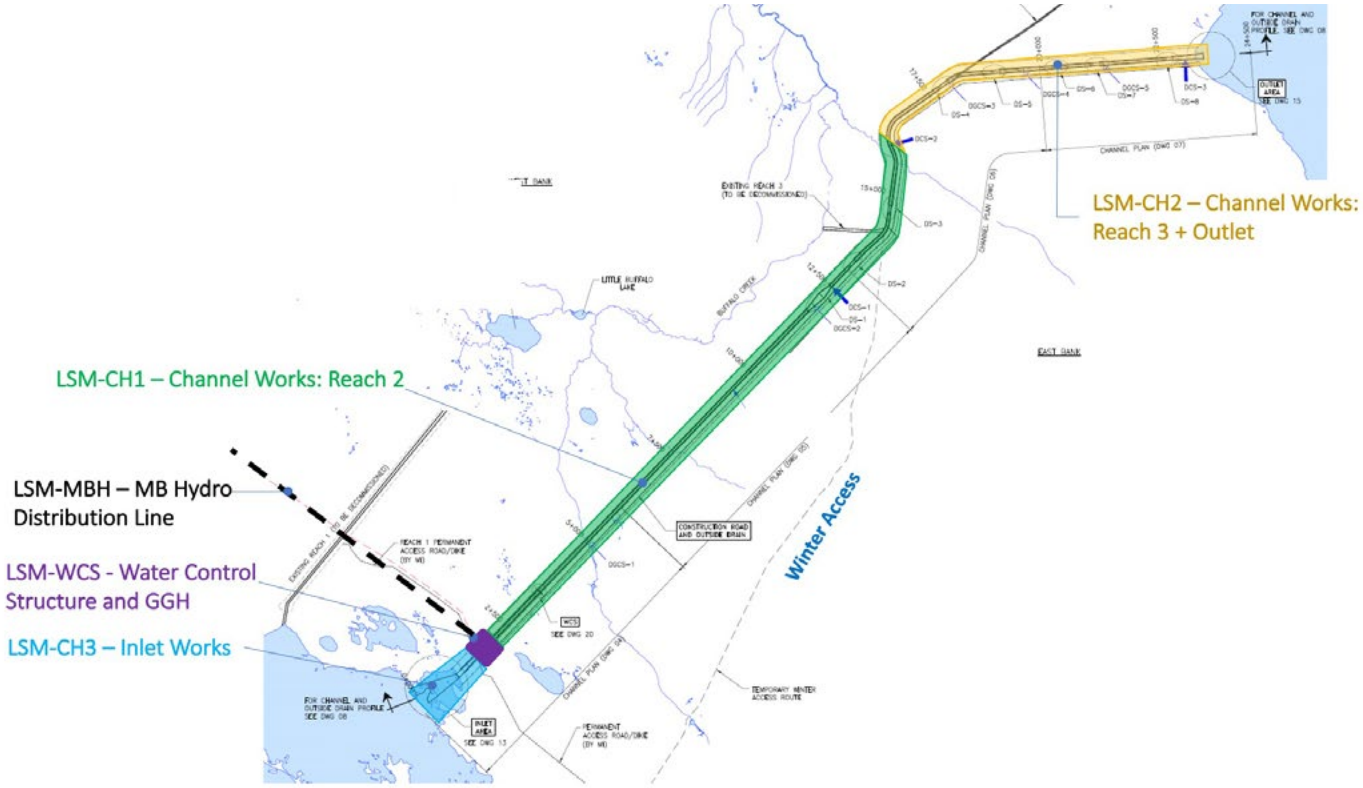
Figure 2: Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel: Phase One Construction Sequence



ID	Contract Title	Construction Schedule	Scope of Work
LSM-CL1	Peat moss Excavation Including Clearing	Year one (Winter)	▪ Clearing and peat moss removal from Lake Manitoba to 7 km north east
LSM-CL2	Peat moss Excavation Including Clearing	Year one (Winter)	▪ Clearing and peat moss removal from 7 km north of Lake Manitoba to reach 3
LSM-CL3	Peat moss Excavation Including Clearing	Year one (Winter)	▪ Clearing and peat moss removal from reach 3 to Lake Winnipeg
LSM-CL4	Clearing Manitoba Hydro ROW – Distribution Line	Year one (Winter)	▪ Clearing Manitoba Hydro ROW for distribution line from PR 513 to WCS

Lake St. Martin *(Continued)*

Figure 3: Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel: Phase Two Construction Sequence



ID	Contract Title	Construction Schedule	Scope of Work
LSM-CH1	Channel Excavation	Year two and three	▪ Till excavation from WCS to Reach 3
LSM-CH2	Channel Excavation	Year three and four	▪ Till excavation from reach 3 to Lake Winnipeg ▪ Outlet excavation
LSM-CH3	Inlet Excavation	Year three	▪ Inlet excavation
LSM-WCS	Water Control Structure	Year two and three	▪ Bridge/control structure ▪ Gates, Guides & Hoists, and ancillary features ▪ Excavation
LSM-MBH	Manitoba Hydro Distribution Line	Year two	▪ New 3-phase distribution line to WCS in new ROW from PR 513 (refer to LSM-CL4)

IN YOUR AREA

Field Work

Complete:
Red-headed Woodpecker Surveys – Surveys were completed in early July 2020, to estimate the number and location of red-headed woodpecker breeding pairs and to estimate the number and general location of suitable decadent trees that could be salvaged. Results will inform continued mitigation and monitoring planning.

Upcoming Six Weeks:

Geotechnical Investigations – Investigations are planned for the proposed future bridge crossings along the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel. Work is proposed to begin on July 26 and will involve augering and coring of soils and bedrock.

Water Quality Data Collection – Field measurements and water samples were collected in July and additional testing will take place in September from Lake Manitoba, Fairford River, Lake St. Martin, and in Watchorn Creek, Mercer Creek and Birch Creek watershed. Water quality data from cattle runoff operations along the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel will also be collected.

Groundwater Monitoring – Water levels readings were collected in July and additional testing will take place in September from areas along the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel right-of-way, Birch Creek and the Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel right-of-way.

In the event that you have any concerns about upcoming field work, please respond to the contact details indicated in Manitoba Infrastructure's notification letters. Stakeholders in the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale can contact Jacqueline Hickman at (204) 302-1870 or Jacqueline.Hickman@gov.mb.ca with questions about the Outlet Channels Project.

We Want To Hear From You

Please share your comments on the potential effects of the project by participating in meetings, or by contacting your local project Community Coordinator, band office, government office, association or email **outletchannels@gov.mb.ca** or the Outlet Channels Project **website.**

The environmental assessment is both a planning and decision-making tool. This process is iterative and evolves as additional project information and community and stakeholder feedback is received. Project design, proposed mitigations, and proposed monitoring activities can be adapted to ensure that feedback received through this process is addressed.

Manitoba