

What We Heard

Public Meetings for the Carrot Saskatchewan River Integrated Watershed Management Plan

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, the Province of Manitoba designated the Kelsey Conservation District (KCD) as the Watershed Planning Authority for the Carrot Saskatchewan River Watershed. This designation granted KCD the authority to create an integrated watershed management plan (IWMP) for the Carrot Saskatchewan River Watershed (Figure 1).

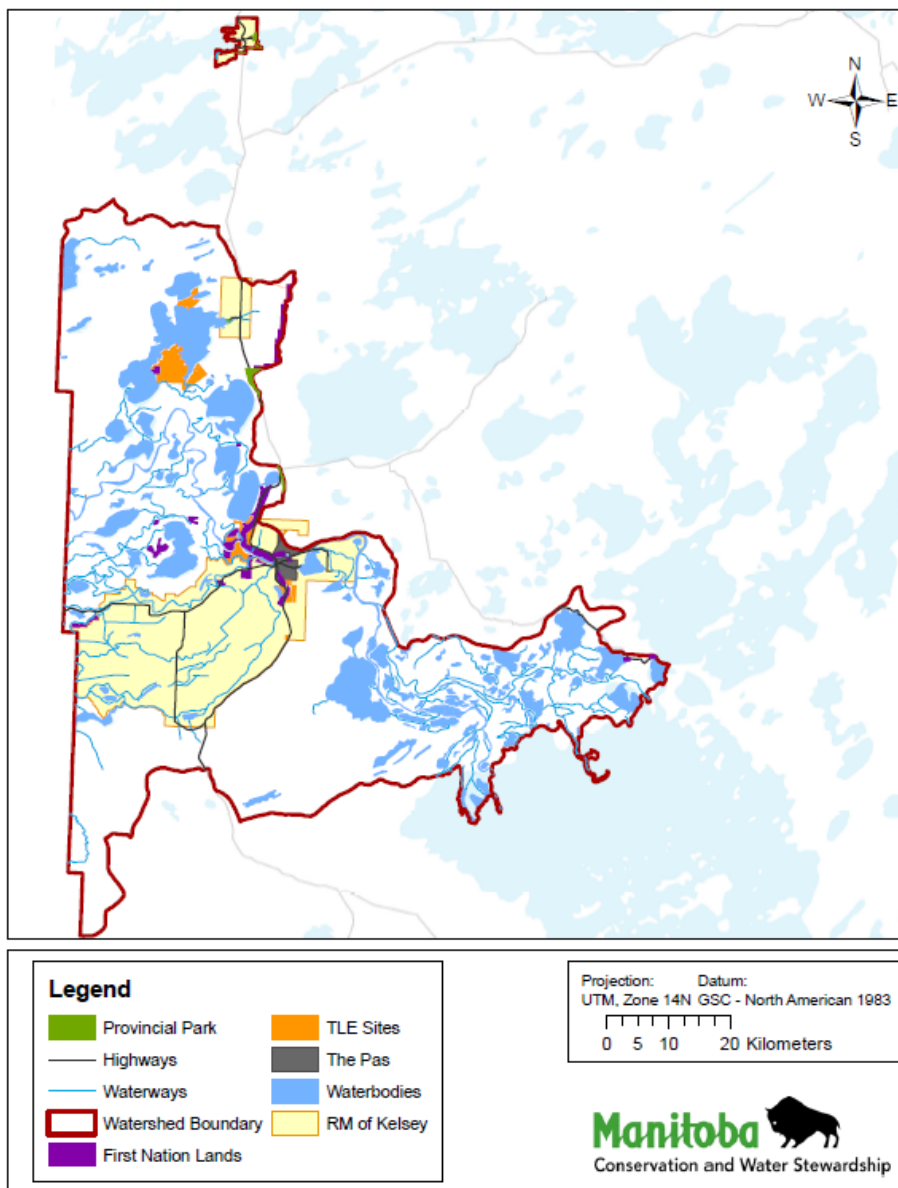


Figure 1: Carrot-Saskatchewan River Watershed

Early in the planning process, KCD formed a Project Management Team (PMT) to guide development of the Carrot-Saskatchewan River IWMP.

The Project Management Team includes:

Vincent Anderson (Chair)	Town of The Pas
Pau Chapman (Vice Chair)	Tolko Ltd.
Shawn Sexsmith	Kelsey Conservation District
Jerry Hlady	Rural Municipality of Kelsey
Diane Ballantyne	Opaskwayak Cree Nation Natural Resources
Shaun Greer	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Marnie McCracken	Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
Jarret Berezowecki	Kelsey Conservation District
Debbie McLaughlan	Kelsey Conservation District
Kent Whaley	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Ron Campbell	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Sharla Boychuk	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

PUBLIC MEETINGS

One of the first steps in the development of the plan was to hold public meetings to discuss what residents of the watershed value within the planning area. Four public meetings were held in September 2013: Cranberry Portage, Wanless, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, and The Pas. A total of 10 watershed residents participated.

Location	Number of Participants
Cranberry Portage	3
Wanless	1*
Opaskwayak Cree Nation	0
The Pas	6

**Additional input from six Wanless community members were provided in written format, after the public meetings. These comments were incorporated into this document.*

The discussions from these meetings are reported in this document and will provide direction to the PMT on the scope and priorities of the integrated watershed management plan. Participants were asked to indicate what they considered to be the most important land and water issues in the Carrot-Saskatchewan River watershed and to identify assets, priorities, threats, and potential solutions related to these issues. Further engagement of water residents will continue throughout the development of the plan.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Surface water fluctuations emerged as the most important issue to residents in the watershed. Agriculture was the second most important issue, as many residents are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and it is a fairly concentrated land management activity in the Carrot Valley region of the watershed. Flooding occurrences and water quality, specifically drinking water quality, was also primary concerns. Other concerns noted included recreation and tourism activities and the need for improved stakeholder relations and communications within the watershed.

Table 1 outlines the priority issues, assets (what are you trying to protect) and solutions, as identified by watershed residents at the five public meetings. Please note that issues are in priority order, assets and solutions are not.

Table 1: Carrot-Saskatchewan River Watershed Priority Issues, Assets and Solutions

Priority Issues	Assets	Solutions
<p>Surface Water Fluctuations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many water control structures are degraded and in need of repair - The operation of water control structures is not well coordinated - Lack of information sharing between organizations who operate and manage the water control structures and the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural lands • Residential properties • Cottage properties (on Rocky Lake and Lake Athapapuskow) • Fish habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved coordination between organizations that operate water control structures • Improved communications to residents on the operation of water control structures – increased information sharing • Upgrade or decommission degrading control structures • Increased monitoring of water control structures and their impacts in the watershed • Improved coordination of surface water flow between control structures in SK and MB • Operate water control structures in a proactive not reactive manner
<p>Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water fluctuations through the use of water control structures has caused flooding of agricultural land - Many of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural lands and crops • Producers Livelihood • Local economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade or decommission degrading water control structures • Manage Big Lake in manner to protect agricultural lands • Provide adequate protection of agricultural lands

<p>structures are in poor condition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Carrot River Valley is highly modified through water control structures upstream and downstream of the valley 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase drainage in the Carrot River Valley • Protect riparian areas and grass waterways
<p>Flooding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There has been recent flooding along the Carrot River and in the community of Wanless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities and homes • Agricultural lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular monitoring of beaver dams • Clean culverts regularly
<p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land use activities along the Carrot and Saskatchewan Rivers resulting in water quality degradation - Impacts from land use and agricultural activities - Septic systems around Lake Athapapuskow could potentially contaminate the drinking water source for Cranberry-Portage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean, safe drinking water • Lakes and waterways – specifically: Lake Athapapuskow, Carrot River and Saskatchewan River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve education through a strong public awareness campaign • Enforce existing regulations • Increased monitoring of water quality • Implementation of beneficial land management practices
<p>Stakeholder Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of information sharing between organizations who operate and manage the water control structures and the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships and communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate open dialogue and communications
<p>Recreation and Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns regarding impacts of recreation and tourism on the ecological health of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation and tourism opportunities within the watershed • Natural habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve education through public awareness • Enforce regulations which protect sensitive habitat in the watershed

the watershed - Maintain or improve recreational and tourism opportunities while protecting sensitive habitat		
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ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In addition to the public meetings held during September 10-12, 2013, residents of the watershed were engaged through additional venues, including:

- Online comment forms
- Individual meetings with watershed residents
- Delegation meetings with First Nation representatives
- Group meetings and discussion with community members in Wanless

The Project Management Team will continue to engage water residents and stakeholders throughout the development of this plan. All public comments will be considered by the PMT and will be summarized into watershed issues for discussion at the Watershed Team meeting in January 2014.