

Icelandic River/ Washow Bay Watershed

The Water Licensing Branch is the regulatory body charged with the responsibility of issuing authorization (e.g. permits, licences, etc.) under *The Water Rights Act* for the use of water for agricultural, municipal, industrial, irrigation, or other purposes. Water use for domestic purposes does not require a licence. Contact information and a more detailed description of the Water Licensing Branch's mandate are available on the Manitoba Water Stewardships website.

The intent of water rights licensing is to protect the interests of licensees, domestic users, the general public and the environment with respect to the use of water under licence. Licences are issued on "first in time – first in right" principal, established by the date the application is submitted. The general and specific conditions that are included on all licences reflect in part the information received from the technical and management studies that have been carried out for the project and/or water body. For surface water projects, this determination is based on the analysis of stream flow data, riparian needs, the water use requirements of senior users, domestic needs, and instream flows. For groundwater projects, this determination is based on an analysis of pump test data, regional water level information, the water use requirements of senior users, domestic needs, and aquifer safe yield budgets where available.

Aquifer or whole stream water budgets have not been established for the watershed. Therefore, the percentage of available water for the Icelandic River / Washow Bay watershed has not been calculated. The amount of water allocated in this watershed is very small compared to other areas in the province. There are presently eight surface water projects on file with the Water Licensing Branch in the Icelandic / Washow Bay watershed. Six surface water projects are for irrigation purposes. These projects tend to be small berry farmers or seed production projects, generally utilizing less than 10 dam³ of water per year. There are presently eleven groundwater projects on file with the Water Licensing Branch in the Icelandic River / Washow Bay watershed. Seven out of the eleven groundwater projects are for agricultural purposes. These projects tend to be livestock producers, generally utilizing less than 20 dam³ per year. There is also one groundwater sourced municipal distribution system in the watershed, the Village of Arborg, allocated 120 dam³ per year.

The following tables present all of the projects with the Water Licensing Branch for licensing in the Icelandic River/ Washow Bay watershed:

Licences:

| Purpose | Licences Issued | | Total Licences |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Groundwater | Surface Water | |
| Agricultural | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Industrial | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Irrigation | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Municipal | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 7 | 2 | 9 |

Applications:

| Purpose | Applications | | Total Applications |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | Groundwater | Surface Water | |
| Agricultural | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Industrial | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Irrigation | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Municipal | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 4 | 6 | 10 |

Allocations:

| Purpose | Allocated Under Licence (dam ³) | | Total Allocation (dam ³) |
|--------------|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Groundwater | Surface Water | |
| Agricultural | 105.2 | 0 | 105.2 |
| Industrial | 6.17 | 0 | 6.2 |
| Irrigation | 0 | 55.2 | 55.2 |
| Municipal | 120 | 0 | 120.0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total | 231.4 | 55.2 | 286.6 |

State of the Watershed Report Card Recommendation:

© No allocation limits have been set for the major rivers in this watershed. Current allocations are believed to be well below the sustainable yield of the major streams, based on site specific water budget evaluations carried out during the course of issuing water rights licences.