

Section 7.0 – Watershed Development

Section 7.2.3 - Comments from Transportation and Government Services

The following information is being provided to the La Salle Redboine Conservation District for the development of a Watershed Management Plan.

Description of TGS mandate in the La Salle River Watershed:

- Our Department has been mandated by the Provincial Government to establish and manage Manitoba's highways
- Our responsibilities include drainage structures and ditches along provincial highways
- Our Department occasionally undertakes drainage improvements along our highways but when the project addresses a drainage problem associated with the highway itself. If the project eliminates a threat to the highway or addresses a drainage problem that compromises the integrity of the highway, we will address the problem subject to availability of funding. If the project addresses local drainage issues of adjacent lands only, we offer to co-operate by providing permission, subject to various conditions, should the local drainage authority (the RM) wish to proceed with the project at their expense.

Description of the data we have collected:

- Our Department maintains an inventory for all of our highways. The inventory includes the location of highways, traffic volumes, pavement structures, and right-of-way width
- Our Department also maintains a bridge inventory for all of our structures including bridges and large diameter culverts. The bridge inventory includes data on structure location, structure type, year of construction, design flows and structure size

Trends identified in the watershed:

- The public is developing higher expectations regarding the level of service provided for drainage. Requests for drainage work have increased and private landowners are now starting to undertake drainage improvements on public land
- Ditches along our roads and the municipal roads have been deepened to improve drainage however these improvements have lead to numerous slope failures along the roadways

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Areas of concern or risks to the watershed:

- Drainage and drainage improvements are a significant area of concern for our Department. The majority of our public complaints are related to drainage issues
- Spills of hazardous materials along our highways are an identified risk to the watershed. Our Department has procedures in place to deal with these accidents when they occur along our highways

Information gaps and follow-up reports:

- Our Department would appreciate detailed drainage maps for the watershed and design flows for the culverts and bridges in the watershed. The availability of design flows and detailed maps would hopefully reduce the amount of ad-hoc drainage in the watershed and would make incremental improvements to the watershed easier to implement for the various jurisdictions
- Maps showing navigable waterways and fish bearing streams would also be useful
- We would also appreciate clarification of the responsibilities, related to drainage, of the various jurisdictions within the watershed

Recommendations regarding policy:

- Our Department would like to see the development of standards for drainage improvements to address side slope failures, steep side slopes (a roadside hazard for motorists) and erosion control

Information for watershed planning:

- Our Department has placed a substantial amount of information on the Manitoba Land Initiative website (<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/mli/>). The information includes highway location and highway number
- Our Department also has information on bridge sites within the watershed. We are trying to export the data from our database to provide the information to you in an electronic form. If we are successful, I will forward the information to you at a later date