

Section 7.0 – Watershed Development

Section 7.4.1 – Water Use Allocations of the La Salle River Watershed

The Water Licensing Branch is the regulatory body that is responsible for issuing authorizations (e.g. permits, licenses, etc.) under *The Water Rights Act* for the use of water for municipal, agricultural, industrial, irrigation, or other purposes. Water used for domestic purposes does not require a license. A more detailed description of the Water Licensing Branch’s mandate and contact information are available on the Manitoba Water Stewardships website.

The intent of water rights licensing is to protect the interests of domestic users, licensees, the general public and the environment with respect to the use or diversion of water or the construction and operation of water control works under license. Licenses are issued on “first in time – first in right” principle”, established by the date the application is submitted. The general and specific conditions that are included on all licenses 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 an analysis of stream flow data, riparian needs, the water use requirements of senior licensed water users, domestic water use needs, and instream flow requirements. For groundwater projects, this determination is based on an assessment of hydrogeological information including; geological information on aquifers, aquifer sustainable yield estimates and water allocation budgets, where available, as well the water use requirements of senior licensed users and domestic water use needs.

There are presently sixty-nine surface water projects on file with the Water Licensing Branch in the La Salle River watershed of which sixty-two of these projects are for irrigation purposes. These irrigation projects represent 70% of all of the water allocated under licence in the La Salle River watershed. There are also three surface water agricultural (livestock) projects and three surface water sourced municipal distribution systems in the La Salle watershed; two Hutterite Colonies and the Rural Municipality of MacDonald rural pipeline which is allocated 817.8 dam³ per year. There are presently eighteen groundwater projects on file with the Water Licensing Branch in the La Salle River watershed of which eight are for agricultural purposes, five are for irrigation purposes, four are for municipal purposes and one license is allocated for hydrostatic testing purposes. The groundwater municipal distribution systems include three Hutterite colonies, and the Town of Elm Creek which is allocated at 72 dam³ per year.

The following tables present all of the projects on file with the Water Licensing Branch for Licensing in the La Salle River watershed:

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Licences:

Purpose	Licenses Issued		Total Licenses
	Groundwater	Surface Water	
Agricultural	6	2	8
Industrial	0	0	0
Irrigation	3	50	53
Municipal	4	3	7
Other	1	0	1
Total	14	56	69

Applications:

Purpose	Applications		Total Applications
	Groundwater	Surface Water	
Agricultural	2	1	3
Industrial	0	0	0
Irrigation	2	12	14
Municipal	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total	4	13	17

Allocations:

Purpose	Allocated Under License (dam ³)		Total Allocation (dam ³)
	Groundwater	Surface Water	
Agricultural	160.9	120.8	281.7
Industrial	0	0	0
Irrigation	134.0	3376.6	3510.6
Municipal	149.4	842.5	991.9
Other	32.0	0	32.0
Total	476.3	4339.9	4816.2

State of the Watershed Report Card Recommendation:

© Based on the surface water availability figures provided by the Surface Water Management Section, there is 5685 dam³ available for allocation in the LaSalle Watershed annually. At present, 4339.9 dam³ of the 5685 dam³ (76%) of the surface water available for allocation has been allocated.

Aquifer sustainable yield estimates and groundwater allocation budgets have not been established for the LaSalle River watershed.