



Carrot River Valley Watershed Association

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FALL 2013

A Message from the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Board

The Carrot River Valley Watershed Association Inc. (CRVWA) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to preserving and maintaining the character and integrity of the watershed through education and awareness. Working to preserve the beauty, diversity, and integrity of the watershed, we will raise awareness and understanding by promoting sustainable environmental, economic and cultural activities. Our goal is to give community members the informed insight and tools they need to make positive changes in the watershed by working together to protect source water and the natural beauty of our watershed for current and future generations. The CRVWA has been working in the area since 2011 to implement key action items in the Carrot River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan. These key actions relate to a variety of planning objectives all of which are focused on source water protection. The CRVWA aims to increase awareness and education of all water and watershed related issues and concerns.

The CRVWA is pleased to welcome our new Agri-Environmental Group Plan Technician, Sarah Nye.

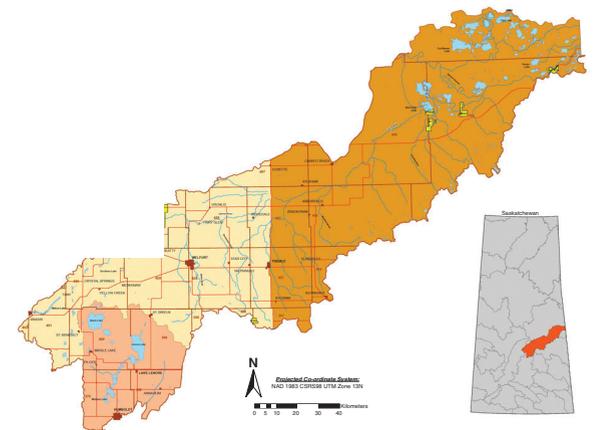
Sarah's education and experience working with agricultural producers make her a valuable asset to the Carrot River Valley Watershed team. Sarah will be working out of office in Melfort as well as traveling throughout the watershed promoting Beneficial Management Practises.

The CRVWA has begun the process of working more closely with the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan (CRW AEGP). This partnership will allow for the CRVWA and the CRW AEGP to reach a broader audience in promoting source water protection. The main focus of the CRW AEGP will continue to be agricultural related whereas the CRVWA will focus on serving all residents of the watershed.

The CRVWA holds bi-monthly meetings with the board of directors. This allows for the communication of proposed projects and updates on current projects. Board meetings were held on August 16th and October 23th; executive meetings were held on July 26th and August 20th. The CRVWA has been working on a communication strategy and a strategic

business plan. Both of these plans will work together to ensure the success of the CRVWA. These plans will also help the CRVWA and the CRW AEGP better coordinate proposed and ongoing projects.

If you would like more information on the CRVWA or to become involved with watershed activities, contact Jessica Hutton, Watershed Manager, at 306-752-1270, email crvwa2011@gmail.com, or stop by the office located at 202 Main Street in Melfort.



Thoughts on Agricultural Drainage

The topic of agricultural drainage often sparks opposing viewpoints and opinions. However, drainage has been occurring for many years. Drainage has become a somewhat common practice due to the current state of agriculture and increased land values. Drainage is known to have both positive and negative impacts, some of which include: increased acres for crop production, increased potential of flooding downstream, reduced ground water recharge, increased land values and increased incidence of siltation downstream.

The Water Security Agency has recently launched an online forum designed for residents of Saskatchewan to voice their concerns on agricultural drainage related issues. This forum is a result of the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan; one of the plans action areas is agricultural drainage and flooding.

This online forum is active from September 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 and is open to all Saskatchewan residents. This forum will discuss a range of topics including downstream flooding, water quality,

and effects on biodiversity caused by drainage. This forum will allow for a large number of people to share ideas and information. This discussion will aid the Water Security Agency in the development of a drainage policy.

All of the discussions will take place online and anyone who is interested in joining the panel can do so by visiting the Water Security Agency's website at www.wsask.ca or go to <http://agdrainage.insightrix.com>.



A watershed or drainage basin is a region that drains into a specific body of water, such as a river or lake. All the land, air, plants and animals within its borders are considered part of the watershed. Each watershed has a unique mixture of land and water habitats they include: wetlands, rivers, lakes, forests, grasslands and farms as well as towns and cities.

A Message from the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) Committee

Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan

The Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) is a non-profit organization that was created to promote awareness about environmental issues that correlate to farming practices. The committee is comprised of producers who volunteer their time and whose interest is in seeing Beneficial Management Practices being utilized to benefit both the environment and producers alike. The AEGP began in 2010 to assist area producers with applications to the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP) and to promote the implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). The Carrot River Watershed is located in East Central Saskatchewan and encompasses the RMs of 369, 370, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 456, 457, 458, 459, 486 and 487. Since 2010, the Carrot River Watershed AEGP has submitted project applications on behalf of producers in this area worth an estimated total value of almost \$965,000, and each year seen a steady increase in the number of BMP projects. In addition to the applications to the CSFSP, the Carrot River Watershed AEGP produced 11 newsletters/flyers, 5 brochures,

10 producer workshops, and participated in various local events and trade shows.

The partnership is underway with the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (CRVWA). We are excited with what this partnership provides us with, and gives us the opportunity to reach a broader audience, increase awareness of the watershed and its health in our area. The partnership allows us to highlight Beneficial Management Practices used by producers to reduce the risk to surface and ground water to both the rural and urban residents in the watershed.

We are anxiously awaiting for the roll-out and announcement of what the new Farm Stewardship Program announced under Growing Forward 2 will entail so we can offer assistance to local producers in applying for and utilizing upon approval the funding for the various projects that the program contains.

Work will be commencing soon on the approved 3D fencing pilot project that was granted through the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Development Fund. This trial is designed to help area producers determine if this type of fencing would be a viable option to control wildlife damage to livestock feed. Look for the results in the spring to see if this type of fencing was effective in minimizing feed loss due to wildlife.

With harvest wrapping up and the planning phase of next spring beginning, why not look at some Beneficial Management Practices that could be implemented in your operation to improve the health of the environment and watershed, as well as being beneficial to your operation? We would be happy to discuss with you some of the options that are available to you once the new Farm Stewardship Program and Growing Forward 2 have been rolled out. We hope you had a safe and bountiful harvest and be sure to check back with us for updates on the new program and funding options available for you to apply for under this program.

If you would like more information about the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group or upcoming projects, contact Sarah Nye, AEGP Technician, at (306)920-8166 or visit us at www.crvwatershed.ca or our Facebook page Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group.



Grain Bags



It's that time of year when harvest is wrapping up and the crop is in the bin. With a large yielding crop year, we are seeing a lot of grain bags being utilized as a storage option for crops. It is never too early to think about what you are going to do with the empty grain bags when you start hauling your grain to the elevator. Recycling is a great way to deal with empty grain bags, and it is an environmentally friendly option.

On March 24, 2011 the federal and provincial governments along with Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards (PCAB) announced a new Recycling Pilot Project to help Saskatchewan producers recycle grain bags and twine. Grain bags are increasingly becoming a popular method of grain storage for Saskatchewan producers, and we are seeing this method

of grain storage being utilized more frequently; however disposal is posing to be a problem. Grain bags are illegal to burn, as they release harmful carcinogens. These carcinogens are hazardous to the health of humans. This pilot will address this challenge and explore solutions for producers to recycle these plastics in an environmentally friendly manner.

This one year initiative involves six locations (Prince Albert, Kelvington, Estevan, Abbey, Unity, and Viscount) throughout the province where collection is currently taking place. The Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group is looking at bringing the grain bag roller equipment to our area for a collection day. Bags would also be available for the collection of twine for recycling as part of the collection day. Producers are encouraged to store grain bags in a dry easily accessible area until the collection day. The date and location will be decided after it is determined that there is enough producer interest within our watershed to make a collection day worthwhile. There will be no cost associated to the producer for the collection day, other than their time and transportation to bring their grain bags to the collection site.

For further information, visit the PCAB website www.saskpcab.com or call the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association office at (306)752-1270.

Northern Lights Trade Show

The CRVWA & The CRW AEGP took part in the Northern Lights Trade Show in Melfort on October 18 and 19. The CRVWA & CRW AEGP took this opportunity to discuss and promote source water protection with local residents. Education and awareness is the key to promote change and the adoption of practises that benefit the watershed.

If you would like more information on the CRVWA or to become involved with watershed activities, contact Jessica Hutton, Watershed Manager, at 306-752-1270, email crvwa2011@gmail.com, or stop by the office located at 202 Main Street in Melfort.



Riparian areas are composed of water loving vegetation in the transitional area between uplands and water. These areas are green, wet and lush. A healthy riparian area provides many benefits such as: source water, forage and habitats. They also perform important ecological functions such as filtering surface water and erosion control.

Watershed Presentations

The CRVWA has developed a presentation that is aimed to increase participation in environmental stewardship. This presentation is interactive and demonstrates a watershed model, with a target audience most suitable for grades 4-6 as it corresponds with the curriculum. It is designed to show students how land, water and human activities are interconnected and effect one another. The presentation focuses on types of pollution and offers the identification of potential solutions to reduce water pollution. With the watershed model being interactive, it allows students to see how runoff and pollutants enter water bodies and provide an opportunity for discussion on what they can do to decrease water pollution and lessen some of the negative human impact on water sources. Students will be able to apply possible contaminants (sprinkles and drink crystals) to see how runoff is transported to waterways. Once there is an understanding of possible contaminants there will be the opportunity to apply preventive measures that will help reduce pollution impacts. The CRVWA has examined the Provincial Learning Objectives from SK Evergreen Curriculum Guide. This has allowed us to design a presentation suitable for grades 4-6. The CRVWA is willing to visit schools and youth groups within our watershed to deliver this presentation.



The funding for this model was obtained through participating in the Northeast Community Futures Challenge 4 Communities 2012 Competition.

The CRVWA will also be hosting a poster contest in 2014. The theme and timing of the poster contest has not yet been determined. The CRVWA will post all information about the poster contest when available at www.crvwatershed.ca.

For more information on school presentations or our upcoming poster contest, contact the CRVWA office at 306 752 1270 or email crvwa2011@gmail.com.

New Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program

As part of the Growing Forward 2, a Federal-Provincial-Territorial policy framework of agricultural programs announced last spring a new Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) has been announced. This program is designed to help producers develop secure water sources for agricultural purposes. The program also helps minimize the impact of drought and helps promote rural economic activity.

Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure program targets four main components within the agriculture sector: On-Farm, Agricultural Business Development, Community Well and Irrigation District. Farmers, ranchers, First Nations bands, rural municipalities and irrigation districts across Saskatchewan are eligible to apply for funding to develop eligible projects.

In this article I will discuss the On-Farm component of the program. As stated above the purpose of this program is to develop sustainable non-potable water supplies for agricultural use. Agricultural use means water for crop spraying, livestock water-

ing or greenhouse production. Eligible projects include digging small-diameter and large diameter on-farm wells, and new or expanded dugouts. The expanded dugout must be at least one third larger than the original. The program will cover shallow buried pasture pipelines, deep buried pipelines and deep buried pipelines that connect to an established municipal water source. The program will cover remote livestock water systems provided it is for environmental purposes. The program will cover 50% of the installation costs of the above projects.

The final two projects are protecting existing wells and decommissioning old wells. Protecting existing wells generally involves landscaping to build up the area around the well to prevent surface water collecting at the wellhead leading to possible contamination of the well. Also covered in the program is the purchase and installation of above-ground casing extensions and lockable vented well caps. The program covers 50% of these costs

Well decommissioning is the sealing and capping of old, abandoned water wells. These old wells can

be a safety hazard as well as a direct contamination conduit into the water aquifer. The program will cover 90% of well decommissioning costs. However the decommissioning must be done by a professional with expertise in well decommissioning.

To be eligible you must; be a Saskatchewan resident or file income tax respecting farm income in Saskatchewan, earn a minimum of \$35,000.00 of gross farm income in Saskatchewan, and operate a minimum of 320 acres of farmland in Saskatchewan.

For more information on the new Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program go to our website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca or call the FRWIP toll free information line at 1-877-874-5365.

Provided by: John Hauer P.Ag.
Regional Forage Specialist
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Kindersley, Sask.

The Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan (CRW AEGP) includes RMs 401, 370, 369, 400, 399, 398, 397, 430, 429, 428, 427, 426, 459, 458, 457, 456, 487, and 486.



Proper Disposal of Prescription and Non-Prescription Medications



Proper disposal of pharmaceuticals is extremely important to the health of watersheds. Improper disposal of pharmaceutical products has caused chemical components of drugs to be detected in water supplies (surface water, groundwater and drinking water). Currently the Canadian Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program is offered to the public. The goal of this program is to limit the entry of pharmaceutical products into the environment. However, "these programs are estimated to collect only a fraction of unused and expired pharmaceuticals" (Proper Use and Disposal of Medication, 2011).

When prescription or non-prescription drugs are thrown in the garbage or flushed down the toilet or sink, there is the likelihood that the chemical components may retain in the soil or water. The treatment of water at municipal treatment plants is not effective in the filtering of the chemical components of pharmaceutical drugs. Even at low concentration the chemical components may cause adverse effects on the environment, aquatic health and human health. "Of particular concern are the potential adverse effects of cumulative, long-term exposure to trace amounts and mixtures of pharmaceuticals on vulnerable populations, including pregnant women, newborns, and children" (Proper Use and Disposal of Medication, 2011).

Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals

Proper disposal of prescription and non-prescription drugs is essential to health and well-being of a sus-

tainable water supply. Methods of proper disposal include:

- Do not put pharmaceuticals in the garbage or flush down the toilet or sink.
- Check to see if your pharmacy has a drug collection program.
- If your area pharmacy does not have a drug collection program, contact your municipality to see if they collect unused or expired drugs. Various municipalities have hazardous waste collection days or sites that may collect pharmaceuticals. (Proper Use and Disposal of Medication, 2011).

Resource:

Proper Use and Disposal of Medication. (2011). Retrieved from <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/med/disposal-defaire-eng.php>



Watershed Manager - Jessica Hutton, BSc

For more information about the CRVWA, upcoming events and current projects, contact Jessica at 306-752-1270 or email crvwa2011@gmail.com



AEGP Technician- Sarah Nye

Sarah Nye has been hired and is joining the Carrot River Watershed Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) as the new AEGP

Technician. Sarah completed her diploma in Agriculture Production, with her major in Farm and Ranch Management, from Olds College in 2004. She has a diverse amount of experience working in the agriculture industry. Originally from Ontario, Sarah now resides out of the Meskanaw area with her partner Jon and their sons, where they raise Registered Black Angus breeding stock. Sarah is looking forward to assisting producers with applications to the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program under the new Growing Forward 2, and raising awareness of source water protection from an agricultural perspective. She looks forward to meeting and assisting producers with the new programming available under Growing Forward 2 and working

with the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association. Please feel free to contact Sarah if you wish to discuss any of the Beneficial Management Practices and programs under the Farm Stewardship Program that you may be interested in incorporating on your farm.

If you have any questions or require more information about the AEGP, the Farm Stewardship Program, or upcoming AEGP activities, please contact Sarah at 306-920-8166 or e-mail crwatershed@gmail.com.

Meet the Staff

Thank you to our Members!

Town of Carrot River
Town of Arborfield
RM of Tisdale #427
RM of Nipawin #487
RM of Connaught #457
Tisdale Wildlife Federation
Pasquia Regional Park

Aborfield Conservation & Development Area Authority
Moose Range Conservation & Development Area Authority
RM of Moose Range #486
Town of Wakaw
RM of Kinistino #459

City of Melfort
Wakaw Lake Regional Park Authority
Resort Village of Wakaw Lake
RM of Invergordon #430
RM of Hoodoo #401
RM of Fish Creek #402

Melfort & District Wildlife Federation
RM of Pleasantdale #398
St. Peter Conservation & Development Area Authority
RM of Humboldt #370
RM of St. Peter #369

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Municipalities, Communities, and Special Interest Groups: Become a CRVWA Member Today!
Have a voice in source water protection.



Contact Us
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Like us on Facebook:
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Groundwater is an important part of earth's water cycle. Water continually circulates between land, air and ocean in the form of rain, snow, water vapour, surface water and ground water. Ground water starts as surface water or precipitation and enters the ground slowly through areas that are referred to as recharge areas.