



MAR 27 2023

Murdoch MacPherson, Chair
Calling Lakes District Planning Commission
callinglakesdistrict@gmail.com

Dear Murdoch MacPherson:

I am writing in response to your letter to the Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Government Relations, regarding the Water Security Agency's (WSA) Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy that is under development.

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the important role of wetlands. This is why in the Prairie Resilience Climate Change Strategy, we have a commitment to "continue to implement Saskatchewan's agricultural water management framework in the province to help assure continued productivity, enhance wetland habitat conservation and improve runoff management in times of both drought and flood."

In addition, our Growth Plan includes protecting natural areas associated with agricultural land that provide carbon sinks and habitat for wildlife – this supports the sustainability of Saskatchewan's agriculture and natural resource sectors.

As part of implementing WSA's agricultural water management framework, I am pleased to share with you that the agency is developing an Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy. This is a comprehensive policy that will include wetland stewardship to help us manage water quality, along with water quantity, wetland habitat, soil health and greenhouse gases. In addition, one of the desired outcomes of this policy is to support water quality for human uses, agricultural production, industry, and healthy aquatic populations and biodiversity.

The policy will have a measurement framework that includes a set of key indicators and regular public reporting. This will be included when the policy is released by the end of 2023.

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To ensure that the interests and perspectives of stakeholders and Indigenous communities are heard and considered in developing this policy, WSA implemented an ongoing engagement process with a broad range of organizations from July 2022 to August 2023. In July, we launched the engagement process through a set of plenaries in Regina and in Saskatoon, where more than 70 organizations and Indigenous communities were invited.

We also have a webpage, [Engagement & Policy Development | Water Security Agency \(wsask.ca\)](#), that contains our engagement materials. This webpage provides the public with key information and progress as we move through policy development.

We do acknowledge and value the interests and different perspectives that individuals and community-driven organizations, such as the Calling Lakes District Planning Commission, have in helping shape an Agricultural Water Stewardship Policy for Saskatchewan. We'd be very happy to hear any feedback that you have on the engagement materials, or on any considerations for the policy. You may send comments to agwatermanagement@wsask.ca.

Thank you again for your interest in the province's water management. I assure you that we will continue to dedicate efforts and resources to make sure that the policy is in place by the end of 2023, and that this policy reflects the perspectives, values and needs of the people in Saskatchewan.

If you have any further questions about the Agriculture Water Management Stewardship Policy, please contact Megan Schaefer, Director of Program Advancement, at Megan.Schaefer@wsask.ca or 306.529.7191.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Cockrill
Minister Responsible for Water Security Agency

cc: Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Government Relations
Travis Keisig, MLA, Last Mountain-Touchwood,
Shawn Jaques, Interim President and CEO, Water Security Agency
Megan Schaefer, Agricultural Water Management, Water Security Agency