

WSAs Role in Official Community Plans

SODCAP Workshop
January 20, 2016

The Water Security Agency was created in October of 2012 to support the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth and to deliver the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan.

By bringing together governments expertise and responsibilities for water, the WSA will ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to water management.



The WSA is responsible for:

- Operation, management and safety of provincial dams and water conveyance works;
- Protection of drinking water and the regulation of municipal water and waste water treatment facilities;
- Protection of source water quality and aquatic habitat;
- Flow, lake level, and flood forecasting; and,
- Water supply planning, allocation of surface and ground water, and water conservation.





The WSAs interest in the SPI:

- There are 3 Statements of Provincial Interest (SPI) that relate to water:
 - Section 6.7 – Public Safety
 - Section 6.12 – Shore Lands and Water Bodies
 - Section 6.13 – Source Water Protection



Section 6.7 – Public Safety

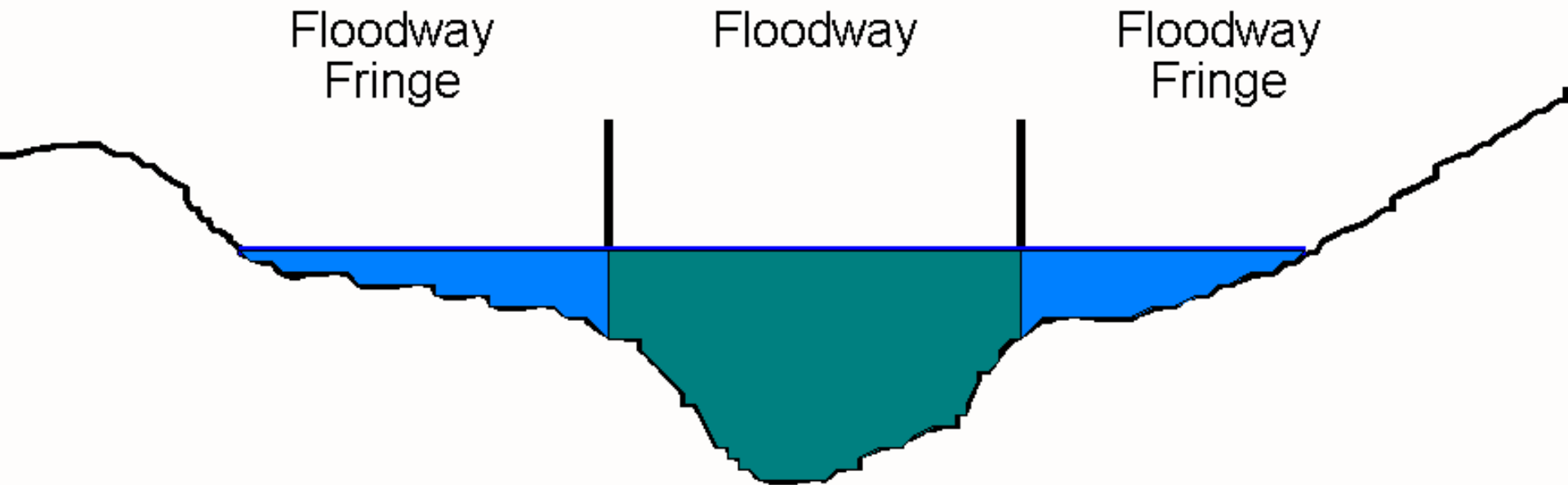
“The province has an interest in ensuring the safety and security of individuals, communities and property from natural and human-induced threats.”



Section 6.7 – Public Safety (cont.)

1. Identify potential hazard lands and address their management
2. Limit development on hazard lands to minimize the risk to public or private infrastructure
- 3. Prohibit the development of new buildings and additions to buildings in the flood way of the 1:500 year flood elevation of any watercourse or water body**

Two Zone Flood Plain



River Cross Section in Flood Stage



Section 6.7 – Public Safety (cont.)

- 4. Require flood-proofing of new buildings and additions to buildings to an elevation 0.5 metres above the 1:500 year flood elevation of any watercourse or water in the flood fringe**
5. Locate subdivisions, transportation infrastructure and public works to minimize, mitigate or avoid threat to the community from wildfire or other emergencies
6. Consider community and regional fire protection measures adjacent to forests

Regulatory Flood Standards Across Canada		
Province/Territory	Regulatory Flood	Definition of Floodway
Saskatchewan	1:500 year	Hydraulic (1)
Ontario	See Note 2	1:100
BC	1:200 year	See Note 3
Manitoba/Alberta/NWT/ Nunavut	1:100 year	Hydraulic (1)
Quebec/NS/NB/PEI/Nfld & Labrador	1:100 year	1:20

Notes

1. Hydraulic floodway > 1 m/s or > 1 m in depth or when blocked causes > 0.3 m backwater
2. Ontario uses Hurricane Hazel rainfall/runoff, Timmins storm rainfall/runoff, 1:100 year flood or historical flood
3. Floodway = natural channel width plus 30 m setback
4. Maritime provinces may also use historical flood if greater than 1:100 event.

Current Hydrology Role in SPI Implementation

	Request	Role / Comment
Official Community Plans	CP requests comments on Draft OCPs. Communities looking for technical assistance.	About 782 communities in Saskatchewan (Urban, Rural, Resort). Often can't provide technical assistance.
Subdivision Application Reviews	CP requests comment on flood hazard.	Provide 1:500 elevation if possible, if not, provide 1:500 flow and recommend proponent retain consultant.



Section 6.12 – Shore Lands & Water Bodies

“The province has an interest in environmental stewardship, responsible development and public access to provincial water bodies and shore lands.”



Section 6.12 – Shore Lands & Water Bodies (cont.)

1. Consider the impacts of development on associated water bodies and shore lands, aquatic life and habitat
2. Minimize, mitigate or avoid potential development impacts to waterways, watersheds, water bodies, wetlands, shore lands, aquifers and groundwater
3. Integrate provincial watershed management planning considerations into local and regional planning
4. Preserve and enhance public access to water bodies, shore lands and reservoirs for recreational use.

Primary goal of the Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit (AHPP)



To ensure aquatic habitat is preserved and maintained at the productive level which existed prior to the development activities by:

- Controlling soil erosion and sedimentation;
- Preventing the discharge of chemicals, oil, gasoline and other contaminants into water bodies; and
- Protecting aquatic vegetation and other aquatic habitats



Community Planning and AHPPs

- Developers can not clear lots all the way to the water. AHPP required if working in the bed, bank or boundary. Boundary is defined as the total riparian zone or a minimum of 5m from top of bank.
- Environmental Reserves (ER), no shoreline work is allowed on Environmental Reserves, do not put ER between lot and water unless no work wanted.
- All lot owners will need to apply for an AHPP if/when they want to do any work on their lot (bed, bank & boundary – bank+5m or where riparian vegetation ends).
- Number of boat docks on lake is RM responsibility.

Aquatic Habitat Protection Permits

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Section 6.13 – Source Water Protection

“The province has an interest in the protection of water sources that provide safe drinking water.”



Section 6.13 – Source Water Protection (cont.)

1. Ensure that water quality for human consumptive or hygienic use is not compromised by new development
2. Consider the effects of development on water quantity
3. Confirm, before approval, that there is an established or proven supply of water capable of servicing the needs of the proposed development.

Section 6.13 – Source Water Protection (cont.)

WSAs Environmental and Municipal Management Services Division (EMMSD)

- Ensure provincial drinking water and wastewater interests have been considered
- EMMSD will review the plans based on the legislation they are responsible for which is *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* and *The Waterworks and Sewage Works Regulations*.
- The review will also include looking at the state of the community's infrastructure as well as the quality of their water and wastewater. EMMSD also review the water and wastewater capacity to ensure future development is sustainable.



Regional Services Perspective

Region Services review proposed Subdivisions and OCPs

- Use, diversion and storage of water
 - Highlight existing projects
 - Advise new landowner the need to obtain a Water Rights Licence
 - Intent to alter natural drainage patterns

Questions?

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