
**24th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water
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Manitoba Water Appropriation Law

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OUTLINE

MANITOBA'S APPROACH

- Water Doctrine
- Serious Water Shortage
- In-Stream Flow Needs
- Conservation
- PPWB Apportionment Agreement
- A Future Soft Path for Water?

WATER DOCTRINE

- Prior Appropriation - First in Time, First in Right
- Licensed under Manitoba Water Rights Act
- Latest licensed first cut off in time of shortage
- No change in entitlement with changing water supply

SERIOUS WATER SHORTAGE

- New provisions in Water Protection Act
- Minister may declare a serious water shortage
- Actions may be taken to prevent or alleviate water shortage

SERIOUS WATER SHORTAGE

- Any orders or regulations prevail over WRA license or permit
- If licensed allocations are cancelled or reduced compensation may be required

CONSERVATION

- **Water Protection Act also empowers Cabinet to make regulations:**
 - (a) establishing water conservation programs; and
 - (b) generally respecting the reduction of water usage in Manitoba.

IN-STREAM FLOW NEEDS

- In-stream flow needs must be considered in licensing decisions under Water Rights Act
- License may be suspended or restricted if in-stream flows are insufficient

IN-STREAM FLOW NEEDS

- Intermittent Streams – use standard In-Stream Flow Method
- Perennial Streams – Use methods to address hydrology, biology, connectivity, geomorphology and water quality

PPWB APPORTIONMENT AGREEMENT

- Based on the principle of equal sharing of water
- Alberta and Saskatchewan may each take half of the natural flow originating within their boundaries and half of flow entering province

Red River Apportionment

- No apportionment agreement exists for the Red River
- Need exists to plan for next drought
- Plan for equitable sharing
- Plan to reduce drought vulnerability
 - Water “soft paths” approach should be investigated

Manitoba Water Soft Paths Project

- Multi-year project lead by International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to achieve sustainable and equitable water resources management
- IISD analyzing current water use and making recommendations for future policy direction, using a “soft paths” approach

Manitoba Water Soft Paths Project

- **Water soft paths concept is about changing the way we use water**
 - rely on a multitude of geographically distributed, relatively small-scale sources of supply coupled with ultra-efficient ways of meeting end-use demands
 - aim for use of renewable resources and methods of waste disposal that are analogs of natural processes

Manitoba Water Soft Paths Project

- Envision a future state of water sustainability & design a feasible policy pathway to achieve it.
- Project will critically examine the services for which we use water, and appropriately match water quality to its intended use.

THANK YOU