Summer 2018
Quarterly Newsletter

"PROMOTING ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BALANCE TO SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE THE WATERSHED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS"

Box 104 Redvers, Saskatchewan S0C 2H0

(306) 452 3292

info@lowersouris.com

www.lowersouris.com

Lower Souris Watershed Committee Inc.

LowerSouris watershed committee

Beyond Water

An Update on Water and Sustainability

Continuing Cooperation in Moosomin Lake Regional Park

Last year, the Lower Souris Watershed Committee worked with Moosomin Lake Provincial Park and funding from Enbridge to improve walking trails with educational signage. These interpretive trails run through the natural areas of the park and give information on different plant and animal species, as well as provide information on the ecosystems and history of the region.

Through a program called the Natural Edge, we picked four locations around the lake where shorelines were unstable and planted native species. The growth and diversity of these species will help protect the waters and improve habitat. The program is funded through the department of fisheries and oceans, protecting fish and wildlife populations for us all to enjoy.

This year, we are continuing education and restoration programs in more areas of the park. Enbridge has once again provided funding which we will use to provide an educational nature themed play area for park visitors as well as improve biodiversity and remove invasive species.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Weedmark

The plans are still being finalized but we hope to include:

- A sandbox, a small play structure and animal statues to play on
- A brick patio with animal footprints in some of the bricks
- Benches, retaining walls, and a firepit
- Large native trees for shade and cover
- Educational signage

The LSWC will continue with Natural Edge shoreline restorations and plans to do several residential shorelines as well as a peninsula which has invasive species growing on it. These species will be properly removed so they cannot spread, and we will plant native species which will flourish in years to come making it difficult for the invasive species to establish in the future.

ENBRIDGE

The Natural Edge — Restoring the Ribbon of Life

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Upcoming Events*

Cover Crop Field Day
August 9th, 2018
Bangor Hall, Bangor SK
ssca.ca

Manitoba Beef and Forages Initiatives Grazing Workshop
August 9th, 2018
Intersection of Hwy 353 & 10
MBFI.ca

*More events and webinar information on our website: **lowersouris.com/events**

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

Water Security Agency

Government of Saskatchewan

Canada

Zebra & Quagga Mussels

Why **You** Should Care

Photo courtesy Province of Manitoba

Family Activities

Zebra Mussels shells are small and sharp and can cut up your feet in the water or on a beach. Don't go barefoot!

Zebra Mussels eat phytoplankton which allows sunlight to fuel larger algal blooms and weed growth. This can lead to toxin's in water, skin irritation, bad smells, and have other impacts.

Beaches with smooth sand can be littered with millions of shells, rendering them unusable to families.

Fishing

Zebra mussels attach themselves onto hard surfaces and can grow into thick layers damaging equipment.

Zebra mussels eat phytoplankton, which is a food source for fish and other animals, impacting populations of predatory fish. Algal blooms caused by zebra mussels also have negative impacts on fish populations.

Photo courtesy Province of Manitoba

Costs

Photo Courtesy Marrone Bio Innovations

Zebra mussels damage machinery, dams, water treatment plants, and have a huge economic burden. Zebra mussels have cost the North American economy billions of dollars.

To try to reduce the spread of zebra mussels, it is mandatory for individuals transporting boats to stop at an inspection station and submit to inspection. Failure to do so will result in a $500 fine. Illegal transport of aquatic invasive species is also a $500 fine.

CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT

Before returning home from out of province, coming to visit or moving between waters within the province make sure to:

CLEAN
remove all visible plants, animals and mud

DRAIN
all on-board water and leave plugs out during transport and storage

DRY
your watercraft, and all related gear completely

Government of Saskatchewan

To report suspect invasive species, please contact the nearest Ministry of Environment office or call the TIP Line.

saskatchewan.ca/environment | 1-800-667-7561

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP
Innovate. Grow. Prosper.

Farm Stewardship Program
Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program
Are you Eligible?

The Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) focuses on 4 outcomes:

1) Improvements in water quality
2) Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
3) Enhanced resilience of the agriculture sector
4) Biodiversity maintained

To be eligible for cost-share funding to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) on your farm or to apply for water development or well decommissioning projects, you must:

- Demonstrate a minimum of $50,000 gross farm income in Saskatchewan
- Provide a Premises Identification Number (PID) if involved in livestock operations
- Comply with any regulatory requirements, including any required permits or approvals
- For pre-approval BMPs, no work can be done prior to receiving written approval for the project
- For the Variable Rate Mapping BMP, you must have an Environmental Farm Plan certificate or other sustainability initiative (Verified Beef Production Plus, 4R Nutrient Stewardship or an International Sustainability and Carbon Certificate)
- **BMPs may have additional eligibility requirements

What is the Environmental Farm Plan?

The Environmental Farm Plan is a free voluntary online self-assessment tool designed to help producers identify environmental risks on their farm and create action plants to address those risks. During the process producers highlight their farm's strengths, identify potential environmental concern and develop realistic action plans to address these concerns.

Check out efp.Saskatchewan.ca to create your account & complete or update your environmental farm plan.

The Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) is designed to:

1) Support the development of secure and sustainable water sources for agricultural use in Saskatchewan
2) Mitigate the impact of drought
3) Improve public safety and reduce potential groundwater contamination through well decommissioning

What is a Premises Identification Number (PID)?

Premises Identification (PID) is one of three pillars of traceability, linking livestock and poultry to geographical locations. It was established to plan for, control, and prevent the spread of livestock diseases. It can also be used as an early warning system to notify producers of natural disasters such as fire or flood that could affect their animals or operations.

A premise is an area of land where animals are grown, bred, kept, raised, displayed, assembled or disposed of. You should apply for a PID if you own a regulated animal kept at a premise you control or if you are the operator of a co-mingling site.

Applicants can apply online or by submitting a paper application. Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 for more information or go to premisesid.Saskatchewan.ca to start your registration.

For more information and to apply for these programs:

1) Call Karmen Kyle, Agri-Environmental Advisor with the Lower Souris Watershed, at 306-452-7953
2) Check out Saskatchewan.ca/cap
3) Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377

LowerSouris watershed committee

Government of Saskatchewan

Canada

Wetland Restoration

How You Can Benefit from Doing the "Green" Thing

Wetlands on an ecosystem scale have a huge economic benefit offering services to Canadians at an estimated value over $20 billion each year. Amazingly, this is dwarfed by the estimated global value of $14.9 trillion stated by the Environmental Protection Agency. These benefits are often gained by society; yet a drained wetland may offer a greater independent financial benefit to the landowner. This is not always the case though as soil conditions may create a lower net return to farmers in comparison to funding offered through wetland restoration programs

- Working with the Assiniboine river basin initiative, LSWC is currently working on new funding to conduct wetland restorations in the lower Souris watershed funded through the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program
- Drained wetlands may suffer from issues with **salinity**. If you have an unproductive drained wetland, restoration may offer a financial benefit
- Wetlands hold water in rain events and slowly release resulting in a form of **flood control**
- Wetlands are referred to as the kidneys of the land, filtering water and **improving water quality** for us to enjoy
- Wetlands are a **habitat** for animals which many people value

If you have a drained wetland and you are interested in seeing whether you could be approved for a wetland restoration project, please contact the Lower Souris Watershed Committee at info@LowerSouris.com

Soil Health – Organic Matter

Why Organic Matter… Matters

- Organic matter improves aggregate stability and pore space resulting in increased water infiltration, soil aeration and decreased runoff
- Increased soil water holding capacity
- Reduction of "stickiness" resulting in improved soil conditions for work
- Reduction in surface crusting, improving the seedbed
- Increased CEC allowing soils to provide more essential nutrients
- Stabilizes pH
- Improves soil mineral decomposition further increasing nutrient availability
- Increases soil organisms and microbial diversity supressing disease and pests

Sources of Organic Matter

- Crop Residues
- Animal Manure
- Compost
- Cover Crops
- Perennial Grasses and Legumes

How to Increase Organic Matter

- Reduced tillage can improve soil structure and increase organic matter
- Cover cropping adds plant matter, increases microbial populations, and more
- The addition of perennial forage crops to crop rotation
- Manure and compost directly adds organic matter
- Grazing cover crops helps break down and incorporate plant matter

Sponsors

Village of Fairlight
Village of Fleming
Village of Gainsborough
Village of Manor
Village of Maryfield
Town of Moosomin
Town of Redvers
Village of Storthoaks
Town of Wapella
RM of Argyle #1
RM of Storthoaks #21
RM of Reciprocity # 32
RM of Moose Creek #33
RM of Antler #61
RM of Maryland #91
RM of Walpole #92
RM of Wawken #93
RM of Moosomin #121
RM of Martin #122
RM of Silverwood #123
RM of Kingsley #124
RM of Chester #125
RM of Willowdale #153

LowerSouris watershed committee