

Water Security Agency



Plan for 2021-22

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Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Fred Bradshaw
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Security
Agency*

I am pleased to present the Water Security Agency's (WSA) Plan for 2021-22.

Government Direction and Budget 2021-22 is focused on protecting Saskatchewan people through the remainder of the pandemic, building the infrastructure that a strong economy needs, and growing Saskatchewan to help ensure a strong economic recovery.

WSA continues to play a key role in realizing many of the critical initiatives within both the Saskatchewan Growth Plan and our climate plan, Prairie Resilience.

The Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Projects supports both initiatives – ensuring our province is adapting to climate change by adding long-term food security through irrigation expansion. We anticipate seeing strong progress in 2021 with Regina-based Clifton Associates chosen to lead engineering work on the first two phases. This is an important step towards realizing the irrigation potential of Lake Diefenbaker.

WSA continues to work diligently at ensuring it is a responsible regulator, prioritizing safety and environmental responsibility while acting as a reasonable facilitator of economic growth. With many significant projects and initiatives, WSA is focused on strengthening its service delivery for its clients by creating streamlined processes and improving responsiveness, accuracy, consistency and speed in handling client requests. This client centered approach will help drive responsible economic growth while protecting the quality of life for our citizens and the environmental well-being of our province.

Our Growth Plan recognizes the importance of supporting our agricultural industry, which is a focal point of the Agricultural Water Management Strategy (the Strategy). In 2020, WSA began working with producers to undertake demonstration projects to further show how the Strategy can best reflect not only local concerns, but also local opportunities. These multi-year projects will show how producers can get drainage approvals while supporting farm profitability and environmental sustainability.

We continue to see other important projects take shape, including flood plain mapping for communities at risk, creating a provincial drought response strategy and building more community resiliency to manage extreme weather incidents, investing in our 72 dams and conveyance channels, and ensuring safe drinking water for all of our residents.

The Water Security Agency will report on progress towards the targets laid out in this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2021-22 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

Protect. Build. Grow. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to protecting Saskatchewan people through the rest of the pandemic as life returns to normal and our economy grows. Investing in infrastructure like hospitals, schools, and highways will help build a strong economy and create jobs for strong families, strong communities, and a better quality of life.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2021-22 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Water Security Agency is responsible for managing the water supply, protecting water quality, ensuring safe drinking water, managing dams and water supply channels, reducing flood and drought damage and providing information on water. The Agency works to integrate all aspects of provincial water management to ensure water supplies support economic growth, quality of life and environmental well-being.

Mission Statement

We strive to provide exceptional service and ensure that water management supports growth, a healthy environment and a high quality of life for Saskatchewan people.

Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan:

- “Flood and drought damage reduction – Ensure measures are in place to effectively respond to floods and drought”

Saskatchewan’s Growth Plan – The Next Decade of Growth (30 Goals for 2030):

- “Deliver on Saskatchewan’s climate change strategy, Prairie Resilience”

Organization Goal

Saskatchewan’s water resources are more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Strategy

Enhance our ability to deliver earlier and more accurate flow forecasts and flood warnings for key watersheds.

Key Actions

- Develop and implement a renewed flow forecasting centre that meets the level of service required by the citizens of Saskatchewan.

Strategy

Build municipal/community capacity to become more resilient to climate variability (floods & droughts).

Key Actions

- Advance the Building Regional Adaptation Capacity and Expertise (BRACE) Project to aid communities to understand drought related threats and develop contingency plans.

Performance Measures

Flood mapping completed for communities identified as being at risk of flooding

This measures the percentage of communities in Saskatchewan identified as being at risk of flooding that have completed or have access to floodplain maps.

Key watersheds with an advanced flow forecasting system in place

This measures the number of key watersheds with improved and timely flow forecasting systems.



Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan:

- “Protection of water resources – Ensure water quality and ecosystem functions are sustained”

Saskatchewan’s Growth Plan – The Next Decade of Growth (30 Goals for 2030):

- “Deliver on Saskatchewan’s climate change strategy, Prairie Resilience”

Organization Goal

Reduce the impacts of agricultural water management on water quantity, quality and habitat.

Strategy

Advance the Agricultural Water Management Strategy.

Key Actions

- Continue to develop, demonstrate, and implement policies, procedures and processes to support the streamlined and consistent delivery of the Agricultural Water Management Strategy in a way that supports economic growth and protects the environment.
- Engage partners to identify needs and initiate research and development to address key knowledge gaps.
- Effectively communicate the intent, outcomes and requirements of the strategy to clients and key stakeholders.
- Build the capacity of Qualified Persons (QPs) to ensure consistent and high-quality drainage applications.
- Support Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association (SCDA) to advance the Agricultural Water Management Strategy.

Performance Measures

Number of quarter sections that meet regulatory requirements

This measure provides an indication of progress in the implementation of the Agricultural Water Management Strategy.

Percentage of producers that are aware of the Agricultural Water Management Strategy

This measure provides an indication of the awareness of producers in Saskatchewan towards the Agricultural Water Management Strategy.

Number of active Qualified Persons supporting the delivery of the Agricultural Water Management Strategy

This measure represents the number of Qualified Persons actively working to support producers through the new Agricultural Water Management Strategy approval process.



Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan:

- “Safe dams – Ensure dams safely meet water supply and management needs”

Saskatchewan’s Growth Plan – The Next Decade of Growth (30 Goals for 2030):

- “Expand irrigation in Saskatchewan”

Organization Goal

WSA infrastructure safely and effectively meets the water supply and management needs of the citizens of Saskatchewan.

Strategy

Develop a ten-year rolling Water Infrastructure Maintenance Plan to address the growing maintenance deficit and advance priority maintenance activities.

Key Actions

- Assess and identify the maintenance needs of WSA’s water management infrastructure.

Strategy

Develop and implement a Water Infrastructure Planning Program to assist with decision-making related to the prioritization of WSA infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance.

Key Actions

- Perform pilot project on lifecycle costing and levels of service on water infrastructure assets.
- Implement a maintenance management / asset management application.

Strategy

Maximize irrigation capacity that draws from sustainable water sources with adequate water quality.

Key Actions

- Complete an assessment of selected areas that would benefit from irrigation.
- Develop and maintain additional water conveyance infrastructure.
- Support existing irrigation district infill development.

Performance Measures

Dam Infrastructure Risk Index

Dam Infrastructure Risk Index is a qualitative assessment of the current knowledge of the hydraulics, structural, and geotechnical components taking into consideration the consequence classification of the dam.



Government Goals



A Strong Economy



Strong Communities



Strong Families

25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan:

- “Adequate data, information and knowledge – Ensure adequate water data, information and knowledge are available to support decision making”

Organization Goal

Corporate data, information and systems are easily accessible for both internal application and external communication.

Strategy

Develop an IT modernization plan for corporate data and information.

Key Actions

- Work with clients to identify business needs to inform future enterprise solutions.

Highlights

2021-22 Budget Highlights:

The Water Security Agency plans for operating expenditures of \$66 million during 2021-22 with capital expenditures of \$66.5 million. The operating budget allows the Water Security Agency to continue to lead the implementation of the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan and its vision of, “Water supporting economic growth, quality of life and environmental well-being”.

Budget highlights include:

- An investment of \$47.6 million for water infrastructure necessary to ensure the safety and operational capability of 72 dams and 130 km of conveyance channels. Some of the larger rehabilitation plan includes:
 - \$6.0 million for construction of the East Spillway and Outlet at Highfield Dam.
 - \$7.5 million for repair and rehabilitation of Gardiner Dam.
 - \$1.6 million of infrastructure specifically designated as stimulus projects.
- An investment of \$18.9 million for the Westside Irrigation project.

Financial Summary

Water Security Agency 2021 Estimates

(in thousands of dollars)

Revenue (\$95.8 million)	
Own Source Revenue	\$ 28,303
GRF Operating Grant	\$ 25,569
GRF Capital Grant	\$ 41,934
Total Revenue	\$ 95,806

Expense (\$66 million)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	\$ 30,819
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 24,523
Depreciation	\$ 10,932
Total Expense	\$ 66,274

Capital Budget (\$66.5 million)	
Water Management Infrastructure	\$ 45,965
Westside Irrigation	\$ 18,853
Other Capital	\$ 1,659
Total Capital Budget	\$ 66,477

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>

For More Information

Please visit the Agency's website at <https://www.wsask.ca/>