

Water Security Agency

Municipal Obligations When Conducting Works

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WSA Responsibilities

- 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.
- Water supply planning, allocation of surface and ground water, and water conservation.



How Does This Apply To Municipal Development

- Many of WSA's responsibilities are carried out through the administration of a number of regulatory programs that may apply directly to RM projects.

- These can include:
 - Aquatic Habitat Protection
 - Drinking Water and Wastewater
 - Agricultural Water Management
 - Water Rights and Approvals
 - Reservoir Development Areas
 - Liquid Domestic Sewage Transport and Disposal
 - Aquatic Nuisance Control



Regulatory Roles

Aquatic Habitat Protection

- Preserve and maintain aquatic habitat at the productive level which existed before the proposed development activity.
- Address control of soil erosion and sedimentation.
- Prevent discharge of chemicals, oil, gasoline and other contaminants into water bodies.

Regulatory Roles

Aquatic Habitat Protection

- **RM role is to complete application.**
 - WSA reviews applications for design and AHP protection, plus fish presence.
 - Application review process, project inspection and follow-up.
 - Target turnaround time 45 days.
 - WSA has established a high priority for RM culvert applications.

Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Drinking Water and Wastewater

- Ensure that any construction and operation of new, expanded, or upgraded drinking water and wastewater facilities meets all provincial regulations.
- By meeting those regulations, facilities provide consumers with access to safe drinking water and produce wastewater effluent that has minimal impacts to the receiving environment.

Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Drinking Water and Wastewater

- **RM role is to complete approval to construct and/or operate application.**
 - Known or proven tech is best.
 - Often consultants submit application for approval to construct along with drawings and specifications.
 - Project review by WSA engineering staff.
 - 45 day turnaround time for effective tech and design.
 - Annual waterworks and sewage works inspections for operations, period for new construction.

Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Agricultural Water Management

- As part of a commitment in the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan, in 2015, WSA moved ahead with a new approach to agricultural drainage regulations and created the Agricultural Water Management Strategy.
- Aims to find an appropriate balance between achieving the benefits of drainage and mitigating the potential impacts.
- Responsible drainage allows landowners to manage water while addressing the impacts on neighbours and the environment.
- New legislation, regulations and policies have been implemented to support responsible drainage.

Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Agricultural Water Management

- Key changes in the new regulations include:
 - All drainage projects need an approval.
 - Ensuring impacts related to flooding, water quality and habitat loss are addressed as part of the drainage works approvals process.
 - Allowing landowners agreements (i.e., land control).
 - Simplifying and streamlining the application approval process.
 - Enabling the use of “qualified person” in the design of higher risk drainage works.

Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Agricultural Water Management

- **RM role**: When drainage works are located within RM controlled lands, such as a road allowance, the RM is responsible for those drainage works, including any approval requirements, or liability associated with those works.



Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Agricultural Water Management

- RMs administer road allowances on behalf of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways (Government of Saskatchewan).
- Landowners seeking approval for drainage works may ask the RM to agree to give them land control for drainage across a road allowance.
- WSA may contact RMs about individual drainage projects if there are special circumstances, which require RM input.
- When deciding whether or not to grant land control for drainage projects, RMs should primarily consider whether the project will impact RM roads or infrastructure and whether there is a public safety issue.

Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Water Rights and Approvals:

- Ensure the sustainable and environmentally sound development and use of the province's surface and groundwater resources.
- The right to use water (surface or ground) is granted in the form of a Water Rights Licence to the RM for use by ratepayers.
- Approvals to Construct and/or Operate (ATC and ATO) surface or ground water works (two separate approvals) are required for: RM wells, dams, weirs, canals, intake structures and their associated pipelines and storage works.
- Temporary uses of water during construction of the principle project may also require approval.

Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Reservoir Development Areas

- Reservoir Development Areas (RDA) were established around priority reservoirs to manage development and ensure the continued safe and efficient operation of the reservoirs.
- RDA have been established at Avonlea, Blackstrap, Bradwell, Brightwater, Dellwood, Diefenbaker, and Zelma Reservoirs.
- The Reservoir Development Area Regulations originally establish stringent zoning controls and permit requirements on most development within the RDAs.
- The regulations have been amended to focus on developments within RDA's that pose the greatest risk to the reservoirs. Most RMs have updated their bylaws to reflect the change.
- WSA retains a permitting process that may apply to some RM developments; however, many will be exempt.

Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Liquid Domestic Sewage Transport and Disposal

- Protect human health and the environment by ensuring that anyone who hauls and disposes of liquid domestic sewage does so in a responsible manner.
- Permission for hauler use of municipal lagoon for waste disposal.
- Hauler is to ask for approval to use lagoon. RM may wish to establish rates for lagoon use.
- WSA reviews hauler application – less than 5 days for complete applications.
- WSA advises RM when hauler is approved.

Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Aquatic Nuisance Control:

- Protect the aquatic environment by ensuring only appropriate chemicals and application methods are used to control aquatic nuisances in or within 50 M of a waterbody. For use of pesticides in or near water to control weeds or other pests.

Regulatory Roles - Cont'd

Aquatic Nuisance Control:

- **RM role**: Complete application for use of chemical in or near water (e.g., copper sulfate application to raw water reservoir).
 - Seldom see applications by municipalities.
- May require the person applying the chemical be approved by Ministry of Agriculture.
- Project review by staff for chemical approval, application rates, isolation times, etc.
- Seven day turnaround time.

Subdivisions

- WSA participates in the provincial review of subdivision applications coordinated by the Ministry of Government Relations.
- It is through this process that WSA will identify many of these regulatory requirements as well as the need for other standards and guidelines such as the identification of flood elevations.

Additional Resources

Specific to RM Developments

- Aquatic Habitat Protection: <https://www.wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Aquatic-Habitat-Protection/>
- Docks and boat lifts:
<https://www.wsask.ca/Global/Water%20Programs/Aquatic%20Habitat%20Protection%20Permit/Private%20Temporary%20or%20Seasonal%20Dock%20and%20Boat%20Lifts.pdf>
- Shoreline stabilization:
<https://www.wsask.ca/Global/Water%20Programs/Aquatic%20Habitat%20Protection%20Permit/ShorelineStabilizationSheet.pdf>
- Beach Creation and Maintenance:
<https://www.wsask.ca/Global/Water%20Programs/Aquatic%20Habitat%20Protection%20Permit/BeachFactSheetFinal.pdf>
- Aquatic Nuisance Control (weed control using chemicals):
<https://www.wsask.ca/Permits-and-Approvals/Regulatory-Info/Chemical-Control-of-Aquatic-Nuisances-in-and-or-Near-Surface-Water/>

Additional Resources

Specific to RM Developments

- Agricultural drainage: <https://www.wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Agricultural-Drainage-/Agricultural-Water-Management-Strategy/>
- Liquid Domestic Waste Transport and Disposal: <http://www.saskh2o.ca/pdf/epb349.pdf>
- Reservoir Development Areas: <https://www.wsask.ca/Permits-and-Approvals/Regulatory-Info/Reservoir-Development-Area/>
- Water Rights and Approvals: <https://www.wsask.ca/Permits-and-Approvals/Regulatory-Info/Domestic-Purpose-Water-Use/>
- Drinking Water and Wastewater: <http://www.saskh2o.ca/DWBinder.asp> and <http://www.saskh2o.ca/foroperators.asp>



Questions?