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# Agriculture Water Management

## Responsible Drainage in Resilient Watersheds

# Introduction

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# Who We Are

- The Water Security Agency is a unique organization in Canada, bringing together all of government's core water management responsibilities
- Formed in 2012 to address water management responsibilities province-wide to:
  - better protect our most precious resource
  - provide better customer service to the citizens of Saskatchewan







# Saskatchewan has a great story to tell

Agriculture continues to thrive, while 86% of wetlands  
in our province are undrained.

# Drainage is Important



EFFICIENCY



FARM  
PROFITABILITY



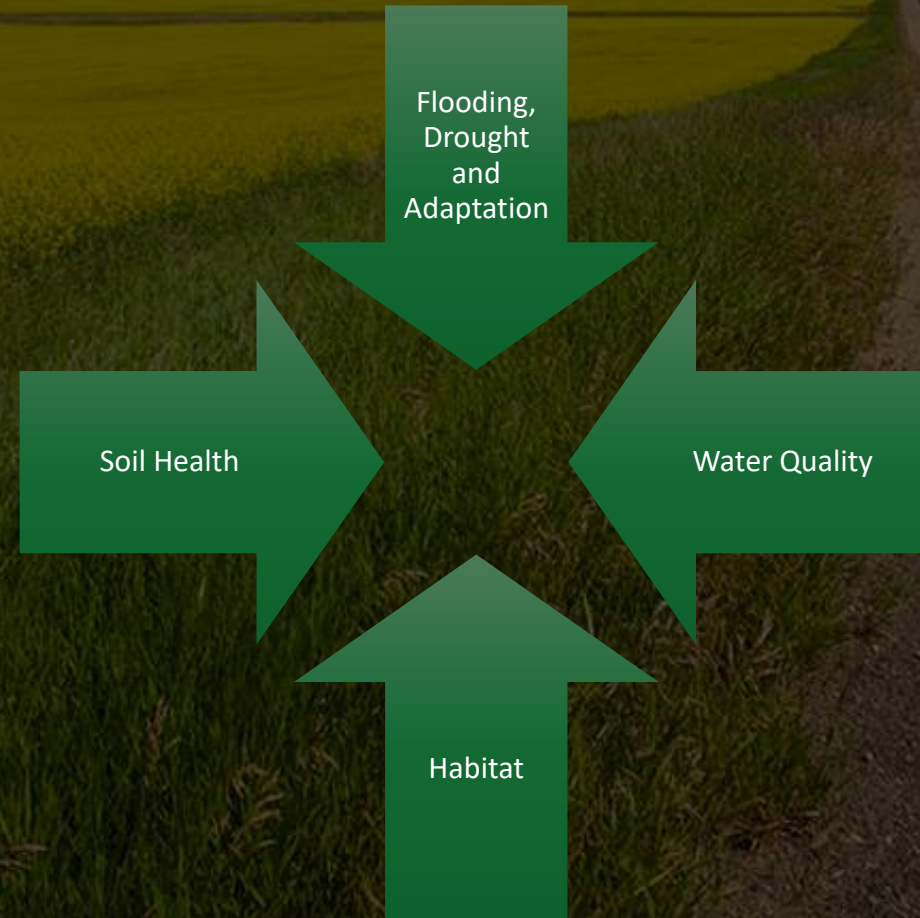
RESILIENCY



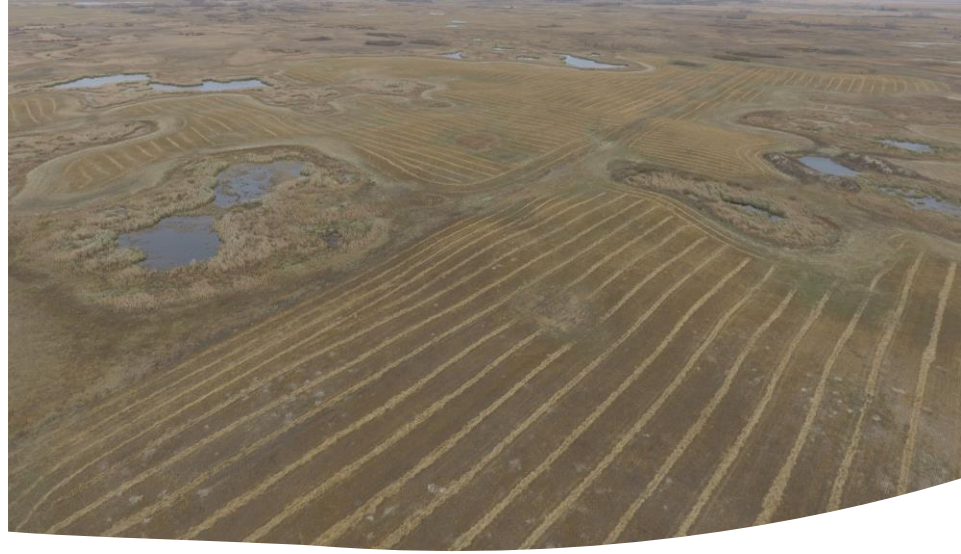
ECONOMIC  
GROWTH



# Drainage Must be Done Responsibly







# Agriculture Water Management Strategy

Our **Mission:** Facilitate responsible drainage in resilient watersheds.





## How do you get an approval?

01

Contact WSA  
and/or a  
Qualified Person

02

Work with  
neighbours on a  
coordinated plan

03

Obtain Land  
Control

04

Permits can  
range from 25-  
45 years



# Why should you get a drainage approval?



Improves quality of drainage project



Provides security for you and your project

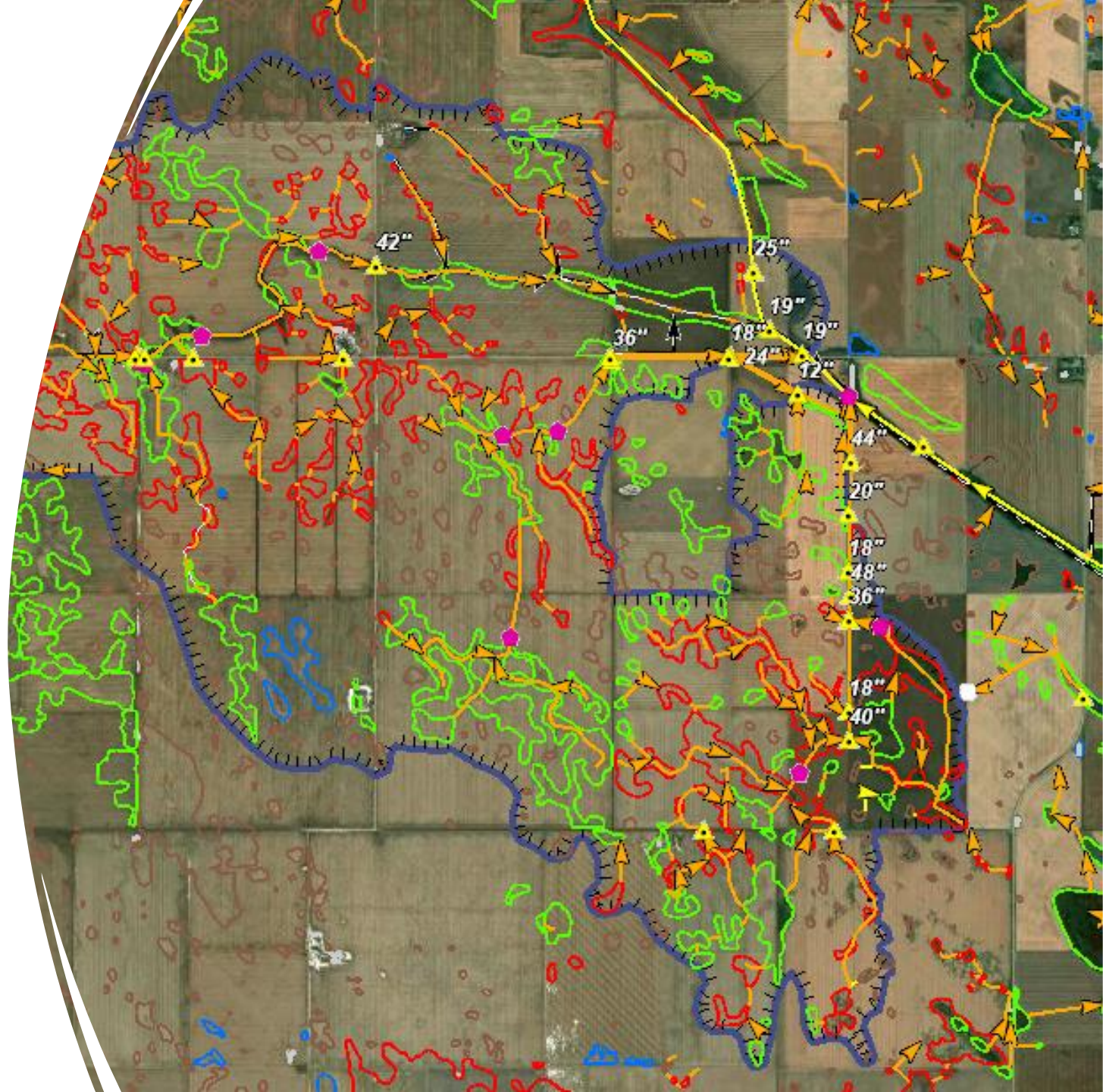




# Network Approach

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- Landowners work together to operate coordinated drainage projects that flow to an **adequate outlet**
- Submit one application for all drainage works
- Can be formalized into a Conservation & Development Area





# Ag Water Stewardship Policy





# Why a Stewardship Policy?

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Program gap identified by Provincial Auditor to develop policies on wetland retention and water quality for drainage projects.



Support agricultural production by allowing further development



Retain wetlands to increase resilience to flooding/drought, protect local infrastructure and important water sources, and provide wildlife habitat





# Demonstration and Research Projects

## Measures Tested

- ✓ Flow and erosion controls
- ✓ Wetland retention
- ✓ Wetland consolidation
- ✓ Using drained water for irrigation
- ✓ Beneficial management practices





# What We've Learned

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Conditions vary greatly across province.



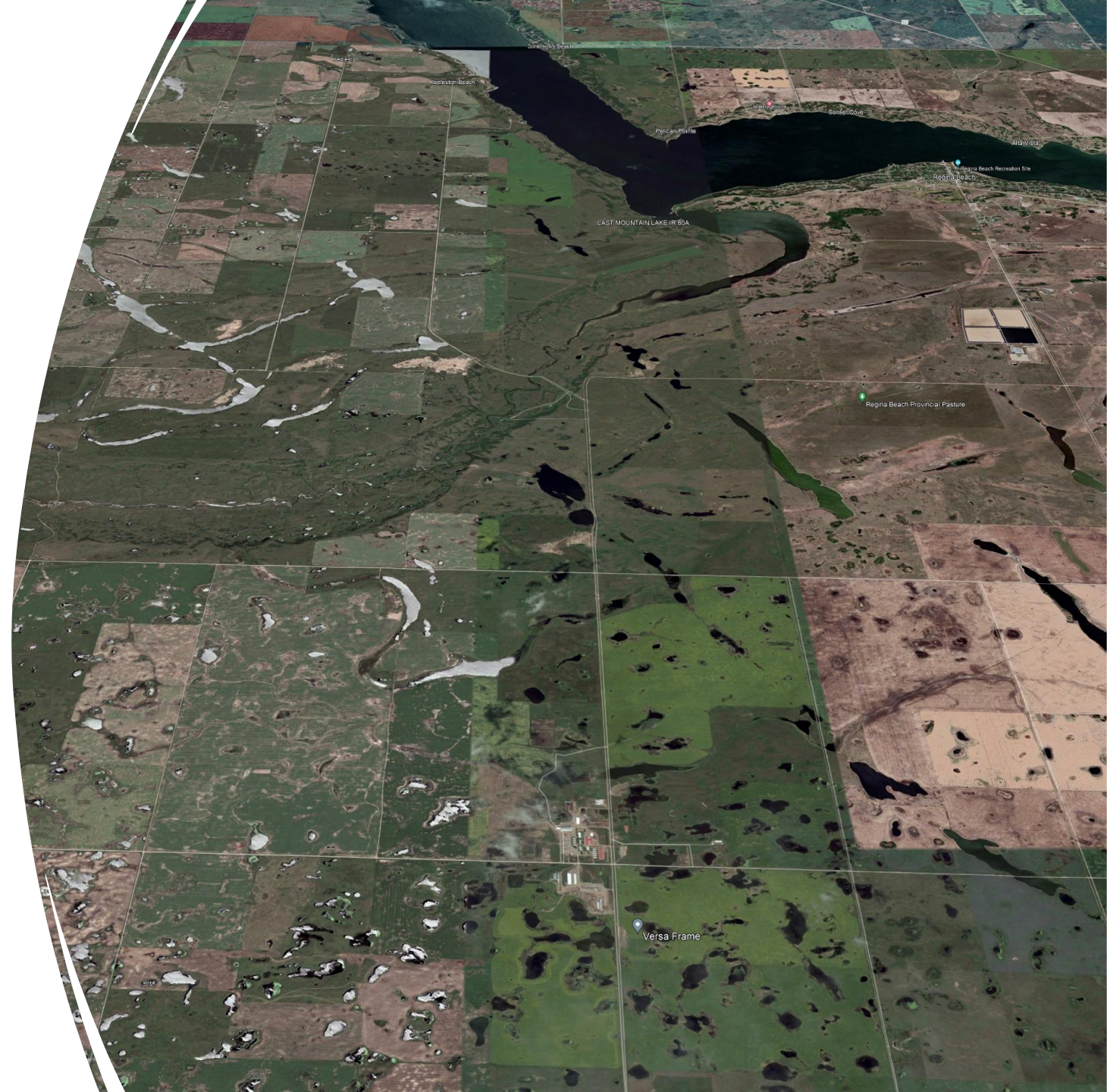
Drainage contributes to economic growth, on farm efficiency and soil health.



Wetlands are important to protect infrastructure, water quality and habitat.



Best Management Practices continue to evolve.







# Stewardship Policy

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- Made-in-Saskatchewan-Approach
- Recognizes that producers are stewards of the land
- Focused on the regional landscape
- Supports well-planned and sustainable practices
- Helps manage impacts of drainage
- Implement in January 2025
- Pilot projects to test feasibility of policy.



# Ready to get started?

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## **Ag Water Management Fund**

Funding to address barriers experienced by clients when working towards a drainage approval

Streams include:

- On-Farm Qualified Persons
- Technical Design Solutions
- Mitigation and Rehabilitation



**1-866-727-5420**



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