

How to Form a Watershed Association

How Does It Work?

People often use the term 'watershed association' to refer to both:

1. Stewardship Groups – stakeholder-driven, non-profit corporations with no legal authority, and
2. Watershed Associations - a form of local government, that acts with the legal authority of *The Watershed Associations Act*.

Watershed Associations are made up of agencies (e.g. rural municipalities, urban municipalities, Conservation and Development Authorities, Irrigation Districts, and other duly constituted organizations).

Associations provide a means for agencies to work together on issues like flooding and irrigation. Watershed Associations can own, operate and maintain projects. They raise funds from the member agencies, can borrow funds, and expropriate land.

Steps to Form a Watershed Association

1. A group of agencies interested in forming a Watershed Association contacts a Water Security Agency Regional Office for assistance in defining their project, plan, potential costs and resources. See wsask.ca for contact information.
2. The agencies prepare:
 - a Council or Board resolution (to show their support and agreement),
 - an Application for Establishment of a Watershed Association, and
 - a map to show the area of the Watershed Association.
3. The Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency puts forward an Order in Council, to be signed by the Lieutenant Governor, which creates the Watershed Association.
4. The agencies appoint members to the Board and the Board elects the Chair and Vice-Chair.

