



Who Does What? Agricultural Water Management in Saskatchewan

Water Security Agency

The Water Security Agency (WSA) is a provincial Crown corporation established in 2012 to implement the *25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan*. WSA has the majority of regulatory responsibility for water in the province and acts with the authority of *The Water Security Agency Act*. See wsask.ca.

In addition to WSA, Saskatchewan has several types of groups involved in water management. The type of group formed depends on its objectives and its membership.

Watershed Stewardship Groups

These are non-profit corporations, stakeholder driven, governed by a board that includes local municipal leaders and non-governmental organizations. The Water Security Agency originally set up these groups to do watershed planning and contributes funding for the operation of their office and a paid employee. The groups also receive funding from the Ministry of Agriculture, and possibly private partners and grants. The watershed plans developed by these groups cover about 89 percent of our population. You can learn more about watershed stewardship groups at wsask.ca.

Conservation and Development Area Authorities (C&Ds)

Conservation and Development Area Authorities are a form of local government, acting with the legal authority of *The Conservation and Development Act*. Made up of private landowners, a C&D can fund projects by taxing landowners who will benefit. Establishing a C&D can provide a means for landowners to work together in responding to water management issues, or to resolve soil erosion. There are about 90 active C&Ds in Saskatchewan.

Watershed Associations

Not to be confused with watershed stewardship groups, watershed associations are a form of local government acting with the legal authority of *The Watershed Associations Act*. This gives them similar powers to a C&D (to levy taxes, for instance) but their membership is different. Watershed Associations are made up of corporate entities such as RMs, C&Ds and Irrigation Districts. Watershed Associations provide a means for corporate entities to work together on issues like water management and irrigation. There are about 11 active Watershed Associations in the province.

Both C&Ds and Watershed Associations can own, operate, and maintain water management projects and works.

How to Form

To form either a C&D or a Watershed Association, the interested groups apply to the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water Security Agency. For more information see:

- *How to Form a C&D Fact Sheet*
- *Conservation Development Area Authority: Development Guide*
- *How to Form a Watershed Association Fact Sheet*