

Business Plan

2022-23

WATER SECURITY AGENCY

Saskatchewan! 

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) Business Plan for 2022-23.

In 2022-23, WSA continues to focus on ensuring Saskatchewan's water resources support Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for the Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030. By managing the province's vital water supplies, WSA provides safe, reliable water that drives economic growth.

Protecting and expanding the province's water quantity will be an important part of supporting growth. WSA has identified, through its capital planning, the need to invest significant and consistent funding in existing WSA dams and canals to ensure the province can continue to rely upon them to protect from possible extremes of flooding and drought. Saskatchewan's water infrastructure, including 72 dams and control structures across the province, as well as a network of canals and conveyances, provides a growing resiliency to help us meet increasing water demands for a growing province. In addition to investing in water infrastructure across the province, WSA continues the planning and design work for the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Projects that, when completed, would increase new acres of irrigable land that can help increase the value and variety of crops available to producers in our province.

Another important part of WSA's mandate is to ensure water quality standards are adhered to in the province. Over the past several years, the province's water quality has steadily improved and WSA will continue to work to ensure this quality remains high, ensuring Saskatchewan's water is clean and safe for producers, for communities, and for the enjoyment of Saskatchewan people.

WSA is also committed to remaining a high performing organization that is responsive to the needs of communities and producers with a service-oriented, client-focused approach. Over the past year WSA has reduced the amount of time producers are waiting for approval on various projects. We have improved the service delivery rate for permits and continue to work to improve these scores by working with local stakeholders, to arrive at mutually agreed upon and beneficial solutions to the province's water needs.

The Water Security Agency will report on progress towards the targets laid out in this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2022-23 Annual Report.

2022-23 Budget Highlights

1	\$45 million for water infrastructure rehabilitation increasing the sustainability of Saskatchewan's economy through ensuring a safe and secure water supply for a growing population as well as building resilient infrastructure that protects against extreme weather
2	\$23 million in additional funding to support investment to develop water infrastructure, which will support acres for Lake Diefenbaker irrigation rehabilitation and expansion
3	\$2 million new spending on smaller irrigation projects, contributing to economic, irrigation, and food security goals of Saskatchewan's Growth Plan
4	\$1 million on design work for the Grant Devine spillway modification project to upgrade the safe outlet capacity of the spillway, which is pending the results of ongoing negotiations with stakeholders
5	\$1 million for channel clearing rebates to municipalities (50% coverage), which reduces the possibility of blockages that can cause more expensive flooding damage to municipal infrastructure



Response to Government Direction

Saskatchewan is back on track. The Government of Saskatchewan is protecting and strengthening our province, carefully managing spending while investing in priority programs and services and into a strong and growing economy. Government is helping build a better Saskatchewan, investing in needed infrastructure – hospitals, schools, highways and municipal and crown capital projects.

Saskatchewan's financial picture is improving, with a fiscal plan to return the budget to balance. The resurgent economy helps ensure the services, programs and infrastructure Saskatchewan people value are sustainable today and into the future. Saskatchewan is back on track.

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."

>> Government Goals

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 2022-23 annual reports.

Mandate

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

To manage water resources for a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

Vision

To be the best water management agency in North America providing safe, reliable water that drives economic growth.

Goal 1: Saskatchewan's Water Infrastructure Drives Growth

WSA plays a central role in supporting Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for the Next Decade of Growth (2020-2030) through its mandate to responsibly and sustainably manage our water resources to enhance and expand economic growth, improve quality of life, and enhance environmental well-being.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Ensure infrastructure meets the desired level of service

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop a framework to prioritize infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Explore opportunities to develop new water management infrastructure

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Work in consultation with the Ministry of Trade, Export and Development to capitalize on new opportunities
- Proactively support municipalities in building capacity to sustain population growth

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Implement policies to promote using water as an economic driver

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop a policy framework to guide future policy development in the agency

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*
Use available water to expand irrigation capacity

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Complete the preliminary design of the Westside Rehabilitation and Expansion Project and initiate procurement of the next stage of design and/or construction
- Expand new irrigation opportunities through continuous planning and development of six small irrigation projects

Continued...

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

- Dam Infrastructure Risk Index – This is a qualitative assessment of the overall condition of WSA dams and associated components. Measured annually, the target is for an annual decreasing ratio. The intended outcome of this measure is to determine whether WSA rehabilitation work is outpacing the depreciation of our water management infrastructure.
- Number of new irrigation acres (2022-23 Target = 8,500 acres). This measure represents the number of new irrigation acres given approvals to irrigate.

Goal 2: Clean, Safe, Reliable Water that is Responsive to Change

Regardless of where we live or what we do, water is essential to life. We need it in our homes for drinking, cooking and bathing. We irrigate our gardens and fields. Water is essential to farmers, ranchers and many industries. To support our growing population, economy, and quality of life, as the central water agency in Saskatchewan, WSA must take strong action to ensure clean, safe and reliable water.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Improve information on water quality, availability and use

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Scope where Saskatchewan needs updated information on water quality, availability and use

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Build Saskatchewan's capacity to be resilient to change

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Work with communities to identify communities at risk to droughts and floods; and support communities in developing drought and flood mitigation plans
- Develop options to address the impacts of extreme weather events, such as flooding and drought
- Develop a hydrologic drought management plan

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Facilitate responsible drainage within resilient watersheds

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Complete Demonstration & Research projects and engage with stakeholders to inform development of the Agriculture Water Management Mitigation Policy
- Complete an independent review of third-party water management organizations, including Watershed Stewardship Groups, Conservation and Development Area Authorities, and Watershed Association Boards, and their respective membership associations to guide next steps to build capacity to support effective delivery of water management programming
- Develop Agricultural Water Management service standards

Continued...

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

- Percentage of water treatment plants that meet or exceed minimum treatment standards (2022-23 Target = 99 per cent). Minimum treatment standards help ensure clean, safe and reliable water for drinking purposes. There are currently 809 (98.89 per cent) of the 818 waterworks regulated by the WSA that meet minimum treatment standards.
- Percentage of sewage treatment plants that meet or exceed treatment standards and do not pose a risk to source waters (2022-23 Target = 95 per cent). The number of sewage effluent discharges that represent a risk to source waters is a measure and direct indication of the potential for source water contamination due to poor wastewater treatment.
- Flood mapping completed for communities identified as being at risk of flooding (2022-23 Target = 22+). This measures the number of communities in Saskatchewan identified as being at risk of flooding that have completed or have access to floodplain maps.

Goal 3: Service Excellence

Service excellence means we continually strive to meet or exceed client expectations. We take the time to listen and understand their needs and concerns and collaboratively work together to solve problems. We respond timely to all and any issues and have a positive attitude.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Develop and implement an integrated client service model

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Develop an engagement strategy to involve stakeholders in program, policy and service standard development
- Develop a comprehensive marketing and communications strategy to promote programs and services, including digital and social media

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Develop a Business Continuity Plan

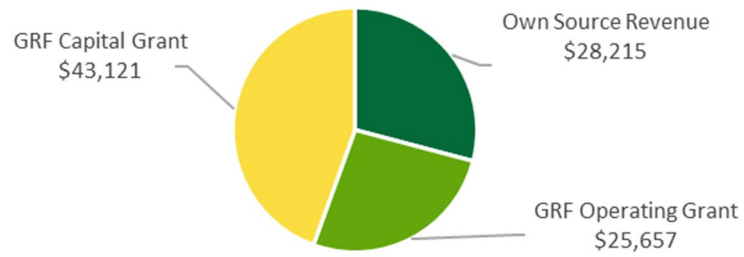
Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Identify the scope of the Business Continuity Plan by considering the continuity of the entire organization and determine the necessary resources
- Complete a Business Impact Assessment (BIA) to assess our business processes to determine which areas are vulnerable, and the potential losses if those processes were to go down

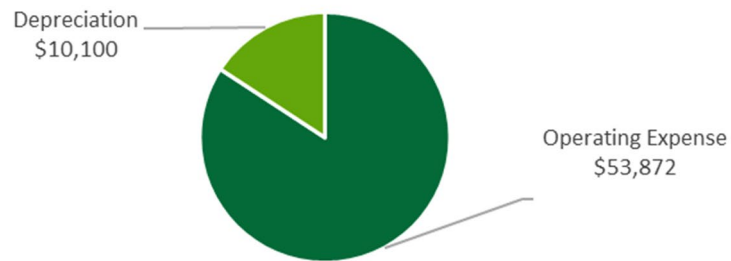
Financial Summary

Water Security Agency 2022-23 Estimates		\$71 million (in thousands of dollars)
Revenue		
Own Source Revenue		\$28,215
GRF Operating Grant		\$25,657
GRF Capital Grant		\$43,121
Total Revenue		\$96,993
Expense		
Operating Expense		\$53,872
Depreciation		\$10,100
Total Expense		\$63,972
Capital Budget		
Capital Rehabilitation of Water Management Infrastructure		\$45,000
Irrigation		\$26,000
Total Capital Budget		\$71,000

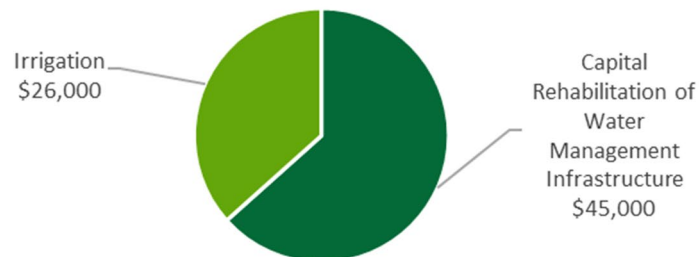
2022-23 Revenue Estimate



2022-23 Expense Estimate



2022-23 Capital Budget



Links to More Information

[The Water Security Agency](#)
[Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)