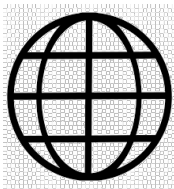




Newsletter for Qualified Persons

Photo by Candace Mitschke

We have embedded the URL/link into the image associated with the topic area. So, to open these links please hover over the images in the left-hand column.



Qualified Persons Resources webpage

For all the up-to-date Agricultural Water Management forms, procedures, links to previous QP Newsletters and webinar recording please go to the [WSA's Qualified Resources Persons Webpage](#). Remember: This webpage is password protected, to ensure that only QPs can access this information. If you've forgotten the password, please reach out to Heather Davies (heather.davies@wsask.ca) and she will provide it to you.




Updates and Revisions


QP Accreditation Process


The Water Security Agency (WSA) is currently in the process of updating requirements for the Qualified Persons Program. These changes are based on information we received during the QP feedback sessions WSA hosted back in December 2023.


- One of the changes relates to the Accreditation process.
- We now require everyone who wants to be accredited by WSA as a QP to take all the QP training, which includes the following three courses: 1) the Intro QP/ADAM course (which you've taken), 2) the Point of Adequate Outlet Course, and 3) the Art of Influential Communication course. Once you have completed all these courses, then a person will be eligible to apply to become an Accredited QP.
- This change was made to address previous challenges, and to ensure QPs have the tools they need to be successful.

<p><u>WSA's Agricultural Water Management Fund</u></p> 	<p>WSA is once again accepting completed applications for the Agricultural Water Management Fund. This fund supports responsible drainage by assisting producers or local governments in achieving drainage approvals and in advancing drainage projects. There are three funding streams, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-Farm Qualified Persons and Mediation Services Support funds the costs of: Qualified Persons (QPs) for targeted drainage projects; and mediation services for engaging a mediator to support landowners in coming to an agreement on projects. 2. Technical Design Solutions Support funds the technical and engineering costs to design solutions for complex drainage projects, including the intermediate design components of QP work. 3. Mitigation and Rehabilitation Support funds construction costs to advance drainage projects and associated mitigation and rehabilitation works. <p>For full program details and applications click on the link in the right-hand column or scan the QR Code.</p>
<p>Drainage Approvals Workflow Process</p>	<p>WSA recently adopted an internal AWMS Dashboard that links to ADAM. Now when a network boundary is finalized and loaded into ADAM, the WSA Tech can utilize the dashboard feature called "Generate Application", and the dashboard will fill in Section 3 with the current ISC/landowner data for that network. Once the drainage features are mapped in ADAM, the dashboard can also automatically fill in Section 4.1 of the drainage application with the stats (acres, metres/number) of the various types of drainage features in the network. We encourage you to watch the recording from the March 18, 2024, QP Webinar AWMS Dashboard to learn more about this tool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We added the <u>D1 Operating Procedure: Approvals Workflow Process</u> to the Operating Procedures section of the QP Resources webpage to reflect this change. • We also updated the <u>D2 Operating Procedure: Preparation of Drainage Applications for QPs and WSA Staff</u> with how this changes the work that QPs have to do when filling in the Drainage Application.






<p><u>Drainage Works Application and Approval Form</u></p>	<p>WSA has revised the Drainage Works Application and Approval Form by adding two bullets to the Section 5 – Declaration of Qualified Person, to ensure all QPs are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. aware that they must have sufficient professional liability/errors and omissions insurance for the QP work that they are doing and that WSA may request proof of this insurance. 2. working within their scope of practice. <p>Note: Once all QPs and WSA Techs have transitioned to using the AWMS Drainage Dashboard, WSA will be removing the Drainage Works Application and Approval Form from the QP Resources webpage.</p>
<p><u>Request for Assistance Process</u></p>	<p>WSA made some revisions to the Request for Assistance (RFA) process. Some of these changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One on one consultation with a Compliance Technologist to determine the best way to handle the water management issue. If the issue is not an RFA, but rather a different issue, the petitioner will be referred to the appropriate WSA Division, Agency or Ministry to handle the issue. • Provision of regulatory and RFA process information to all parties involved at regular points throughout the process. • Implementation of an RFA filing fee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The fee was introduced to address two main issues. First, since 2010, nearly 30 percent of RFAs have been dismissed as invalid, consuming valuable WSA resources. Second, there is a perception of misuse of the RFA process for personal conflicts unrelated to water management. The fee aims to address these issues and streamline the RFA workflow. <p>Note: A few bullets have been added to the Legislation section of the QP Resources webpage about the amendment that was made to The Water Security Agency Regulations.</p> <p>For any additional information about these revisions to the RFA process, please read the <u>RFA-Process-Guide-2024.pdf</u>, watch the May 27, 2024 QP Webinar, or talk to the WSA Tech you are working with.</p>
<p>Wetland and Drainage Calculator Spreadsheet</p>	<p>QPs no longer need to use the <i>Wetland and Drainage Calculator Spreadsheet</i>, as the AWMS Dashboard can now generate the application with the stats (acres, metres, number) of mapped drainage features from ADAM. Over the next couple of months, WSA will be removing that spreadsheet from the QP Resources webpage.</p>

<p>Potential In-person workshop for active Qualified Persons</p>	<p>WSA is looking into hosting an In-Person workshop for active QPs in 2024</p> <p>The purpose of the workshop would be to help address challenges and barriers that you may be facing when doing QP work. We hope to highlight current topics related to the technical work that QPs do, as well as discussing ways to be better communicators and/or ways to better manage the business-related components of the work that you do. If you are actively working as a QP, working on projects, and you are interested in attending this workshop please let us know if you are interested in attending and which month would be the best time will be for you attend this type of workshop by clicking on this link.</p>
	<p>QP Webinars</p>
<p><u>March 18, 2024, QP webinar</u></p>	<p>On March 18, 2024, 11:00am - 11:30am, Etienne Shupena-Soulodre, Project Manager of the Program Advancement Unit with the Water Security Agency, presented on WSA’s AWMS Drainage Dashboard. If you were unable to attend this webinar, it was recorded, and a link is now posted on the QP Webinars webpage.</p>
<p><u>May 27, 2024, QP webinar</u></p>	<p>On May 27, 2024, Heather Davies (External Quality Specialist) reminded QPs about the upcoming PAO Course and introduced the new Drainage Extension Unit, and she also talked about the changes to the Request for Assistance Process. If you were unable to attend this webinar, it was recorded, and a link is now posted on the QP Webinars webpage.</p>
<p>Next webinar</p>	<p>The next QP webinar will be on Monday, June 17, 2023. This will be the last QP webinar until Fall 2024. Starting in October 2024, we will again be offering QP Webinars on the third Monday of every month, between 11am and 11:30am (unless otherwise posted).</p>
<p><u>Previous Webinars</u></p>	<p>We have now hosted twelve QP Webinars. To watch a recording of any of our previously recorded QP Webinars please go to the QP Webinars webpage.</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Upcoming Courses/ Workshops</h2>
<p style="text-align: center;">Point of Adequate Outlet course Training Requirements</p>	<p>This is WSA’s fourth year of offering the Point of Adequate Outlet (PAO) course. Knowing how a PAO assessment is conducted is an essential tool that all QPs should have. So, WSA is requiring all people who want to work as a QP, who have not previously taken the Point of Adequate Outlet course before or who haven’t conducted a PAO assessment in the past two years to complete/retake the Point of Adequate Outlet course by the end of October 2024.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dates for the Point of Adequate Outlet course</p>	<p>WSA has finalized the dates that we will be offering the Point of Adequate Outlet (PAO) course in 2024, please see below. For additional information about the PAO course, please Click Here.</p> <p><u>Introductory PAO Course</u></p> <p>This course is intended for 1) anyone who has not previously taken the Point of Adequate Outlet course before, and 2) people who haven’t conducted a PAO assessment in the past 2 years.</p> <p>To complete the PAO course, you will need to complete all three components of the course, including: 1) the online asynchronous component of the course, 2) the online session and 3) the one-day field-day.</p> <p>June PAO course Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSA expects attendees to complete the asynchronous component of the course prior to the first virtual session • June 10, 2024 - 9am -11am online virtual session to prepare for field-day • June 12, 2024 – field-day near Moose Jaw (9am – 3pm) <p>September PAO course Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSA expects attendees to complete the asynchronous component of the course prior to the first virtual session • Sept 20, 2024 - 9am - 11am online virtual session to prepare for field-day • Sept 26, 2024 – field-day near Yorkton (9am – 3pm) <p>October PAO course Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSA expects attendees to complete the asynchronous component of the course prior to the first virtual session • Oct 4, 2024 - 9am - 11am online virtual session to prepare for field-day

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 9, 2024 – field-day near Moose Jaw (9am – 3pm) <p><u>Refresher Point of Adequate Outlet course</u></p> <p>This course is intended for WSA staff and QPs who have previously taken the Point of Adequate Outlet course and have conducted at least one PAO assessment in the past two years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 13, 2024 – This course will consist of a one-day in-person session on June 13, 2024, between 10am and 3pm near the Village of Atwater, SK <p>You can email heather.davies@wsask.ca to register for one of these course offerings.</p>
	<p><u>Southeast College – QP Training</u></p> <p>Qualified Persons Training Courses</p> <p><u>Intro QP/ADAM Course</u> – We are planning to offer our next Introductory QP Training/ADAM course in the fall of 2024. We will send out an email letting you know when the course dates are listed and available for registration on the Southeast College’s QP Resources webpage (https://www.southeastcollege.org/courses/introductory-qualified-persons-training/).</p> <p><u>The Art of Influential Communication Course</u> – This course is designed to help QPs gain the skills they need to communicate more effectively with agricultural producers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is 100 per cent online and allows you to learn on your own schedule. Please click on this Link to register for this communication course.
<p>QP Refresher Course</p>	<p>WSA is still in the process of working with Southeast College to develop a QP Refresher Course that we will require QPs who have not taken the Intro QP Training Course offered by Southeast College (i.e., QPs who took the Introductory QP Training course prior to January 2021). The purpose of this refresher course is to reinforce and update QP’s knowledge and skills relating to the drainage approval process. This information is intended to ensure that all QPs are up to date with the current drainage approval process and procedures.</p> <p>Once we have developed the refresher course, QPs will have two months to complete it.</p>

	<p><u>AgH2Onward</u></p> <p>We are in the process of developing this course as a series of videos that will be available online to be viewed at any time. We are hoping to release this new video series in the Spring of 2025.</p> <p>These workshops were designed to introduce and remind farmers, ranchers, RM Administrators, and C&D and Watershed Board members, and QPs to Saskatchewan's Agricultural Water Management Strategy, the process and benefits of drainage approvals, and techniques to best manage water on their land. The information in these workshops is intended to help attendees better understand the terminology WSA uses, the information WSA needs QPs to collect, and include in the drainage application, as well as the mitigation requirements WSA requires drainage applicants to incorporate into their drainage projects.</p> <p>We will be sending out more information once this video series has been developed. Stay tuned!</p>
	<p>Job opportunities</p>
<p>Are you Looking for QP Related Contract Work?</p>	<p>WSA is looking for people who want to provide QP related services for drainage projects. Please contact Ember Simpson, Manager of Approvals South, to learn more about these opportunities (ember.simpson@wsask.ca).</p>
<p>WSA's Current Job Postings</p>	<p><u>WSA's Current Job Postings</u></p> <p>Did you know that the Water Security Agency is often looking for staff. To see our current job postings please go to our webpage at: https://www.wsask.ca/about/careers/current-job-postings/</p>
<p>Opportunities with Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association</p>	<p>The Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association (SCDA) is building a shortlist of Qualified Persons (QPs) to provide support services on a contract basis to the SCDA Compliance Task Force (CTF). The individuals/teams/companies will assist its members in bringing new and existing drainage works into compliance with the Government of Saskatchewan's Agricultural Water Management Strategy (AWMS). Applicants should provide a cover letter and resume outlining their qualifications and experience specifically related to the AWMS and attaining drainage approvals. The SCDA office is located in Saskatoon; however, QPs are needed in all areas of the province; please indicate your preferred location of work in your cover letter. Email: info@scda.ca</p>

	<p>Follow us on X!</p> <p>Please click on the X icon to go to the Water Security Agency's X account.</p>
	<p>Watch our videos on YouTube</p> <p>Please click on the YouTube icon to go to the Water Security Agency's YouTube Channel.</p>
	<p>Connect with us on Facebook</p> <p>Please click on the Facebook icon to go to the Water Security Agency's Facebook Page.</p>
	<p>Feedback</p> <p>We strive to provide you with the information you need to know as a QP to work with agricultural producers, C&Ds, Watershed Associations, and Rural Municipalities to help bring their drainage works into compliance. Your feedback is an integral part of the improvement process, which is why we would be grateful if you could fill out this short survey. The survey is expected to take no more than five minutes to answer. <u>We really appreciate you taking the time to share your feedback. Please click here to get started.</u></p>
	<p>You're receiving this newsletter because you are either an active QP or you have previously taken the Introductory Qualified Persons Training Course. If you would like to unsubscribe from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this newsletter, please click here; or • all emails about the Qualified Persons Program, please click here.