

Wood River Watershed Agri- Environmental Group Plan

April 6

2010

This document has been produced for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture from the Wood River Riparian Authority. Quarterly activity and spending, fiscal year qualified spending, and fiscal year performance reports as per the 'Agreement for the Delivery of the Canada-Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Group Planning (AEGP) Program' are contained within this document.

2009 / 10
Annual
Report



Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 3

2009 – 2010 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES..... 3

QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES..... 4

1st Quarter Activities4
 Quarterly Expenses Statement4

2nd Quarter Activities4
 Quarterly Expenses Statement4

3rd Quarter Activities4
 Quarterly Expenses Statement5

4th Quarter Activities.....5
 Quarterly Expenses Statement6

SUMMARY..... 6

PROJECT EXPENDITURES 7

DATA CAPTURE REPORT 8

REQUEST FOR FINAL PAYMENT 9

Executive Summary

In the spring of 2006 a non-profit initiative was started through the Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP) with the goal of improving water quality and riparian management. The Wood River Riparian Authority Inc. was originally incorporated as the Wood River Environmental Authority Inc. whose goals were broad in order to advance stewardship and sustainable development in the watershed. However, the Wood River Riparian Authority Inc. has a more direct focus on water quality and riparian management in the watershed.

2009 – 2010 Proposed Activities

For the 2009 – 2010 extension year, the Wood River Riparian Authority was requested to submit a work plan detailing what activities will be carried out for the programming year, and how these activities will fit into a budget. The Wood River Riparian Authority proposed that they will publish four quarterly newsletters with a distribution of 2300, host six separate producer workshops, continue to host and update their website, and develop 35 BMP project proposals to approximately 12 separate producers. As well, during this time the WRRRA will conduct 20 range and riparian health assessments, and advertise the program through newspaper, community radio, and posters.

The proposed 35 BMP project proposals fall under the following categories:

BMP	BMP Description	Estimated #
09-101	Relocation of Livestock Confinement Facilities	1
09-201	Fencing to Protect the Environment	5
09-301	Improving Livestock Site Management: Portable Windbreaks and Shelters	6
09-302	Improving Livestock Site Management: Water System	6
09-401	Farmyard Run-Off Control	1
09-801	Modifying and Grassing Waterways	3
09-901	Stream Bank and Lakeshore Protection: Planting Forages, Trees or Shrubs	5
09-902	Stream Bank and Lakeshore Protection: Improved Crossing	1
09-1001	Water Well Management: Capping Old Wells	1
09-1002	Water Well Management: Protecting Existing Wells	1
09-1101	Protecting Marginal High Risk Soils	5

The proposed 2009 – 2010 budget:

Category	AEGP	Other Sources		Total Cost
		Cash	In-Kind	
May 2009 - April 2010				
Delivery				
Group Planning Advisor's Salary and Benefits	\$26,558.00			
Travel	\$5,500.00			
Liability	\$542.00			
Field Tours	\$2,250.00			
Newsletter and Communication	\$2,500.00		\$2,200.00	
Review Committee	\$450.00		\$500.00	
Phone	\$600.00			
Administration				
Management Committee's Expenses	\$1,350.00		\$2,000.00	
Office Space & Supplies	\$250.00		\$5,000.00	
Totals	\$40,000.00		\$9,700.00	\$49,700.00

Quarterly Activities

1st Quarter Activities

Our activities in the first quarter were quite delayed due to uncertainties surrounding the AEGP program. To get word out about the programs continuations, we began development of our quarterly newsletter as a means to getting the word out about the programs continuation. Stories from the newsletter included details surrounding the renewed Farm Stewardship Program, the WRRRA's delivery of a Burrowing Owl Habitat Enhancement Program, and an overview of our grade 8 water quality monitoring program.

During this quarter we also hosted a luncheon with a presentation on sprayer drift by research Tom Wolf. There was a very positive response from this luncheon with 20 producers in attendance.

Our uptake of Farm Stewardship Program applications started out slow but then began to increase as word spread and our newsletters entered into distribution. A total of 13 applications were developed between 6 producers this quarter.

Quarterly Expenses Statement

Our expenses for travel and communications were quite down this quarter. With our late start, travel expenses were quite negligible. We also did not receive invoices for our newsletter or workshop advertising expenses by the end of the quarter.

2nd Quarter Activities

Our 2nd quarter for the programming year continued on much the same as the first quarter. We were able to develop another quarterly newsletter covering a producer profile with Harley Davidson, and research covering effective late fall grass seeding strategies. We also developed 14 applications through the Farm Stewardship Program with 7 producers.

Quarterly Expenses Statement

Expenses for this quarter reflect what occurred in the 1st quarter. We see a large amount in communication expenses as the printing and distribution costs of two quarterly newsletters occurred.

3rd Quarter Activities

Throughout this quarter the Wood River Riparian Authority wanted to increase its presence within the operating area and promote its programs. To achieve this, Lyle attended 9 separate municipal meetings to get the word out that Environmental Farm Plans are still being processed, and to garner support for additional projects that the Wood River Riparian Authority is pursuing.

These meetings were very well received and, through word of mouth, have increased the amount of phone calls inquiring about our programs.

On December 9th, we hosted a workshop/field day in Fir Mountain. The topic of discussion was winter watering, and feeding strategies. We had Andre Bonneau, forage management specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture come out from Moose Jaw to talk about innovations in forage management, and we had a field tour to look at a frost free nose pump, thermosink watering bowl, and a stand of corn that is used for winter grazing. The day turned out very well and was attended by 10 producers.

For our newsletter this quarter, we decided to increase our distribution from 2547 to 4251 to cover off the entire Old Wives Lake Watershed. Since attending the municipality meeting we have been receiving an increased amount in producers wishing to develop projects outside of the Wood River Sub basin boundaries. Increasing the distribution of the newsletter and developing the projects with the producers showing interest seemed like the reasonable thing to do, as they were still in the larger contributing area of the watershed, and it would be able to fit into our budget.

This quarter we were able to develop, review, and approve 11 projects. This brings our total to 40 projects from 19 separate producers.

Quarterly Expenses Statement

Our expenses for the third quarter were below what our budget was projected at in several categories. Expenses for communications are well below normal due to our quarterly newsletter not being published until January. This will be made up for in the fourth quarter with the production of two quarterly newsletters. Also behind budget are our field tour expenses. This will be quite higher in the fourth quarter with more workshops and field tours being planned.

4th Quarter Activities

4th quarter activities centered largely on the planning of a series of forums that were held at six locations across the watershed. The forums were held between February 23rd and March 3rd in the communities of Hodgeville, Glentworth, Shamrock, Chaplin, Ponteix, and Gravelbourg. The forums were designed to present to the attending audience water issues faced across the watershed and what programming is in place to deal with these issues. Also presented was potential programming to address more of our water quality and quantity needs. A different guest speak was present at each forum to touch on topics relatable to the specific area. The forums were considered a great success because of the very large amount of information gathered by the Wood River Riparian Authority relating to separate issues that different regions in the watershed are facing. Also, there was a large amount of awareness about AEGP's and BMP's generated. There were 70 attendees that attending the six separate forums.

The development of Farm Stewardship Program applications over the 4th quarter was slower than in previous quarters with only 3 developed. These all occurred before the forums that were hosted across the watershed. Since the forums, we have been receiving more calls of inquiry and

requests for Lyle to help with the development of five applications. The time frame between the development of applications and March 31st year end was too short and the projects will be able to be submitted early in our 2010 – 2011 programming year.

The distribution of our quarterly newsletters also occurred in the fourth quarter. We increased our programming area to include a larger area of the Old Wives Lake Watershed, resulting in a distribution of 4251 newsletters per quarter. One newsletter was sent out in January, and another was developed in March and, due to time restrictions, will have to be distributed in April.

Quarterly Expenses Statement

It was evident at the beginning of our 4th quarter that we were significantly under budget for our field tours and travel budget. Both of these expense categories were supplemented by projects with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and Environment Canada where work was occurring in conjunction with AEGP. Costs would be divided according to which projects were worked on when travelling or presented when hosting a field tour.

With being under budget for field tours and travel, the executive decided to increase our awareness through the development of a brochure to be available at local municipality offices and at presentations. This put our newsletter and communications over budget, but balancing out for our shortfalls in the other areas.

Also under budgeted this year were office expenses. With the dissolution of the Red Coat Regional Economic Development Authority (REDA), no longer were a significant proportion of our office expenses being covered by this organization that supported the Wood River Riparian Authority. Office expenses incurred till March 31, 2010 were recorded and then reduced to fit into the maximum budget of our AEGP through the support of the Town of Gravelbourg.

Summary

For the 2009 – 2010 programming year, the Wood River Riparian Authority accomplished the following from the work plan:

- Publish 2 quarterly newsletters with a distribution of 2300, and publish 2 quarterly newsletters with a distribution of 4251.
- Host 8 separate producer workshops.
- Update the www.woodriverriparian.ca website.
- Develop 43 Farm Stewardship Program applications with 22 producers
- Conduct seven Range/Riparian Health Assessments
- Develop brochures available at municipal offices educating the public about the Wood River Riparian Authority, programs available to them, and general knowledge about our watershed.

It has become quite clear from our operations this year that our budget for 2010 - 2011 will have to be refined to include more in our newsletter & communication expenses and less in our field tours/workshop expenses.

BMP	BMP Description	Estimated #	Actual #
09-101	Relocation of Livestock Confinement Facilities	1	0
09-201	Fencing to Protect the Environment	5	6
09-301	Improving Livestock Site Management: Portable Windbreaks and Shelters	6	13
09-302	Improving Livestock Site Management: Water System	6	10
09-401	Farmyard Run-Off Control	1	1
09-801	Modifying and Grassing Waterways	3	3
09-901	Stream Bank and Lakeshore Protection: Planting Forages, Trees or Shrubs	5	3
09-902	Stream Bank and Lakeshore Protection: Improved Crossing	1	0
1001	Water Well Management: Capping Old Wells	1	3
1002	Water Well Management: Protecting Existing Wells	1	1
1101	Protecting Marginal High Risk Soils	5	3
	Total	35	43

Project Expenditures

Category	09 -10 Budget	31-Mar-10 Actual	Variance
May 2009 - April 2010			
Delivery			
Group Planning Advisor's Salary and Benefits	\$ 26,558.00	\$ 26,558.00	\$ -
Travel	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,916.90	\$ 1,583.10
Liability	\$ 542.00	\$ 542.00	\$ -
Field Tours	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 594.49	\$ 1,655.51
Newsletter and Communication	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,323.42	\$ (2,823.42)
Phone	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Administration			
Management Committee's Expenses & Peer Review	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,366.10	\$ 433.90
Office Space & Supplies	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,099.09	\$ (849.09)
Totals	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -

Data Capture Report

Reporting Categories Required		First Quarter April to June 2009	First Total	Second Quarter July to Sept 2009	Running Total	Third Quarter Oct to Dec 2009	Running Total	Fourth Quarter Jan to Mar 2010	Final Total
1. Participation in Awareness and extension									
Presentation / Consultation:									
Initial AEGP Consultation Presentations / Workshops									
Follow-up AEGP Presentations / Workshops									
One on One Consultation		6	6	7	13	6	19	6	25
Total Presentation / Consultation:		6	6	7	13	6	19	6	25
General Awareness Strategies:									
Number of Newsletters and Flyers									
The Number Published		1		1	2	0	2	2	4
The Number Distributed		2547	2547	2547	5094	4251	9345	4251	13596
Number of News Articles		1	1	1	2	0	2	3	5
Technical Workshops		1	1	1	2	1	3	5	8
Field Days and Demonstrations		1	1	0	1	1	2	0	2
2. Directly Aiding Producers (BMPs)									
Number of Producers eligible * for Group plan Participation (Receive Certificate)		6	6	7	13	6	19	3	22
How many projects were applied for		13	13	16	29	11	40	3	43
Technical Assistance to Projects (Number of Projects)		13	13	16	29	11	40	3	43
How many projects were approved		~	~	29	29	11	40	3	43
How many projects were completed		~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
How many producers involved in completed projects		6	6	7	13	6	19	3	22
Financial Assistance for Projects (Number and Dollar amount)									
Number		~	~	29	29	11	40	3	43
Dollar Amount		~	~	\$ 134,763.18	\$ 134,763.18	\$ 64,838.08	\$ 199,601.26	\$ 17,858.70	\$ 217,459.96
3. Increase Public Awareness / Active Public Participation									
Participation in Source Water Protection Planning Activities in the Region		N/A		0	0	14 municipality d	14	15	29
Partnerships that are Developed or Maintained with Key Organizations		2	2	0	2	0	2	0	2
4. Statement of Expenses									
Salaries		\$ 5,283.63	\$ 5,283.63	\$ 7,247.90	\$ 12,531.53	\$ 6,949.56	\$ 19,481.09	\$ 7,076.91	\$ 26,558.00
Travel, Meals, & Accomodations		\$ 712.19	\$ 712.19	\$ 1,150.32	\$ 1,862.51	\$ 1,119.21	\$ 2,981.72	\$ 935.18	\$ 3,916.90
Programming (Field days, workshops)		\$ 394.49	\$ 394.49	-	\$ 349.49	-	\$ 394.49	\$ 200.00	\$ 594.49
Communications (Newsletters, advertising)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,720.72	\$ 1,720.72	\$ 60.20	\$ 1,780.92	\$ 3,542.50	\$ 5,323.42
Administration and office expenses		\$ 82.00	\$ 82.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 207.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 312.00	\$ 1,387.09	\$ 1,699.09
Steering Committee costs		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 415.21	\$ 415.21	\$ 482.56	\$ 897.77	\$ 468.33	\$ 1,366.10
Liability		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 542.00	\$ 542.00	\$ -	\$ 542.00	\$ -	\$ 542.00
Footnote		From April 1 2009 - to March 31, 2010 we have had 10 peer review meetings. The dates for							
*Ways in Which the Understanding and Importance of Better Management Practices Are Promoted to the Public:		- April 23							
a) An awareness of the local group plan and an understanding of what a watershed/aquifer is and which watershed/aquifer they are in.		- June 3							
		- August 11							
		- September 28							
b) An understanding of agri-environmental issues and their priority issues within their watershed.		- November 13							
		- December 2							
		- December 16							
c) An understanding of how their activities might impact their watershed and BMPs that address the priority issue within the watershed.		- January 11							
		- February 8							
		- March 15							

Request for Final Payment

April 6, 2010

Ministry of Agriculture
Executive Director – Policy Branch
3085 Albert Street
Regina, Sask. S4S 0B1

Dear Sir/Madame:

Re: Wood River Riparian Authority
Payment Disbursement – Final 20%

As per Section 5 of Schedule A, in the Agreement for the Delivery of the Canada-Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Group Planning (AEGP) Program, we formally request disbursement of the final 20% of funding provided for in the Agreement signed June 3rd, 2009.

The Wood River Riparian Authority has completed its plan for 2009-2010 and provided the required reports to the Ministry of Agriculture, as outlined in the agreement.

Yours respectfully,

Roland Levac
Wood River Riparian Authority
Box 390
Gravelbourg, SK
S0H 1X0