



# 2017 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

## SASKATCHEWAN FARM STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Welcome to a new year! 2017 has started off at a full run. Highlights below. Please do not hesitate to contact any SaskFSA board director for more information or to inform SaskFSA of what is happening in your area.

### SASKFSA MEETING WITH MINISTER MOE – JAN 10<sup>TH</sup>

SaskFSA met with Minister Moe, Tyler Lynch (Chief of Staff), Susan Ross (WSA President) and Doug Johnson (WSA Executive Director) to discuss our concerns over BILL 44 and the critical obstacles within the AG Water Management Policy.

To clarify, the new AG WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY is the policy producers are required to follow to bring agriculture drainage into compliance. The policy is currently in draft form, not publicly available and in the exact words of one of our members “a policy that is highly prohibitive toward effective agricultural water management that will make it nearly impossible to bring any unpermitted works into compliance” in its current form.

BILL 44 is an amendment to the Water Security Agency Act. Bill 44 is intended to support the new DRAINAGE REGULATIONS that were introduced in the fall of 2015. The SaskFSA position is to delay BILL 44 until there is a workable policy in place to enable producers to obtain registration for unapproved drainage works. Minister Moe intends to move forward with BILL 44 and has detailed some additional information pertaining to the bill – read more at <http://www.saskfsa.ca/current-issues/>. SaskFSA will be working directly with Susan, Doug, Minister Moe and the Ministry of Environment (MOE) going forward, it is no longer just a WSA agenda. **More details will follow after the next meeting scheduled for Jan 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**CHANGES WITHIN WATER SECURITY AGENCY (WSA)** Susan Ross is the new acting president of Water Security. She will be taking a more active role with SaskFSA in reviewing the regulatory requirements in consideration of approvals, potential mitigation requirements, land control requirements, the online application system and additional concerns within the policy draft. SaskFSA and WSA will be meeting JAN 24<sup>th</sup> as a working group to go through this, along with more details regarding BILL 44 - specifically the replacement of the formal complaint system, prohibition against litigation in respect to pre-1981 drainage works and clarification around the increase and application of fines.

### WESTERN CANADIAN CROP PRODUCTION SHOW (WCCPS) 2017 – MAKING PROGRESS

Board directors and SaskFSA members were out in full force at WCCPS to network with AG industry alliances to raise awareness of the concerns within the AG Water Management policy draft and to gain support to delay BILL 44 until a workable policy is in place. SaskFSA members submitted resolutions at the AGM's held throughout CropSphere to create discussion and formally place water management on the agenda of the commodity associations. Myles Thorpe (SaskFSA President) had an interview with Shaun Haney of Real Agriculture as well as the Western Producer regarding responsible water management and SaskFSA's concerns within the new policy and BILL 44. Listen to the Real Agriculture podcast at - <https://www.realagriculture.com/2017/01/realag-radio-jan-12-a-learning-attitude-water-regulations-outgoing-canola-council-president-looks-back/>

**AG INDUSTRY ALLIANCE – TALK TO YOUR ASSOCIATIONS** The SaskFSA AG Industry Alliance is gaining momentum. SaskFSA has formed a task force within the board of directors to inform and work with the various associations within the SK AG industry. We have a request in to SARM to attend their February board meeting and to present on the benefits of responsible AG water management at the March convention. We are also working through various channels to provide information and coordinate efforts with APAS. Talk to your local RM and the associations you are involved in to ensure they are properly informed. Let us know if you have any suggestions, connections or concerns.

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MOA) – GETTING INVOLVED?** A discussion was held with Minister Lyle Stewart at Crop Production. Karen Holtby, Manager of Environment & Resource Policy within the MOA has since contacted SaskFSA to discuss concerns about the MOA not being involved in development of the AG drainage policy, perhaps time to get involved?

**SARM – JOINT CARBON TAX LETTER** SaskFSA became a stakeholder in the joint carbon tax letter to the prime minister. This letter was initiated by SARM to unify stakeholders opposed to a national carbon tax in SK and to request consultations and collaboration between both levels of government and the industries that will be affected to balance environmental sustainability and economic development.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** Membership fees are now due, **please pay by Jan 31 to ensure you continue to receive updates.**

**WE NOW ACCEPT VISA** For a membership form visit [www.saskfsa.ca/join-today/](http://www.saskfsa.ca/join-today/) or email [mthorpe@saskfsa.ca](mailto:mthorpe@saskfsa.ca) to pay by VISA.

**CONTACT SASKFSA** Let us know what is happening in your or if you require assistance, please contact any member of the SaskFSA board. Contact information below and available at <http://www.saskfsa.ca/contact-us/>.