



STEWARDSHIP

AEPA WATER UPDATES

By Paul Jungnitsch, AEPA Project Coordinator

Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA) is a multi-stakeholder collaboration of the agriculture industry, government, and environmental non-government organizations, working to proactively address agri-environmental issues from a policy perspective. AEPA brings a wide variety of agricultural groups together around a common table, enabling discussion and acting as a valuable resource where important figures and groups that affect agriculture can engage directly.

While AEPA brings agricultural voices together, its two subgroups, the Water Working Group (WWG) and the Land Use Framework Working Group (LUF WG), dig deeper into the issues. While the LUF WG group researches topics affecting land use and now climate change, the WWG digs into water. Over the last few years, the WWG has looked into the wetland policy, neonicotinoids, tile drainage, and water quality for livestock amongst other subjects, and has been concentrating lately on the large subject of on-farm surface water management. Some of the water-related information that has been circulated by the group includes:

New Wetland Officers a Resource for Agriculture

With one of their mandates being engaging and educating agriculture, five new Environmental Protection Officer - Wetlands positions have been created across the province.

Contact them with your questions on wetland related issues for the region in which you are interested:

Peace: Wanda Watts

wanda.watts@gov.ab.ca

Upper Athabasca: Amanda Cooper

amanda.cooper@gov.ab.ca

Lower Athabasca:

Jocelyn Beniuk-Elkins

jocelyn.beniuk-elkins@gov.ab.ca

Red Deer – North Saskatchewan

Region: Ryan Adams

ryan.adams@gov.ab.ca

South Saskatchewan Region:

Julian Marchand

julian.marchand@gov.ab.ca

Municipalities and Water

A document was recently published on the subject of municipal management of water bodies: www.communityconserve.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/FAQ-2-Management-of-Water-Bodies-FINAL.pdf. This makes clear some of the issues around water and the law. Another related document, this time from the Farmers Advocate Office on engaging with your municipality, explains Municipal Development Plans, Land Use Bylaws, Property Assessment, Starting a Petition, and dealing with the Ombudsman: [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/ofa16586](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/ofa16586)

Soil Moisture Maps

Want an update on soil moisture in the province? Check here for the latest:

[www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/ppe9917](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/ppe9917) or subscribe to get them delivered to your inbox.

CAP Update

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) replaces the expired Growing Forward 2 (GF2) program. Applications and program details consisting of cost-shares and eligible activities and/or items will be released with the opening of each program. The following two programs are connected to the Environmental Stewardship Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and have significant water components:

- Environmental Stewardship Climate Change Producer Program supports producers in reducing negative impacts on the environment, while enhancing sustainable production, managing climate change and increasing profitability. This includes funding for wetland evaluations.
- Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Group Program is a new program targeted to applied research/forage associations, commodity groups and rural municipalities. This program supports the delivery of targeted extension programs and services, applied research and the strategic management of data.

Visit the website www.cap.alberta.ca for further information. Also, remember to subscribe for CAP updates.