

Update on the Western Water Stewardship Council

Drought Management

January 26, 2009
Delta Regina Hotel

Dwight Williamson, Assistant Deputy Minister
Ecological Services Division
Manitoba Water Stewardship



Western Water Stewardship Council Purpose

- To develop, lead, and assist multi-jurisdictional collaboration and partnerships in areas of water stewardship



Background

- **Western Water Conservation Initiative proposed by Premier Campbell at Council of Federation Forum in January 2008**
 - **Commitment by AB, BC, MB, and SK**
- **Transformed into the Western Water Stewardship Council at Western Premiers' meeting in May, 2008**
 - **Commitment by AB, BC, MB, NU, NWT, SK, and YK.**



Membership

- **Jim Mattison, Chair, British Columbia**
- **Bev Lee, Alberta**
- **Wayne Dybvig, Saskatchewan**
- **Earl Baddaloo, Nunavut**
- **Mark Warren, Northwest Territories**
- **Kevin McDonnell, Yukon**
- **Dwight Williamson, Manitoba**



Western Water Stewardship Council Members



Short-term Initiatives

- **SharePoint Site for sharing information and tools**
- **National water labelling and standards scheme**
- **Investigate interest in developing consistent water efficiency building code provisions**
- **Expert workshop**
- **Fact sheets and information packages**



Longer-term Initiatives

- **Irrigation Scheduling Calculator**
- **Certified Irrigation Designers and Technicians training**
- **Basin-wide working committees for drought preparedness**
- **Regional Drought Preparedness Plan**



Common Challenges - Drought Management

- **Increased demand for water**
- **Decreased water supply**
- **Changing water regimes**
- **Changing climate patterns**
- **Cross provincial/territorial boundaries**



Differences

- **Jurisdictions experience different:**
 - **degrees of risk and susceptibility to drought**
 - **stages of development in regard to preparedness.**
 - **legislative and regulatory tools, initiatives and strategies, programs, projects**



Proposed Strategic Outcomes

- Understand future water supply as a result of climate change
- Understand changes to water supply, future demand and areas where demand may compromise ecosystem integrity and economic stability
- Adapt to this future water supply
- Improve water conservation to better manage demand as well as supply
- Ensure health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems
- Increase public awareness to generate collective behaviour change and preparedness around water shortages
- Increase resiliency of communities, industries and agriculture to drought.



Principles

- 1. Develop strategic principles and common definitions**
- 2. Share/exchange information and tools**
- 3. Partner on projects**



Next Steps

- 1. Proposed Scoping Workshop**
- 2. Establish a western framework/plan for drought preparedness and risk management**
- 3. Establish Working Committees**
 - three basic strategies are the foundation of a basin framework:**
 - Drought Preparedness**
 - Drought Reporting**
 - Drought Response**
- 1. Establish external partners such as with the Drought Research Initiative**



Thank You

