

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Partner Presentation

DRI Workshop #2
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www.swa.ca



Drought Related Activity - 2006

- ∅ Water Conservation Plan
- ∅ Research Support – Prairie Wetland Hydrology Model
- ∅ Knowledge Transfer – Application of Paleohydrologic Data



Water Conservation is Needed

∅ Green economy

- | must use energy and material efficiently, including water
- | Conserving water conserves energy used in pumping

∅ Water Supply

- | users must value water and understand the need for wise use of this limited resource
- | action is needed now as water shortages already are occurring
- | Climate change and natural variability will create shortages
- | Conservation helps get through drought

∅ Economic and Environmental Benefits

- | Healthier ecosystems
- | More water available for development
- | Reduced infrastructure cost

Water Conservation - Focus

- Ø Education is the first priority
 - | Actions are targeted towards public education
- Ø Will build partnerships with all 3 target sectors
 - | Industrial, Agricultural (irrigation and livestock) and Municipal
- Ø Government to lead by example

Short Term Steps

- ∅ Water Conservation coordinator
- ∅ Marketing and extension
 - | Campaign to raise awareness will begin in February
 - | “The number 1 water saving device is you”
- ∅ Working with selected municipalities
- ∅ Website: www.swa.ca/waterconservation

Longer Term

- Ø Review and revise Surface Water Allocation Policy – Drought research could provide valuable information.

Prairie Wetland Hydrology Model

- Ø Working with U of Saskatchewan Hydrology Research Centre
- Ø Partners include: Ducks Unlimited, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, Prairie Provinces Water Board and member agencies.
- Ø To build a prairie pothole hydrology module for the CRHM
- Ø Complementary to DRI and IP3.

Paleohydrologic Data

- Ø Recent opportunity for funding through the Canadian Water Network (CWN)
- Ø SWA and others are supporting an application by PARC.
- Ø To build capacity within water management agencies to use and apply paleohydrologic data.
- Ø Increased understanding of drought frequency, duration, and extent.