

Executive Director Update - April 2020

Within the environmental non-profit world we use words such as adaptation and resiliency on a daily, weekly and monthly basis with regards to source water protection and the environment.

NOW, we utilize these words consistently in our daily living and isolated work spaces to protect our family, friends and communities from transmitting Covid-19.

SAW and the watershed stewardship groups have adapted quickly to the Covid-19 guidelines to ensure their clients and watershed communities continue to access source water protection programming and information easily. Our offices are open remotely via email and phone.

SAW continues to work closely with the Water Security Agency in developing education materials for agricultural producers relating to the new agricultural water management strategy. The educational material framework is nearly complete and we have unveiled the draft programming to a stakeholder group for additional comment. More information will be posted in the upcoming months.

This past February SAW partnered with the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program and Converging Pathways to deliver Indigenous Training to the Watershed Stewardship Groups and various non-profit organizations at the First Nations University. The training provided us a deeper understanding, through a blanket exercise, of how Indigenous people were treated and how Treaties and the Indian Act were developed and legislated. We learned about the caring of Mother Earth and the importance of the land and water from an Indigenous perspective. Lastly, we received insight on how to engage and work with Indigenous communities successfully. Converging Pathways did an excellent job of facilitating the training. It was positively impactful and emotional. I urge anyone to take this training if you get the opportunity. It is a life changing experience.



Blanket Exercise - Converging Pathways

SAW continues to move forward with developing a new strategic plan. Our objective is to have the strategic plan completed by the end of this year. Hopefully, this can be achieved given the current circumstances.

SAW's Annual General Meeting was scheduled for June. The SAW Board of Directors will be discussing changing the date at the next SAW board meeting on April 22, 2020. Changes will be updated on the SAW website.

To all, SAW recognizes this is a difficult time for everyone. We encourage everyone to continue to keep the lines of communication open with your board members, staff and communities. Together we are stronger and will overcome this crisis.

If you require more information please feel free to contact me at 306-631-9254 or email to skwatersheds@gmail.com

Sincerely,



Bridget Andrews
Executive Director
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds Inc.



Richard Aisaican M.S., Cowessess First Nation #73, presenting at the Indigenous training.