



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation
Administration

Administration du rétablissement
agricole des Prairies

Our File: 1585-6-8-2
1011 - 11 Innovation Boulevard
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S47N 3H5

November 3, 2006

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association
Suite 909
400 - 4th Ave. S
Lethbridge, AB
T1J 4E1

Dear Dave Hill:

Re: **Stakeholder Workshop on Water and Climate, Dec. 1 Lethbridge, AB**
Institutional Adaptation to Climate Change; Agenda/ Brochure attached

You are invited to attend a meeting where some of the latest global climate scenarios will be down-scaled for the southernmost agricultural region of Alberta, as presented by renowned research scientist Dr. David Sauchyn of the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative.

Water is an essential resource that affects all aspects of society in the South Saskatchewan River Basin. There are increasing concerns being expressed about future climate change impacts. Viewpoints range from water resources being under threat from environmental and societal pressures to using water development as an economic driver for the region. See, for example:

“An impending water crisis in Canada’s western prairie provinces”
(Schindler and Donahue, 2006).

This paper’s key message is that “climate warming and human modifications to catchments” in Western Canada “will combine with cyclic drought and rapidly increasing human activity...to cause a crisis in water quantity and quality with far reaching implications.”

“Water Wealth” (Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation Inc., 2004)
This document calls for “water development in Saskatchewan that can transcend the political vagaries of the day and provide a firm foundation for long term water planning and development that accommodates the human and environmental interest in our waters”. The report suggests Saskatchewan needs to maximize wealth from waters flowing through Saskatchewan, increase water storage in the province, ensure sustainable provision for environmental flows [ecological needs], and double the rural population through “water based value added water development.”

No matter what perspective you take, it is clear that present and future climate scenarios will affect our society, including communities, agriculture, industry, economic activity and the environment.

PFRA is extending this invitation to you or a designated alternate to attend a one-day workshop on Water and Climate, at the Lethbridge Lodge Hotel on Friday, December 1, 2006. (see attached Agenda for details). The intent of the workshop is to bring a variety of water stakeholders together to discuss water and climate issues, and institutional needs.-

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We would be very grateful if you would be willing to contribute to this working meeting. Attendees will discuss focus group questions, such as:

- What are the issues your business sees with water availability?
- How are you addressing water and climate issues?
- How will water issues change in the context of future climate scenarios as presented by Sauchyn?
- To address water issues:
 - o What agencies and institutions do you need to collaborate with?
 - o What support is needed from other institutions now and in the future?

The key findings from this workshop will be used in the context of a current research project entitled "Institutional Adaptation to Climate Change." A summary report of the workshop will be prepared and presented to all attendees following the workshop.

Using the attached form, please confirm whether or not you will attend by faxing your response to Darrell Corkal at PFRA, Saskatoon, 1-306-975-4594, before November 17, 2006. A follow-up phone call may be provided.

Yours truly,

Darrell R. Corkal, P. Eng.
Water Quality Engineer

DRC/drc

Attachments:

- Context and References
- Agenda Details
- Fax Confirmation Form
- Project brochure

c.c.: P. Diaz
J. Wandel
D. Sauchyn

**Institutional Adaptations to Climate Change (IACC) -
A Comparative Study of Dryland River Basins in Canada and Chile**

Funded by: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Context

This Stakeholder Workshop on Water and Climate is being sponsored by Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and the University of Regina. Both institutions are collaborating with a number of universities and agencies to investigate “Institutional Adaptation to Climate Change.” Some of the invited stakeholders may have participated in selected project interviews during the last two years.

This project is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The project includes study sites in the South Saskatchewan River Basin of Alberta and Saskatchewan and the Rio Elqui River Basin in the Fourth Region of Chile, a region heavily reliant on irrigated agriculture (it is adjacent to the Atacama Desert).

An overview of the project will be provided at the workshop, along with some potential water and climate scenarios for Alberta’s South Saskatchewan River Basin.

For more information on this project, please read the attached brochure, and peruse project reports at website: <http://www.parc.ca/mcrl/index.php>.

References:

Schindler, D.W. and W.F. Donahue, 2006. *An impending water crisis in Canada’s western prairie provinces*. Published in the “Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America” PNAS 2006;103;7210-7216; originally published online April 10, 2006 doi:10.1073/pnas.0601568103.

Available at: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Clifton Associates Ltd., 2004. *Water Wealth – A Fifty Year Water Development Plan for Saskatchewan Executive Summary*. Published by Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation Inc. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. 16 pp.

Available at: http://www.droughtproof.com/pdf/ww_executivesummary.pdf.

See also: “*Drought Proofing the Economy*”
<http://www.droughtproof.com/publications.html>

**Stakeholder Workshop on Water and Climate
Dec. 1, 2006 Lethbridge, AB**

(Please respond before November 17, 2006)

FAX TO: **1-306-975-4594**
 Attention: Darrell Corkal, PFRA, Saskatoon

Agency name: _____

Our agency WILL ATTEND the Water and Climate Workshop in Lethbridge on Dec. 1

YES or NO (please circle; there is no workshop fee to attend)

Names /Contact Information of person(s) attending:

Name(s) of person (s) attending	Tel. No.	Email

SPECIAL NOTE:

Our Agency is interested in pursuing options for mileage reimbursement and/or a small honorarium.

YES or NO (please circle; not offered to government attendees or large organizations)

Stakeholder Workshop on Water and Climate

Lethbridge Lodge Hotel, Lethbridge AB

Friday Dec. 1, 2006

Organized by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada --Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) as a Project Partner
with the Universities of Regina, Guelph, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Athabasca University
For the University of Regina research project: "Institutional Adaptation to Climate Change"
See: <http://www.parc.ca/mcri/index.php> Funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Purpose/Objective:

- Ø To consult with water stakeholders about climate-induced water issues, with some discussion of future scenarios
- Ø To ask for guidance from stakeholders on assessing the challenges and needs that face water institutions, today and with future scenarios
- Ø To provide information to stakeholders about the Institutional Adaptation to Climate Change project, jointly being conducted between Canada and Chile

Invitees:

Non-government and government stakeholders who share an interest in:

- *water resources*
- *the effect of climate on future water supplies in the South Saskatchewan River Basin*
- *Agencies invited include: Alberta Irrigation Projects Association, Taber Irrigation District, Bow River Basin Council, Oldman Watershed Council, Milkriver Watershed Council, Western Canadian Wheat Growers, Potato Growers of Alberta, Rogers Sugar Ltd., Alberta Sugar Beet Growers, McCain, Special Areas Board, Counties (Forty Mile, Lethbridge, Newell, Cypress), Blood Tribe, Gov. of Alberta (Agriculture, Environment, Sustainable Resource Development, Municipal District of Taber, Town of Taber, University of Lethbridge, Water Institute for Semi Arid Ecosystems*

Date:

Friday December 1, 2006 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location:

Lethbridge Lodge Hotel and Conference Center
320 Scenic Drive
Lethbridge, Alberta
403-328-1123

Agenda attached; lunch provided

PFRA Contact:

Darrell Corkal, P. Eng.
Saskatoon, SK
306-975-6413
corkald@agr.gc.ca

Research Team attending:

Polo Diaz	Susana Prado
Johanna Wandel	Gwen Young
Lorenzo Magzul	Monica Hadarits
Dave Sauchyn	Suzan Lapp

Stakeholder Workshop on Water and Climate Lethbridge Lodge Hotel, Lethbridge AB Friday Dec. 1, 2006

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Agenda

9:00 Welcome; Overview of Institutional Adaptation to Climate Change

- Polo Diaz, Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina

9:15 Water and Climate Scenarios for Alberta's South Saskatchewan River Basin

- Dave Sauchyn, Suzan Lapp, University of Regina

10:00 Coffee

10:30 Breakout Sessions

- discussion of water issues, institutional needs, etc.

12:00 Lunch, provided

1:00 Plenary Session

2:00 Community Vulnerabilities

Canadian Case Studies, SSRB in Alberta

- **Vulnerability - Johanna Wandel, University of Guelph**
- **Water Conflict - Lorenzo Magzul, University of British Columbia**

Chilean Case Studies, Rio Elqui, La Serena

- **Governance - Darrell Corkal, PFRA**
- **Communities - Gwen Young, University of Guelph**

3:15 Coffee

3:45 Closing Remarks and Thanks

- follow-up reporting