



JUL 26 2017

Aura Lee MacPherson, Chair
Calling Lakes Ecomuseum
a.macpherson@mac-eng.ca

2017-126

Dear Ms. MacPherson:

Thank you for your letter of June 15, 2017 regarding the Quill Lakes Watershed Association's proposal to mitigate flooding within the Quill Lakes Basin through their Common Ground proposal.

The high water levels at the Quill Lakes watershed is a complex issue that is impacting thousands of acres of farmland, farmyards and infrastructure. Our government remains open to exploring all options that might help address the flooding issue. We are continuing to work with the Quill Lakes Watershed Association (QLWA), local RMs, landowners and others to further explore potential solutions to this significant challenge.

In addition, the government of Saskatchewan is providing support to the QLWA through a special committee it has formed with members representing the Water Security Agency (WSA), Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Government Relations. This committee provides advice to the QLWA on project development and the regulatory processes that apply to project proposals.

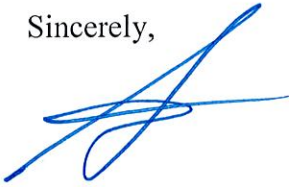
In your letter you state that the Quill Lakes flooding is man-made. While agricultural drainage may have contributed to the current situation, it is important to note that the main factor has been the well above normal amounts of precipitation in the area over the last number of years.

The Agricultural Water Management Strategy brings forth a process that is fair and focuses on collaboration and evidence based decision making. Through the use of Qualified Persons, proponents are able to implement a drainage network that takes into account interests of landowners downstream while still providing drainage benefits to landowners. Producers working together allow for positive equitable solutions.

Bill 44, *The Water Security Agency Amendment Act*, passed through the Legislative Assembly in May of this year as part of our Agricultural Water Management Strategy. Once a drainage application is received, WSA will make every effort to come to an evidenced based decision regarding potential approval within a reasonable timeline.

Should you require further information about issues in the Quill Lakes area or the regulatory processes that apply to project proposals, please contact Clinton Molde, WSA's Executive Director of Integrated Water Services at 306.694.8904 or by email at clinton.molde@wsask.ca.

Sincerely,



Scott Moe
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

cc: Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan
Susan Ross, President, Water Security Agency
Clinton Molde, Executive Director, Integrated Water Services, Water Security Agency