SOURIS RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

Building a Stronger Future: New Spillway Construction at Derksen Heide Dam

The Souris River Watershed District (SRWD) has been working on constructing a new spillway at Derksen Heide Dam to improve water management and support the dam's long-term functionality.



Spillways play an essential role in safely directing excess water during heavy rainfall and spring snowmelt, helping prevent erosion, structural damage, and flooding of surrounding areas.

This improvement will help protect agricultural land, infrastructure, and nearby waterways by providing a controlled pathway for water movement.

Through projects like this, SRWD continues its commitment to maintaining reliable water management infrastructure and protecting the health and sustainability of our watershed for future generations.



Animal of the Month:

Muskrat

Muskrats are nature's wetland engineers! Found throughout Manitoba, these semi-aquatic mammals play an important role in maintaining healthy wetland ecosystems. By feeding on aquatic plants and creating channels through dense vegetation, they help provide valuable habitats for waterfowl, amphibians, and other wildlife. Muskrats also build dome-shaped lodges using cattails and other vegetation, with underwater entrances for protection. Conserving wetlands ensures these fascinating animals continue contributing to healthy, thriving watersheds across southwestern Manitoba for generations to come.







Did you know?

Earthworms are tiny underground recyclers that help maintain healthy soils! By tunneling through the ground, they improve soil structure, break down organic matter, and create pathways for air and water.

However, not all earthworms are beneficial everywhere. Many northern North American forests developed without earthworms after the last Ice Age. When non-native earthworms enter these ecosystems, they can rapidly consume fallen leaves, disrupting habitats and affecting soil health.

This leaf layer is essential for retaining moisture, storing nutrients, and providing shelter for insects, fungi, and young plants.

Surprisingly, discarded fishing bait can spread non-native earthworms into new environments!

At the Souris River Watershed District, we encourage everyone to protect our ecosystems. Never release unused fishing worms into nature. Small actions help protect our watersheds!



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Souris River Watershed District

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Souris River Watershed District

SUB-DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS

SOURIS RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT



The Souris River Watershed District is divided into sub-districts. Each municipality listed below is responsible for appointing the number of subcommittee members shown (according to the Watershed Districts Regulation – Schedule 10).

Jackson–Graham–Gainsborough Creeks

Municipality	Number of Appointments
Town of Melita	1
RM of Pipestone	2
Municipality of Two Borders	2

Chain Lakes–Elgin Creek

Municipality	Number of Appointments
Municipality of Boissevain–Morton	2
Municipality of Brenda–Waskada	2
Municipality of Deloraine–Winchester	2
Municipality of Grassland	2
Municipality of Souris–Glenwood	2

Pipestone Creek

Municipality	Number of Appointments
RM of Pipestone	2
RM of Sifton	2
Municipality of Souris–Glenwood	2
Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth	2

Stony Creek

Municipality	Number of Appointments
Municipality of Grassland	2
RM of Pipestone	2
RM of Sifton	2
Municipality of Two Borders	2

Whitewater Lake

Municipality	Number of Appointments
Municipality of Boissevain–Morton	2
Municipality of Deloraine–Winchester	2

Medora–Waskada Creeks

Municipality	Number of Appointments
Municipality of Brenda–Waskada	2
Municipality of Deloraine–Winchester	2
Municipality of Two Borders	2

Who Can Be Appointed?

Appointee eligibility

A ratepayer appointed to a subcommittee must be an eligible voter of the municipality.

(Watershed Districts Regulation, s. 4(1))

One appointment

If a municipality is required to appoint one ratepayer, they may appoint either a regular ratepayer or a municipal councillor.

(s. 4(3))

More than one appointment

If a municipality is required to appoint more than one ratepayer, they must appoint at least one ratepayer who is not a municipal councillor.

(s. 4(4))

