

**Status Update – Water Security Agency
October 19, 2022**

Chapter 18, Water Security Agency, 2019 Report - Volume 2

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>1. We recommended the Water Security Agency implement and test a business continuity plan.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	<p>116</p>	<p>Implemented</p>	<p>On June 5, 2020, signed a contract with a third-party provider for cloud disaster recovery service. In February 2021, tested the disaster recovery site and had a successful test result. It also analyzed the results and communicated them to management in February 2021.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Complete</p>

Status Update – Water Security Agency

October 19, 2022

Chapter 16, Water Security Agency, 2020 Report - Volume 2

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>1. We recommended the Water Security Agency implement and test a business continuity plan.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	100	Implemented	<p>On June 5, 2020, signed a contract with a third-party provider for cloud disaster recovery service. In February 2021, tested the disaster recovery site and had a successful test result. It also analyzed the results and communicated them to management in February 2021.</p>	N/A	Complete

Status Update – Water Security Agency

October 19, 2022

Chapter 13, Water Security Agency, 2021 Report - Volume 2

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>1. We recommended the Water Security Agency implement and test a business continuity plan.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	78	Implemented	<p>On June 5, 2020, signed a contract with a third-party provider for cloud disaster recovery service. In February 2021, tested the disaster recovery site and had a successful test result. It also analyzed the results and communicated them to management in February 2021.</p>	N/A	Complete

**Status Update – Water Security Agency
October 19, 2022**

Chapter 13, Water Security Agency – Regulating Water Use, 2020 Report - Volume 1

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>1. We recommend the Water Security Agency update completion date targets for relevant key actions originally set in its 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan pertaining to regulating water use to ensure water sustainability.</p> <p>Status: New</p>	<p>180</p>	<p>Implemented</p>	<p>In 2022-23 fiscal year, WSA implemented a Cabinet approved 4-year Strategic Plan that replaces the 25 Year Plan.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Approved July 2022</p>

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<p>2. We recommend the Water Security Agency develop written procedures for processing and approving applications for water use.</p> <p>Status: New</p>	<p>186</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>Information has been gathered to develop written procedures for processing and approving applications. A new Standards unit has been created to support the development of the written procedures.</p> <p>A Decision Record has been developed to ensure relevant factors are considered on a case-by-case basis. This record will document key decision points and the factors that lead to those decisions. This record will be included on file for all new or renewed licences.</p> <p>To bring consistency to the program all water licensing activities, including temporary licenses, has been consolidated into one Division (Science & Licensing Division).</p>	<p>The standards unit will document high level procedures and determine which specific policies and procedures will be developed.</p> <p>All staff responsible for water-use licencing utilize the decision framework document.</p>	<p>4th Quarter 2023-24</p> <p>Completed July 2020</p> <p>Completed June 2022</p>

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<p>3. We recommend the Water Security Agency clearly document its consideration of key components used to predict water availability of a proposed water source before related surface water-use licences are approved</p> <p>Status: New</p>	<p>189</p>	<p>Implemented</p>	<p>WSA has implemented a standard table of contents for all water supply studies to ensure all components of a study are documented. This recommendation applies to small water supply studies to ensure they are comprehensive.</p>	<p>This process has been implemented and is being maintained and improved as needed.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>4. We recommend the Water Security Agency implement written procedures about estimating and recording licensed water use</p> <p>Status: New</p>	<p>192</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>The practices and procedures for estimating water use are documented.</p>	<p>The practices and procedures for requesting, logging, and reporting Water Usage data will be documented.</p>	<p>3rd Quarter 2022-23</p>

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<p>5. We recommend the Water Security Agency actively monitor whether water-use licensees comply with key water-use licence conditions.</p> <p>Status: New</p>	<p>193</p>	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>A Risk-based Compliance Framework is currently in development for all WSA compliance related activities. The framework will establish a risk-based, audit system to monitor compliance with key license conditions.</p>	<p>The project overview will be brought forward for approvals.</p> <p>This is a multi-year project including several components such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of risk assessment tools, risk categorization, selection of audit targets, creation of enforcement protocols, training of staff. • Evaluation of any regulatory impacts. 	<p>End of 2022-23 fiscal year.</p> <p>End of 2023-2024 fiscal year.</p> <p>End of 2023-2024 fiscal year.</p>

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<p>6. We recommend the Water Security Agency develop written enforcement procedures for staff to follow when the Agency identifies licensed water users not complying with water-use licences.</p> <p>Status: New</p>	<p>194</p>	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>Compliance pathways and enforcement protocols will be created as part of the larger Risk-based Compliance Framework project. These protocols will use a progressive enforcement approach up to and including revocation of license.</p>	<p>The project overview will be brought forward for approvals.</p> <p>This is a multi-year project including several components such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of risk assessment tools, risk categorization, selection of audit targets, creation of enforcement protocols, training of staff. • Evaluation of any regulatory impacts. 	<p>End of 2022-23 fiscal year.</p> <p>End of 2023-2024 fiscal year.</p> <p>End of 2023-2024 fiscal year.</p>

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<p>7. We recommend the Water Security Agency periodically give senior management written reports on non-compliance with key water-use licence conditions, and related enforcement strategies and actions.</p> <p>Status: New</p>	195	Not Implemented	Performance measures and reporting structures will be created as part of the larger Risk-based Compliance Framework project. These will include reports on the per cent of licenses audited, results of the audits and any enforcement activities undertaken or pending.	<p>The project overview will be brought forward for approvals.</p> <p>This is a multi-year project including several components such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of risk assessment tools, risk categorization, selection of audit targets, creation of enforcement protocols, training of staff. • Evaluation of any regulatory impacts. 	<p>End of 2022-23 fiscal year.</p> <p>End of 2023-2024 fiscal year.</p> <p>End of 2023-2024 fiscal year.</p>
<p>1.2a) Evaluate existing water supplies and future demands for the next 25 years and beyond to determine the need for new infrastructure across the province</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	195	Implemented	<p>The Hydrological Science units develop Water Availability Studies that evaluate existing and future demands. These studies are an input into decision making at both the operational and strategic planning levels.</p> <p>The Hydrological Science unit completes major studies and local studies each year in support of economic development</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing as part of normal operations.

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<p>1.6b) Analyze the water supply situation in the major rivers</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	196	Implemented	WSA Hydrological Science units has ongoing supply studies for major rivers. These studies are updated periodically as circumstances change.	Ongoing	Ongoing as part of normal operations.
<p>6.1b) Develop an integrated geographically referenced database to provide government-wide and public access to water-based information.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	196	Partially Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access is now available to all new water quality data as it is entered into the Saskatchewan Environment Environmental Management System (SEEMS). Information on drinking water and wastewater inspection, water quality data, and water advisories and warnings are available on the Water and Wastewater Management page of saskatchewan.ca (previously SaskH2O.ca). Access to all historic surface water quality data in SEEMS. • A Maps and GIS webpage was created which is a “one-stop-shop” for the public to find WSA’s spatial data. • An interactive map for Aquatic Protection Permit (AHPP) zones was created. Enables public to determine zone their project is in and associated AHPP specialist they need to contact. • A web-based mapping application showing the location of WSA-owned dams was created, enabling users to zoom to the location of a dam and discover basic information about it. • An Informatics Unit was created to manage water management information and data. 	The WSA GeoHub is complete and will be released.	October 2022

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<p>6.3a) Support the work of the Global Institute for Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan in their assessment of the water supply and quality issues in the South Saskatchewan River.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	<p>196</p>	<p>Implemented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Global Institute for Water Security has been involved with investigations on water quality and water supply on the South Saskatchewan River. • In 2015, The Journal of Great Lakes Research published a “Special Issue on Characterization and dynamics of a large multi-purpose prairie reservoir: Lake Diefenbaker, Saskatchewan, Canada”, a 164-page document with research on various aspects of Lake Diefenbaker water quality and ecology. Various WSA staff worked with Global Institute researchers in producing 15 papers for the special issue. • Members of the Global Institute reviewed the 2011 flood operations of Lake Diefenbaker to help in a post event discussion of the operations. • WSA collaborated with the Global Institute of Water Security (GIWS) and has expanded beyond the South Saskatchewan River to include other research topics of mutual interest including agricultural drainage 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing as part of normal operations.</p>
<p>7.6b) In support of the Mackenzie River Basin Board, negotiate bilateral agreements with Alberta and the Northwest Territories.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	<p>196</p>	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>Work on negotiating a bilateral water management agreement with the Northwest Territories was re-initiated in 2021.</p>	<p>Negotiations with Alberta resumed in 2022.</p>	<p>No specified timeline.</p>

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<p>7.7a) Undertake comprehensive water management analysis for priority surface and groundwater systems.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	<p>196</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>Refinements and improvements associated with this action item have progressed; however, the work has evolved since the action was originally developed.</p> <p>WSA has revisited the purpose and utility of this action in support of Saskatchewan's Growth Plan and has incorporated Water Quality and Water Quantity as two of the strategic themes within the 2022-26 WSA Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>Transitioned to 4-Year Plan</p>	<p>Transitioned to 4-Year Plan</p>
<p>7.7b) Implement new watershed modelling and data base management systems to allow efficient evaluation of new requests for water and ensure that cumulative effects are considered.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	<p>196</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>Refinements and improvements associated with this action item have progressed; however, the work has evolved since the action was originally developed.</p> <p>WSA has incorporated this requirement under Goal 2 of the new strategic plan - Clean, safe, reliable, water that is responsive to change. - where it is defined, and the appropriate resources allocated so it can be successfully completed.</p>	<p>Transitioned to 4-Year Plan</p>	<p>Transitioned to 4-Year Plan</p>

**Status Update – Water Security Agency
October 19, 2022**

Chapter 31, Water Security Agency – Regulating Drainage, 2021 Report - Volume 1

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>1. We recommend that the Water Security Agency approve finalized policies related to its regulation of drainage of water on agricultural lands</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	<p>286</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>2021 Audit Follow up indicated finalization of policies is occurring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized and implemented all but two policies. • Formal process established and followed. • Implemented five-year timeframe review for all drainage policies. 	<p>Complete Mitigation Policy which will include a wetland component</p>	<p>Fall 2023</p>

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<p>6. We recommend that Water Security Agency staff consistently follow established processes to document risk assessments when reviewing applications for drainage works.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	<p>287</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>2021 Audit follow up found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agency has completed policies, procedures, and check lists to guide consistency. • Check lists are clear, understandable, and sufficiently captures watershed vulnerability and risk. 	<p>Conduct annual internal audits to ensure use of checklists and worksheets.</p> <p>Additional staff training and support to ensure tools are being used on all files.</p>	<p>Ongoing – audits for quality control.</p>

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>2. We recommend that the Water Security Agency require documentation of all aspects of watershed risk before approving applications for drainage works</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	287	Implemented	<p>2021 Audit Follow up indicated Watershed Risk Assessment and documentation is improving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created key risk assessment documents for staff to document drainage project risks. Checklist and policy are clear, easily understandable and adopted by staff. New risk assessment worksheet is appropriate and has sufficient detail for staff but is inconsistently used 	<p>Implement process to support staff adoption and consistent implementation of the risk assessment worksheet.</p> <p>Implement continued internal audits and quality control checks.</p>	Ongoing
<p>4. We recommend that the Water Security Agency develop polices on water quality and wetland requirements to use when assessing risks of drainage.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	289	Not Implemented	<p>Work Required on Water Quality and Wetland Retention policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSA has not fully developed a policy on water quality or wetland retention requirements. 	Water quality and wetland retention will be explicitly considered and integrated as part of the Mitigation Policy	Fall 2023

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>5. We recommend that the Water Security Agency publish expected timeframes to resolve requests for assistance on unapproved drainage works.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	289	Partially Implemented	<p>2021 Audit Follow up indicated that WSA has published timeframes in the new process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSA has set internal deadlines for key steps in the Request for Assistance (RFA) process. • Timeframes found to be adequate. • Internal timeframes help to ensure timely resolution and decreases risk of further damage. 	RFA policy revisions are ongoing and will provide timelines to the public in a revised RFA factsheet or other communication materials.	January 2023

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<p>8. We recommend that Water Security Agency staff follow established processes to escalate identified actions on unapproved drainage works within a reasonable timeframe.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	291	Partially Implemented	<p>2021 Follow up Audit found that the escalation processes in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RFA policy includes timeframes for escalation. • The RFA manual was found to be comprehensive and easily understandable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize approach to RFAs. • Review and revise the RFA policy to reflect changes. • Revise manual to reflect policy changes. • Provide communication and training to Compliance Assurance and Approvals Assurance staff. 	January 2023
<p>9. We recommend that the Water Security Agency develop a prioritization plan to identify and bring unapproved high-risk drainage works into compliance.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	291	Partially Implemented	<p>2021 Audit follow up indicated that the unapproved Drainage Prioritization Plan is improving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage compliance planning and assurance policy is in place. 	Developing a monitoring and surveillance strategy is included in the mitigation policy framework and will be developed as part of the policy approach.	Fall 2023

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<p>10. We recommend that the Water Security Agency periodically report to senior management on actions taken to address non-compliance on unapproved drainage works.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	292	Implemented	<p>2021 Audit Follow up indicated that reporting to senior management is improving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agency improved reporting to senior management. • New organizational structure since 2021 has enhanced reporting to senior management 	N/A	Complete
<p>11. We recommend that the Water Security Agency report to the public on its regulation of drainage of water on agricultural lands.</p> <p>Status: Outstanding</p>	293	Partially Implemented	<p>The 2021 Audit follow up indicated that public reporting is improving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agency has improved reporting to the public through the annual report. 	<p>Include additional metrics in the public reports to improve overall reporting to public to help landowners and public understand the importance of the strategy and implementation progress. Add additional metrics when mitigation policy is complete.</p>	Fall 2023