

SCDA AGM March 24, 2022 Executive Director Report

This writer commenced duties as the Executive Director of the SCDA on October 20, 2021. It is my honor and privilege to work with the SCDA Board of Directors (Chair Miles, Vice-Chair Will, and Directors Cliff, Dallas, Nathan, and Steve). It is also great to work with a dedicated and professional SCDA staff. Together we serve the entire membership of Conservation and Development Area Authorities (C and Ds and Watershed Association Boards (WABs).

After 38 years in the education sector, with 3 years as a teacher, 10 years as an in-school administrator, 25 years as a central office and Ministry of Education official, and 1 year of retirement, I am now working in the water sector. I hold a B.Ed., a Post Graduate Diploma, and an M.Ed. in Educational Administration. Since beginning work in the water sector, I have continued to be a lifelong learner. I have taken QP Qualified Person Training from Southeast Regional College and the ADAM Agricultural Drainage Application Mapping Course from WSA. Also, I have become an authorized Notary Public.

Interestingly, a former SCDA Executive Director, Merlin McFarlane, was the principal at Viscount when this writer was principal right next door at Plunkett in the early 1980s. In one of Merlin's Executive Director reports, he stated that the "Conservation and Development Act came into being in 1949 to provide a farmer-driven framework for construction and maintenance of works, i.e., dams and drainage ditches and to develop and protect lands within their area." He further stated, "In 1966, 23 CAAs met and formed a provincial association, the Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association.

What has the SCDA been up to during the 2021 calendar year?

In 2021 SCDA engaged Botting Leadership Inc. to facilitate a strategic planning exercise with the SCDA Board of Directors and the SCDA Staff. The result of that work was an SCDA Strategic Plan 2021 – 23. The SCDA Strategic Plan helps the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, and SCDA staff work toward their stated goals moving forward. The Strategic Plan will be regularly reviewed to check progress and to adjust the plan where necessary.

Botting Leadership Inc. also worked with the SCDA Board of Directors to recruit a new Executive Director. As a result, here I am penning this report!

The SCDA Office is in Saskatoon at Unit 220 – 610 Main Street.

Staff at the SCDA – CTF Office include:

- Office Administrator, Sara Woolsey (replaced Holly Moldon)
- Executive Administrator, Molly Wihone (replaced Michelle Novick)
- Project Coordinator and Engineer, Jaclyn Lesko
- Project Manager and Engineer, Kevin Schmidt
- IT Support, Jeff Jackson
- Executive Director, Crandall Hrynkiw

Today, the SCDA continues to work on behalf of its members to communicate their concerns to government and non-government agencies that share interests in water management. Some of our

areas of work this past year include:

- 1. Legal Challenge
 - a. Membership has been updated by email on Slough Lands Ownership bed and shores.
- 2. Other Legislative Entity Registration with ISC
 - a. SCDA staff helped C and Ds and WABs register with ISC as OLEs so that they could get 100% of GST back.
- 3. Regular Meetings with WSA
 - a. Monthly Operations meetings and monthly Policy and Administration meetings have been established.
 - b. These meetings are ideal for discussion and coming to a common understanding of operations and policy issues.
- 4. Benefitting Acres, as per the Conservation and Development Act
 - a. Benefitting Acres Conversation Haas v. Langenburg East C and D Trithardt v. Kingsley Conservation and Development Area
 - b. Your Executive Director is working on a paper on historical vs current "Benefitting Acres" definitions.
- 5. SCDA Analysis of mitigation policy outcomes
 - a. Dr. Mervin Finglas has been contracted and, in turn, has been working with the following professionals on informing Wetland Mitigation policy outcomes:
 - i. Robert Clark, Wildlife Habitat Specialist
 - ii. Garth van der Kamp, Ground Water Considerations and Ground Water Recharge
 - iii. Holly Annand, Hydrology Flooding Specialist
 - iv. Dwight Williamson, Water Quality Expert

The Executive Committee consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Director, set agendas and meet on the following schedule:

- 1. Every second Wednesday, the CTF Committee reviews CTF priority items:
 - a. CTF A1 Priorities
 - i. Lanigan Creek Delwood Brook
 - ii. Blackbird Creek
 - iii. Brightwater
 - iv. Kaposvar Creek



- v. Kelvington
- vi. LeRoy West
- vii. Odessa-Kendal
- viii. Ponass Lake Mainstem
- ix. Burr
- x. Hawarden
- 2. Every third Wednesday, the SCDA Committee reviews SCDA priority items:
 - a. SCDA A1 Priorities
 - i. Human Resources,
 - ii. Expense Claims,
 - iii. Financials,
 - iv. Birch Hills,
 - v. Mediation,
 - vi. Benefitting Acres,
 - vii. Belle Plain GST Issue
- 3. On the second Tuesday each month, the Board of Directors have a Regular Board Meeting.

The above A1 priorities give you a flavour of the projects SCDA is accomplishing. Also tracked in Evernote are the many lower-priority projects from B level to Z level.

We look forward to establishing new C and Ds, bringing dormant C and Ds back into active status, and helping C and Ds extend their areas to support landowners.

Fees for this year's membership and insurance remained at last year's rates.

Molly Wihone will present the 2020-21 Unaudited/Audited Financial Report.

Members are welcome to call the office anytime with questions. We look forward to serving you in 2022.

Thank you,

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Crandall Hrynkiw, B.Ed., PGD Edadm., M.Ed. Executive Director crandall.hrynkiw@scda.ca

