LAKE MANITOBA
LAKE ST. MARTIN
OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

Newsletter - November 2021 Issue 12

LET'S TALK

Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) continues to meet with Manitobans living within the flood-affected areas around Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin, including Indigenous groups and communities; the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale; and property owners around Lake Manitoba. This process of sharing information and receiving feedback is essential to completing the licensing process before construction of the Outlet Channels Project can begin, to protect lives and property from the potentially devastating impacts of future flood events. A highlight of recent and upcoming meetings is included below:

November 2/3 Keewatinook Fishers of Lake Winnipeg	Presentation on Aquatics and Fisheries.
November 4, 18 Interlake Reserves Tribal Council	Regularly scheduled meetings to discuss project updates, ongoing and upcoming activities and consultation planning.
November 3, 25 RM of Grahamdale	Regularly scheduled monthly meetings to discuss project updates.

Indigenous Consultation

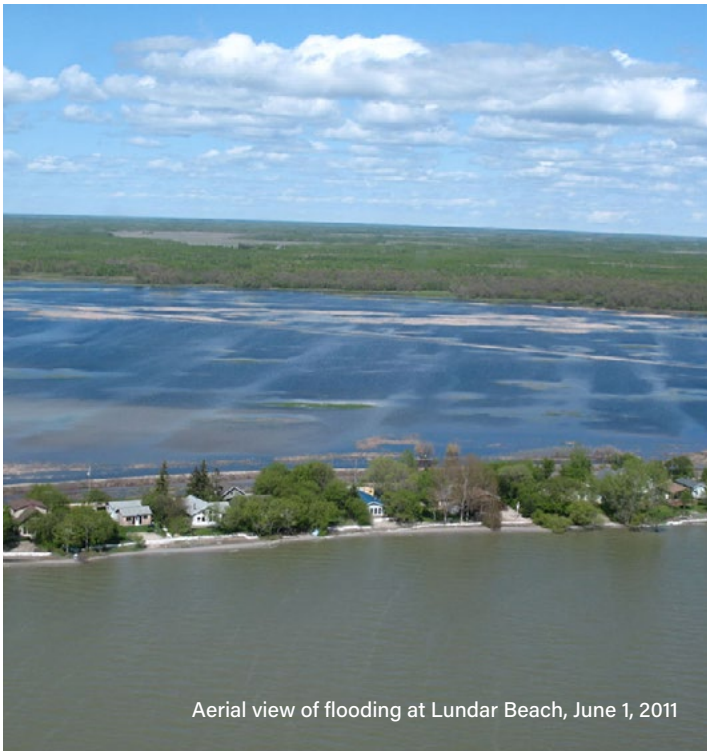
The Manitoba government is currently in Phase 2 of its consultation and engagement process. To date, highlights include:

- MI has requested feedback on the draft responses to the Impact Assessment Agency's information requests, public information requests and associated engineering reports by December 3, 2021.
- As of November 5, 2021, the Manitoba government has communicated by letter (971), meetings (224), and emails/phone (4,062) with 39 Indigenous groups and communities about the Outlet Channels Project.

Climate Change and Resiliency

2021 marks a decade since the catastrophic 2011 flood event that significantly impacted the property and lives of Indigenous people and other Manitobans. The enormity of the damage and disruption caused by the 2011 and 2014 flood events highlighted the need for improved flood protection on Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin, and led to the proposed project. These floods, however, were not isolated events. Manitoba has continued to experience record flood events and is expected to be subject to more extreme weather events including wetter and drier conditions. The Outlet Channels Project will help protect against wetter conditions.

The impact of larger flood events can be severe, resulting in damage to homes and properties; evacuations; economic disruption; and significant response and recovery costs. The Outlet Channels Project will create improved and permanent flood protection for Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin, providing resiliency as our climate changes.



Aerial view of flooding at Lundar Beach, June 1, 2011

Construction of the Lake St. Martin Access Road

Designing for Climate Change

The Outlet Channels Project has been designed to accommodate the largest flood on record – the 2011 flood event, which corresponds to a 1:300 year flood event. The Outlet Channels Project has also been designed to prevent critical failure during a 1:1000 year flood in accordance with the Canada Dam Association dam safety classification system. These design thresholds provide resiliency against possible future environmental conditions (temperature, wind, rain, snow, and ice loading) due to climate change. Anticipated environmental conditions are based on historic records and future climate predictions.

Operating for Climate Change

Manitoba Infrastructure recognizes that over time, changes in climate and extreme weather events (example: larger flood events) may occur in the watershed. Although there is considerable uncertainty in how future hydrologic conditions will be impacted by climate change, projections generally indicate that there will be more water moving through the system in the future. This means that flows experienced under a 1:300 year flood event could be greater in the future due to climate change. Assuming more impactful climate change projections, the flows in the outlet channels associated with a 1:300 year design flood event would be greater than at present, but still less than the magnitude of the estimated present day 1:1000 year flood, providing resiliency to climate change.

Accordingly, the outlet channels will be capable of passing such a future flood event without risk of failure of major project components. Some safety measures, such as raising dikes may be required if flows of this magnitude were ever experienced.

The climate change projections only reinforce the need and benefit of the Outlet Channels Project. Without this infrastructure in place, flood damages would be more severe and more frequent in the future.

We Want To Hear From You

Please share your comments on the potential effects of the project by participating in meetings, or by contacting your local project Community Coordinator, band office, government office or association. You can also email **outletchannels@gov.mb.ca** or visit **manitoba.ca/outletchannels**.

The environmental assessment is both a planning and decision-making tool. This process is iterative and evolves as additional project information and community and stakeholder feedback is received. Project design, proposed mitigations, and proposed monitoring activities can be adapted to ensure that feedback received through this process is addressed.

IN YOUR AREA

Access Road

Construction on the Access Road started in September 2021 and is expected to continue until December 2021. This work includes hauling and placing of borrow material; installation of culverts; hauling and placing of traffic gravel; seeding of disturbed areas; and reclamation of borrow areas.

Field Work – Fall 2021

Monitoring Well Decommissioning

- A well installed in 2019 within the proposed Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel right-of-way limits had developed a leak, and ponding water is present around its base. The well was decommissioned in early November. Reading of another groundwater well instrumentation was carried out at the same time as this work.

Trail Camera Removal

- Trail cameras deployed along the proposed Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel and PR 239 realignment in 2018 to understand wildlife presence in the area were removed in early November. The work involved travel by foot, ATV and truck to access trail cameras and remove them from the field.

Geotechnical Investigation

- An investigation at the Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel water control structure will be carried out to obtain better definition on bedrock elevation, assess the bedrock quality, and complete water pressure testing to inform bedrock grouting requirements for the design of the water control structure foundation.
- Water pressure testing will be completed in the bedrock to measure and assess the hydraulic conductivity of the rock formation.
- Tentative start planned for December 6, 2021 and will continue for two weeks.

Aquatic Field Investigations

- Water quality, water flow, and fish field work is now complete for the fall 2021 season.

In the event that you have any concerns about upcoming field work, please respond to the contact details indicated in Manitoba Infrastructure's notification letters. Stakeholders in the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale can contact Jacqueline Hickman at **204-302-1870** or **Jacqueline.Hickman@gov.mb.ca** with questions about the Outlet Channels Project.

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