



MAA 50th Anniversary

From the Past Into the Future



Nov 27, 2019



Alberta - Saskatchewan - Manitoba - Canada





- Early Agreements
- The MAA
- The PPWB
- The Future and Observations

History Prairie Water Agreements



- 1870 MB became a province
- 1905 AB and SK became provinces
- 1912 MB current boundaries
- 1930 Natural Resource Transfer Agreements



1930 Western Water Board Agreement



Purpose: “... the regulation and control of the waters in lakes rivers and streams of the Provinces of AB, SK, MB and the NWT in such a manner that each of these provinces and territories shall have it’s fair and reasonable use and disposition of these waters ...”

Board: 4 members, CA (chair), MB, SK, AB

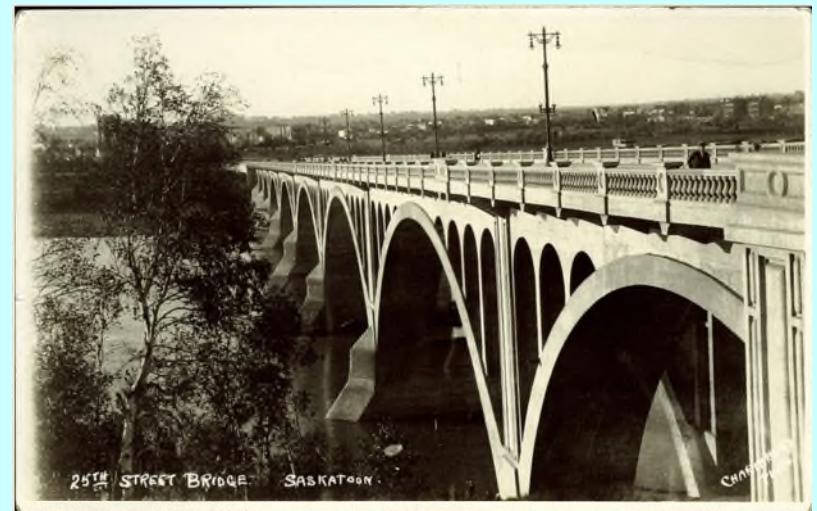
“with respect to “Boundary waters” and “waters flowing across the boundary” ... no uses diversions or obstructions ... affecting the natural level or flow of waters on the other side of the boundary, accept by the authority of ... the parties concerned and the approval of the Board.

The majority of the Board shall have the authority to render a decision.

1937 Western Provinces Water Board Agreement



- Initiated by Canada
- Not designed for OIC approval
- Reduced Board authority to recommendations
- Discussion ran into 1939



1945 Prairie Provinces Water Advisory Board Agreement



“For the purpose of advising in the regulation, control, conservation and beneficial use of the waters in the lakes, rivers and streams within the watersheds common to the provinces of AB, SK and MB.

Board of 3 members who will:

“... any question or questions w.r.t. projects or problems relating to the utilization or control ... common to two or more of the said provinces ... may be referred to the Board for examination ... advice”

1945 Prairie Provinces Water Advisory Board Agreement



- Realized that powers were impacted by the Navigable Waters Protection Act.
 - Led to a request for interaction with federal officials.
- Called for a comprehensive study of the Saskatchewan/Nelson Basin.
- Debates in Parliament about development of the Saskatchewan River basin.
- “The construction of large water development projects by the PFRA organization has now, it is felt, reached the point where the creation of a Board to deal with the allocation of interprovincial waters would be most desirable.” (July 1947)

1948 Prairie Provinces Water Board Agreement



Board of 5: 2 CA, 1 each MB, SK, AB. Decision by consensus.

“The functions of the Board shall be to recommend the best use to be made of interprovincial waters in relation to associated resources in MB, SK and AB and to recommend the allocation of water as between each such province of streams flowing from one province to another”

“A recommendation of the Board w.r.t. any matters referred to it ... shall become effective when adopted by OICs passed by Canada and by each of the provinces affected thereby.”

1945 Prairie Provinces Water Advisory Board Agreement



- Confirmed allocations made by Canada prior to 1930.
- Confirmed allocations made by provinces prior to 1948.
- Conducted studies on water availability, use prioritization and pollution.
- Addressed monitoring needs.
- Proposed comprehensive Sask/Nelson Study
- The South Saskatchewan project was designated “Reservation”
 - A procedure under which the Board would make a reservation of probable water requirements of specific projects, and would undertake to give priority to of consideration to such projects.”
 - “No project can hope to meet with approval unless it can be demonstrated that the use to which the water is to be put is at least as beneficial as alternative and conflicting use in other provinces and unless it is essentially sound.”

Oct 30, 1969 - Master Agreement on Apportionment



- An agreement between Jurisdictions
 - (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Canada)
- The agreement outlines “obligations” and “entitlements” vis-à-vis surface and groundwater quantity and quality.
- The agreement re-established the PPWB and creates the “environment” for continuous dialogue regarding cooperative water management.

Master Agreement on Apportionment



Terms:

- No termination clause
- Alteration/cancellation of Agreement in writing by all 4 parties
- Surface water quantity/quality & groundwater
- Principle of cooperation-coordination
- Disagreements to Federal Court of Canada



Master Agreement on Apportionment



Schedules

- A: Apportionment- AB stream & lake flow to SK
- B: Apportionment- SK to MB flow
- C: PPWB Agreement: Operations
- D: Pre-1969 Orders-in-Council water allocation
- E: Water quality agreement (1992)
- F: Transboundary Groundwater (proposed)



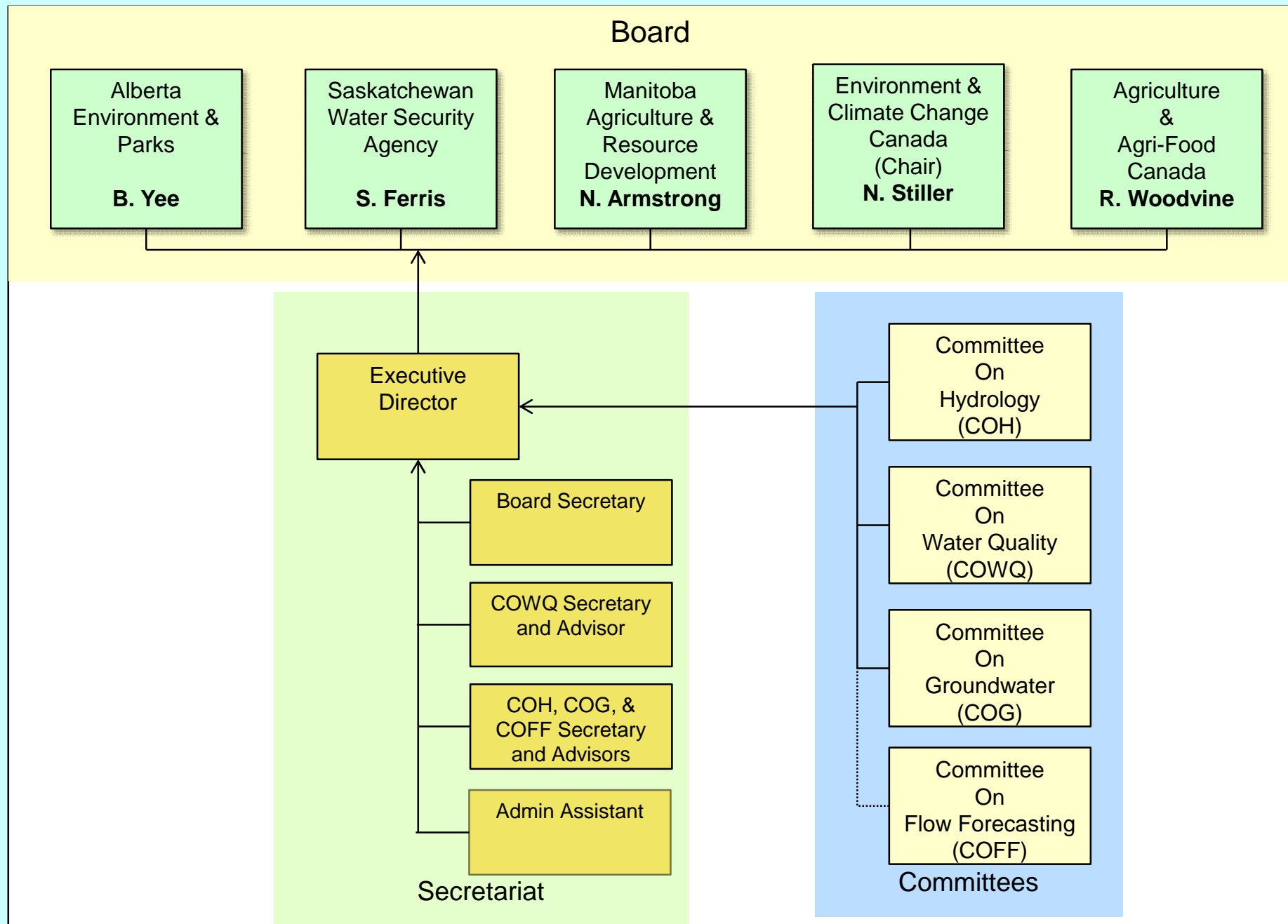
Prairie Provinces Water Board



■ Reports to Ministers

■ Duties:

- Compute and report on apportionment
- Review and report on water quality
- Promote integrated water resource development
- Coordinate studies and monitoring
- Recommend on water matters
- Report on disputes
- Review and recommend water quality objectives
- Review and update RIM (proposed)
- Assess and classify transboundary aquifers (proposed)



PPWB Strategic Goals



- Agreed transboundary apportionment of water is achieved.
- Transboundary Groundwater aquifers are protected and used in a sustainable manner.
- Agree transboundary MAA water quality objectives are achieved.
- Governments are informed about emergency and unusual water conditions.
- Transboundary water issues are addressed cooperatively to avoid disputes.
- Ministers, senior managers and appropriate staff of governments are informed about PPWB activities.
- Information knowledge and research are shared among governments.

Future Challenges



- Schedule F
- Resilience
- Water Quality
- PPWB Membership
- Outreach/Audience
- Indigenous Water Rights



What Makes an Agreement Successful



- Equality of voices.
- No reduction of sovereignty.
- Defined scope that focusses on “what” rather than “how”.
- Opportunity to work collectively on problems.
- Decisions made by consensus.

Discussion

