water...

the Economic Driver of the Future

A conference presented by
Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation Inc.
Thursday, March 20, 2003
Travelodge Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

CONFERENCE PROGRAM
March 20, 2003

Greetings

The 21st Century will hold new challenges and opportunities for agriculture and business. One of the current issues is the change in climate, which has been apparent worldwide for several years. This has a dramatic impact for Saskatchewan’s agriculture in both the short term and the long term.

The impact of climate change can be mitigated by increasing the efficient and effective use of our water resources. The most obvious opportunities are not only the dramatic expansion of irrigated acres, but also the need for improvements in the delivery channels and the application by low pressure sprinklers or trickle systems.

But water is equally important in the intensification of agriculture through livestock and further processing. This requires secure access to high quality supplies of water. The solution is the expansion of water reserves and systems across the province. It includes municipal water pipelines, small dams, reservoirs, dug-outs, adequate wells and other strategies to ensure that supplies of high quality water are available to everyone.

Water will be the gold of the 21st century. It is a precious resource. We have assumed water to be unlimited and free for everyone. This must change in order to ensure the long term sustainability of our water supply for use by agriculture, processing, municipal and urban water systems, and recreational use. The preservation and stability of our natural environment will be the foundation source for high quality water. This is our short term responsibility for our long term heritage.

Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation Inc. will complete the fourth year of operation on June 30, 2003 with one year remaining in the five-year mandate “to encourage and foster the rapid development of the agribusiness sector in Saskatchewan.” As an organization, we have tackled a number of policy issues and infrastructure barriers to enhance the rapid expansion of agri-value in a manner that directly impacts the farm gate profitability.

Sincerely yours,
Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation Inc.

C.M. (Red) Williams, PhD, PAg
President

Al Scholz, PAg, CAC, CMC
Executive Director
A. Wayne Clifton

Wayne Clifton is Senior Principal of Clifton Associates Ltd., consulting engineers and scientists established in 1978. He holds undergraduate and post graduate degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan and a post graduate degree in Engineering from Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London.

Mr. Clifton has been registered as a professional engineer in Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. He is currently a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Canadian Academy of Engineering. He is past President of both the Association of Consulting Engineers of Saskatchewan and the Association of Professional Engineers of Saskatchewan and a Director of a number of national technical and professional organizations. He was awarded the 1994 Gold Medal for Distinction by the Association of Professional Engineers of Saskatchewan. He has consulted on more than 2000 projects related to engineering and environmental issues including transportation and resource development, and policy development in areas of groundwater management, land use and waste management in both the Canadian and export markets. He is currently a member of the Council and Executive Committee of the National Research Council, the Prime Minister’s Council of Science and Technology Advisors, Chair of the Board of Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP), as well as director of a number of private corporations.

Wayne has long had an interest in the management and use of the water resources in Saskatchewan, and was an active participant in the planning processes that established much of the current governance structure for this resource. His keynote address, “Water: A Fifty Year Plan,” will review some of the public policy challenges related to water management, and discuss some of the strategic options available that will enable Saskatchewan to achieve the best value from the provincial water resource.

Dr. Raymond G. Fast

Raymond serves as Chair of the Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin, a network of organizations committed to increasing stewardship of the Saskatchewan river basin through public awareness, education, partnerships and action projects. He has obtained Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate degrees in Education and Administration and has taught and lectured extensively throughout Canada, North America and around the world.

As the use of fresh, drinkable water for humans and animals increases, it is also becoming the planet’s most precious resource. In many instances, this water is suffering from quality problems due to pollution and must be protected. Water quality, quantity and conservation are key concerns and Dr. Fast will lead the panel through this discussion.

Mark Geremia

Mark is employed with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) as the Manager, Regional Water Programs (Saskatchewan Region). Since joining AAFC in 1977, he has worked in the areas of water resource planning, development and program management. He received a BSc in Civil Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) in 1977. He received a Master of Engineering in Water Resources also from the U of S in 1983.

Mark’s presentations will bring forward the importance of our water resources for Agriculture and for all Canadians. He will discuss the priority areas for AAFC participation, through the new Agricultural Policy Framework, in securing water for the future, by identifying reliable water sources, protecting and improving water supplies, and investing in key water supply.
Vic Krahn

Vic is a co-owner of Lakeshore Tree Farms, Lakeshore Garden Centre and Lakeshore Landscape Contracting. Lakeshore is a multi-disciplined company. Vic oversees the production on the 160 acre specimen tree farm and the 7 acre container farm as well as looking after all of the wholesale sales. Vic has been active on many landscape and nursery trade associations in Saskatchewan and across Canada.

The nursery business is a global business. In order to compete across the nation and into the Northern US, plant material must be equal or superior to other regions. Vic will explain how irrigation gave Lakeshore the ability to successfully compete in a highly competitive global market.

James Harvey

James began farming part-time in 1976 with a mixed farm of cereal grain and commercial cattle. In 1988 he added irrigation to his operation and was able to farm full-time by 1994. His productivity is growing based on 300 acres of irrigated cereals and forages to support his expanding livestock operation.

James has been involved with the Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association (SIPA) for the past six years and has served as chair for the past five years. James has strong views about the benefits of irrigation expansion. He believes that irrigation is a stabilizing factor in the agricultural industry and that the benefits of irrigating crops for supporting value-added agriculture such as livestock and food processing greatly outweigh the infrastructure investment costs. James will share his perspective as the chair of the “Increased Irrigation Systems” panel.

Stuart Kramer

Stuart grew up on the family farm near Avonhurst, Saskatchewan. He received his post-secondary education at the University of Regina, obtaining degrees in Economics. Stuart began his civil service career in 1974 as an agricultural economist. Since 1990 he has served as the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, CEO of New Careers Corporation and Deputy Minister of Environment and Resource Management. Stuart has recently taken on new duties in the dual roles of President of SaskWater and President of Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

Stuart will describe the mandate of the new Saskatchewan Watershed Authority implemented on October 1, 2002. He will explain how Saskatchewan Watershed is a key component of the Provincial Government's new water strategy and how effective watershed management will function as an economic driver for the future.

John Linsley

John was born and raised in the United Kingdom where he graduated with a BSc (Honours) in Soil Science from Newcastle University and an MSc in Agricultural Management from the University of Reading. John has obtained international experience in his field having worked in Soil Conservation and Smallholder Project Management in Malawi, Central Africa. After moving to Canada in 1977, he began work with the Provincial Department of Agriculture first with farm financing and then with Irrigation. John has been Manager of Irrigation Development with the Crop Development Branch of SAFRR in Outlook since 1996.

John will provide insight into Saskatchewan’s water resources potential based upon the Saskatchewan Agrivision Fact Sheet on Water. He will challenge participants to respond to Saskatchewan’s unique opportunity for rural revitalization through expanding the utilization of our water resource and the efficiency of use.
Roger Pederson

Roger is a Director with the Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association (SIPA) and operates a 1,500 acre mixed irrigation farm that includes hay, potatoes and cereal crops and a purebred Polled Hereford cattle operation. Roger grew up in the Outlook area and obtained a certificate in Renewable Resources Technology after graduating from high school. He then worked for the Manitoba Government, Fisheries Branch in Winnipeg for two years. Since returning home to farm in 1970, Roger has served on the SSRID Board of Trustees for 15 years as well as the Saskatchewan Water Appeal Board for two 3-year terms.

The mandate of SIPA is to represent the interests of member irrigators and if sufficient interest exists, the interest of all irrigators in Saskatchewan. SIPA is involved in irrigation policy development, irrigation program implementation, research and demonstration, economic development initiatives, public relations and act as a common voice for issues concerning irrigators.

Florian Possberg

Florian is an entrepreneur with a vision of growth and prosperity for rural Saskatchewan. He is contributing to the realization of his vision through the development of integrated pork production units based in rural communities across Saskatchewan, and building up the value-chain to the processor. Florian grew up on a small farm near Burr, Saskatchewan, just outside of Humboldt. He started his pork farm in a small way in the mid-70s, which grew into Possberg Farms in 1983, with multi-site locations.

Florian believes that a consistent supply of high quality water is essential for livestock production and that the future of livestock production depends on a stable and secure water source. He will speak on the role water plays in his hog operation and the economic value that can be gained from a consistent supply of high quality water for all livestock.

Lyle Saigeon

Since 1978 Lyle has been working in the field of conservation of natural resources with both the Provincial Government and Ducks Unlimited Canada. Lyle has worked with Ducks Unlimited Canada in Regina since 1988 serving in various roles including Habitat Programs Biologist, Habitat Programs Manager and most recently as Provincial Policy Lead. Lyle was raised on a family grain farm near Morse and attended the University of Saskatchewan receiving consecutive Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology and Agriculture. He presently lives in Regina with his wife Lori and three children.

Conservation must form a significant component of a long-term water management strategy in Canada and within the Province of Saskatchewan. Ducks Unlimited Canada supports and develops sound scientific information quantifying the benefits provided by wetlands, environmental stewardship, alternative economic land uses, and holistic watershed management. Lyle will be part of the “Water Quality, Quantity and Conservation” panel.

Carl Siemens

Carl is the Chair of the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation (ICDC), as well as operating a farm near Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Driven by the need to generate more income and diversifying his cropping options, Carl began irrigating over 250 acres of land with a sprinkler system in 1978 and is still operating that system today.

ICDC is a producer organization dedicated to irrigation research, demonstration and education. Their mandate is to research and demonstrate to producers and irrigation districts profitable agronomic practices for irrigated crops as well as develop or assist in developing varieties of crops suitable for irrigated conditions. ICDC also provides land, facilities, and technical support to researchers to conduct research into irrigation technology, cropping systems, and soil and water conservation measures under irrigation and to provide information respecting that research to district consumers, irrigation districts, and to the public. Carl will be chairing the panel on “Expanding Municipal Water Use”.

Roger Pederson

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Garry Sloik
Garry is the Secretary-Manager of Keystone Vegetable Producers Association and a farmer at Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. Keystone is the voluntary association for producers that grow processing potatoes with Midwest Food Products, McCain Foods, Simplot Canada and Cavendish Farms of Jamestown, North Dakota. By far, the majority of the irrigated acreage in Manitoba is used to produce processing potatoes.

Garry is also the Manager and a shareholder in Prairie Potato Inc., a farm west of Portage. They produce about 1,200 acres of potatoes, 600 acres of edible beans and 1,200 acres of cereals. Previously Garry worked for Carnation Foods Co. Ltd., Manitoba Agriculture and McCain Foods. Garry will be highlighting irrigation uses in Manitoba and report on some of their own experiences with irrigation.

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Bruce M. Smith
Bruce is a shareholder in the Boise firm of Moore Smith Buxton & Turcke. In his practice, Bruce focuses on natural resource, environmental, business, and commercial law, and focuses on public lands, water rights, water quality, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act matters. He represents clients in the timber, mining, ranching, and agricultural industries. He is a highly acclaimed speaker and an expert on the sustainable use of water resources for economic growth and rural renewal.

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Jerome Strasser
Jerome is the Mayor of Bruno and the Chair of the Board for the Wakaw/Humboldt Regional Water Pipeline Supply System. He operates a family farm as well as Strasser Services Inc., a family business which manages the Bruno Ursuline Campus for the University of Saskatchewan. Jerome completed seven years of Mechanical Apprenticeship training and earned journeymen status in the mechanical and millwright trades while attending SIAST. He then worked at Central Potash for 20 years as a mechanical supervisor and three years as a sales representative for Western Canada and Northern U.S. regions.

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Jim Webber
Jim is a Civil Engineer BSc (Honours), with a specialty in water resources. He was trained in the UK, and obtained a background in river engineering, flood control and drainage. He came with his family to Canada in 1982, to work for the Eastern Irrigation District as the District Engineer. He stayed for 17 years, the last 13 years as the General Manager. With the Eastern Irrigation District he was responsible for the operation of the second largest irrigation block in Canada. Jim left to join UMA Engineering in 1999 where he worked in the Pacific NW, USA, looking for new business opportunities for irrigation engineering services. He came back to irrigation management in late 2000 to be the General Manager of the Western Irrigation District.

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Jim will speak on how irrigation can be an economic engine. Irrigation not only guarantees crop product, but improved yield and quality allows the farmer to grow a broader range of products that support value added processing.
This conference was made possible through the partnership and support of the following sponsors:

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Thank you for attending.
Water: The Economic Driver of the Future
Thursday, March 20, 2003 – Travelodge Hotel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

7:30 – 8:30 am  Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45 am  Call to Order and Opening Comments from Chairs, Al Scholz & C.M. (Red) Williams

8:45 – 9:15 am  Saskatchewan Water Overview
John Linsley, Manager of Irrigation Development - Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization

9:15 – 10:30 am  Keynote Address: Bruce M. Smith, Natural Resource Law Specialist – Boise, Idaho
“Water: The Economic Driver – The U.S. Experience”
Question & Answer (15 minutes)

10:30 – 10:45 am  Networking Break

10:45 – 12:00 noon  Increased Irrigation Systems – Panel
Chair: James Harvey, Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association
Jim Webber, General Manager – Western Irrigation District – Strathmore, AB
Gary Sloik, Secretary – Keystone Vegetable Producers Association – Portage La Prairie, MB
Roger Pederson, Director – Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association – Outlook, SK
Question and Answer (15 minutes)

12:00 – 1:30 pm  Lunch Break
Keynote Luncheon Speaker: Wayne Clifton, President – Clifton & Associates Ltd.
“Water: A Fifty Year Plan”

1:30 – 2:45 pm  Expanding Municipal Water Use – Panel
Chair: Carl Siemens, Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation
Jerome Strasser, President – Rural Pipelines Association
Vic Krahm, Co-Owner – Lakeshore Tree Farms Ltd.
Florian Possberg, President – Big Sky Farms
Question and Answer (15 minutes)

2:45 – 3:15 pm  Networking Break

3:15 – 4:30 pm  Water Quality, Quantity and Conservation – Panel
Chair: Ray Fast, Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin
Mark Geremia, Manager, Regional Water Programs – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
Lyle Saigeon, Head, Industry and Government Liason – Ducks Unlimited Canada
Stuart Kramer, President – Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Question and Answer (15 minutes)

4:30 – 5:00 pm  Summary & Wrap-Up
C.M. (Red) Williams, President & Al Scholz, Executive Director – SAC Inc.