

Quill Lakes Flooding

The encroaching waters of the Quill Lakes have been high on the topic of conversation lately with farmers, who are fed up with losing land, and in protest posted no hunting signs on prime hunting land that many hunters from the U.S. travel miles to hunt.

“It is a situation that has been discussed with MLAs for quite some time, and while the issue isn’t unique, it is very significant. Other areas are also suffering,” Moe said and went on to say that Hugh Nerlien, MLA for Kelvington-Wadena, is doing a great job to keep the issue on the front burner. As far as Moe was aware the Water Security Agency (WSA) and Quill Lakes Watershed Association (QLWA) are discussing ways to divert fresh water around the lakes into a different watershed. A bypass would avoid the salinity contamination issue and prevent any further rise of water on the lakes.

“There are challenging issues down-stream as well,” Moe said, and hoped that some solution would become apparent with the bypass alternative that the two key organizations maybe implement.

The question of compensation for flooded land has been on the lips of many landowners and the *News* asked Moe if this would be a possibility.

“There have been other areas around the province and in my constituency, which have been challenged with flooding. As for compensation, it hasn’t been the historical practice of the province when water levels rise, irrespective of who’s in power, to compensate for the loss of agricultural land,” he added.

“That being said, the emergency flood damage reduction program would help compensate properties and municipalities’ infrastructure. It was a program that was brought in by the government some years ago and a program that has been widely accessed by individuals and municipalities and has saved communities across the province millions of dollars. That is precisely the type of support for communities that I think we need to continue.”

Wadena News Oct 2017
quotes from MLA Scott Moe