

Hello everyone,

Below is an update of the current status of the Quill Lakes drainage diversion project which involves Last Mountain Lake. Please also note that the public can sign a petition which will be presented to the Federal Government and it is available on-line. The link is provided in the information below.

Thank you,

Jackie Wigg

Administrative Assistant

Resort Village of Saskatchewan Beach

Phone: 306-729-4410

Fax: 306-729-2217

Email: saskbeach@sasktel.net

Hi all,

Here is an update of the current status of the drainage diversion project. Not sure if I've passed this on to everyone, but the three groups (Last Mountain Lake Stewardship Group, Calling Lakes Eco Museum-Fort Qu-Appelle and the Crooked Lake Round Lake Flood Committee), have joined together under one name - Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability, (SAWS).

Following our letters this summer to Kerry Holderness of Quill Lake Watershed Association, (QLWA), Water Security Agency (WSA) and government officials, emails to lake residents, media releases etc., we finally attracted attention from the federal government - the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Their letter dated November 17, 2017 requested our input and information that would help them determine whether or not the above mentioned project should be designated as a "development", and therefore require an Environmental Impact Study. Their response is expected in early 2018.

Our petition of over 1000 signatures was presented to the Saskatchewan Legislature on December 6, 2017. The petition demonstrated to our government the widespread public concern over this proposal. Thank you to all who participated and took the time to sign.

SAWS have now filed a petition with the Federal Government and it is available on-line. Please click on the link below to submit your name. It's important we show public concern to the Federal Government, as we did to the province.

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Sign/e-1425>

The Pasqua First Nations have filed an application to the courts for a judicial review against the Saskatchewan Minister of the Environment, in respect to the Minister's decision to exempt the water drainage diversion project from the Environmental Assessment Act.

<http://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.4450910>

SAWS is now in the process of preparing a legal case on behalf of the cottage owners from the north end of LML to the south end of the Qu'Appelle lakes.

We have registered "Save Last MTN/Qu'Appelle Lakes Association Inc." as a charitable non-profit organization.

We will be asking for donations from cottage owners, business owners, sportsmen and their organizations, to help fund the cost of legal professionals, media consultants, environmental experts and publication costs so that we can fully and successfully oppose the drainage proposal.

The high lake level at the Quills will continue to be a serious issue until a responsible solution is reached. There are ways of storing and managing excess water in the Quill Lake watershed that do not include draining.

In 2015 WSA proposed a drainage diversion plan from the Quill Lakes. That plan was struck down by the Minister of Water Security. This new drainage plan is to drain water from the Quill Lake basin. (Pel and Kutawagan). Not unlike the first plan. Will there be a third drainage plan?

WSA still hasn't closed a single illegal drain and has done nothing to stop new drainage works that are sending more water to the Quill Lakes. Having a permanent outlet for the Quill Lakes will only encourage more drainage and send more water downstream.

Our (SAWS) goal is to continue opposition until a responsible decision is reached. We will continue to lobby the government until they agree to organize an independent commission that includes a panel of experts, who can research and brain storm ideas and solutions that are beneficial to all stakeholders, beneficial to our ecosystem and beneficial to our economy. So we continue to ask for your support and assistance as we move forward into the New Year.

Sherry Forsyth
Saskatchewan Alliance for Water Sustainability