

LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

NEWSLETTER - March 2021 Issue 4

IN YOUR AREA

Over the past month:

Water Quality Data Collection – Field measurements and water samples were collected from Lake Manitoba, Fairford River, Lake St. Martin, Dauphin River, Sturgeon Bay, and in Watchorn Creek, Mercer Creek, Birch Creek and Buffalo Creek watershed.

Groundwater Monitoring – Water levels readings were collected from areas along the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel right-of-way.

Upcoming Six Weeks:

Water Quality Data Collection – Field measurements and water samples will continue to be collected at the locations noted above. Water quality data from cattle runoff operations along the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel will also be collected.

Fisheries Investigations – Larval fish will be captured at the entrance to the Fairford and Dauphin Rivers and within Lake St. Martin to determine species composition and abundance.

Fisheries Investigations – Spring aquatic habitat conditions in Buffalo Creek and Birch Creek will be documented. Fish will be captured to document fish abundance and species occurrence in the creeks.



Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel

The Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel is approximately 22 km channel and connects Watchorn Bay on Lake Manitoba to Birch Bay on Lake St. Martin:

- designed for capacity of 7,500 cfs
- includes a water control structure, several bridges and realignment of PR239 and adjacent municipal roads

Preliminary design of the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel started in 2018 and was substantially completed in February 2021. Detailed design has commenced and is anticipated to be fully complete in 2021.

PR 239 Realignment

Detailed design of PR239 realignment is in progress and will be informed by the ongoing Indigenous consultation process for the Outlet Channels Project and engagement with the RM of Grahamdale. Design work is anticipated to be complete in spring 2021.

Acquisition of land required for PR239 realignment is ongoing.

Bridges - PTH 6, Township Line Road and Carne Ridge Road

Preliminary design of bridges was completed in December 2020. Detailed design started in March 2021. It is anticipated to be completed by July 2021.

Municipal Road Realignment

Functional design of municipal roads realignment is nearing completion and is anticipated to be completed in April 2021. Stakeholder engagement with the RM of Grahamdale and landowners is ongoing and feedback will be incorporated into the design process. Detailed design will proceed once the functional study is finalized.

Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel

The Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel is approximately 24 km in length and connects Lake St. Martin to South of Willow Point, Lake Winnipeg:

- designed for capacity of 11,500 cfs
- situated on unoccupied Crown land
- includes a water control structure

Preliminary design of the Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel started in 2018 and was completed in August 2020. Detailed design is underway and is anticipated to be completed in 2021.

ENGINEERING

The Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project involves the construction of the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel, Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel and other components such as bridges, control structures with power connections and realignment of PR 239 and municipal roads.

Construction for the Outlet Channels Project is anticipated to begin in fall/winter 2021 once provincial and federal environmental licences are received and is anticipated to take four years to complete.

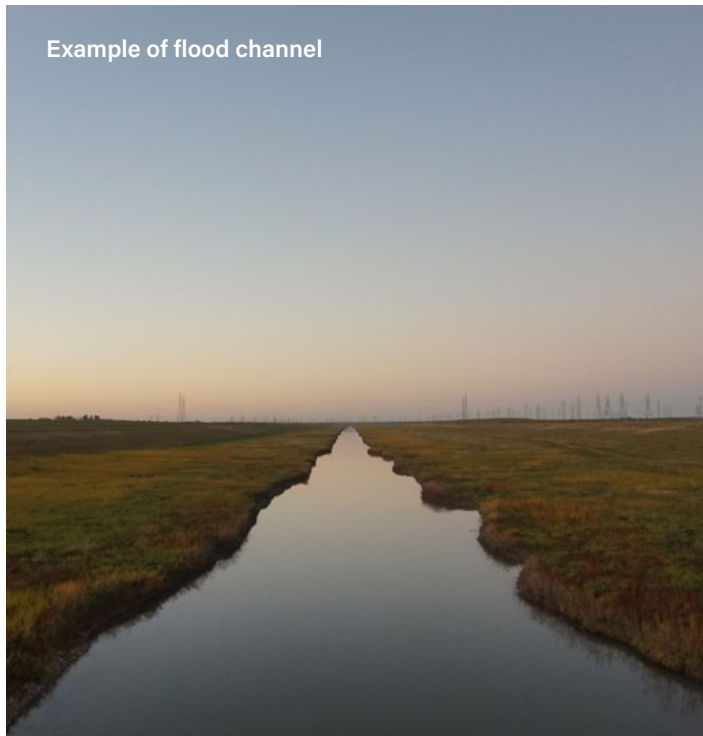
DESIGN WORK

Preliminary engineering design of the Outlet Channels Project is substantially completed for all channel components. Detailed design work is underway and will incorporate feedback received from federal and provincial environmental assessment processes as well as from key stakeholders and Indigenous communities.

Engineering Design Updates

The design process is intended to incorporate ongoing feedback throughout all stages. As more information becomes available, the project design is adjusted to reflect this knowledge. As an example:

- The opening of the Lake St. Martin inlet control structure has been lowered by three feet to reflect the effect The Narrows has on water levels in the North and South basin of Lake St. Martin and address community concerns. A fact sheet on The Narrows and these design changes has been posted on the [Outlet Channels Project](#) website.
- The Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel Water Control Structure has been relocated to reduce excavation quantities and project cost. The location was selected based on results of investigations and recommendations from the Preliminary Design to have the structure founded on bedrock. The updated location is approximately where the access road intersects the channel.



Consultation Updates

- The department is continuing to work with Indigenous communities to receive feedback on the draft Environmental Management and Monitoring Plans and associated Questionnaires.
- Secondary source information was recently shared with all Indigenous communities in March 2021 for verification and feedback.
- As of March 22, 2021, the Manitoba government has communicated by letter (688), meetings (178), and emails/ phone (2,863) with 39 Indigenous groups and communities about the Outlet Channels Project.

We Want To Hear From You

The review process for the Environmental Impact Statement and draft Environmental Management Plans is an essential opportunity to hear concerns and incorporate Indigenous and stakeholder knowledge into ongoing planning for the Outlet Channels Project.

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, association or email outletchannels@gov.mb.ca. For updates on the Outlet Channels Project please visit EngageMB.ca

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.