

Common Ground Proposal

Water Drainage from Quill Lakes Watershed

In the spring of 2017 the Quill Lakes Watershed Association #14 (QLWA) proposed the *Common Ground Drainage Diversion Project* to divert water from the Quill Lakes Basin to Last Mountain Lake. The details of this proposal have not been made public. Residents have not been invited to town hall meetings where they could learn the details of the proposal and ask questions.



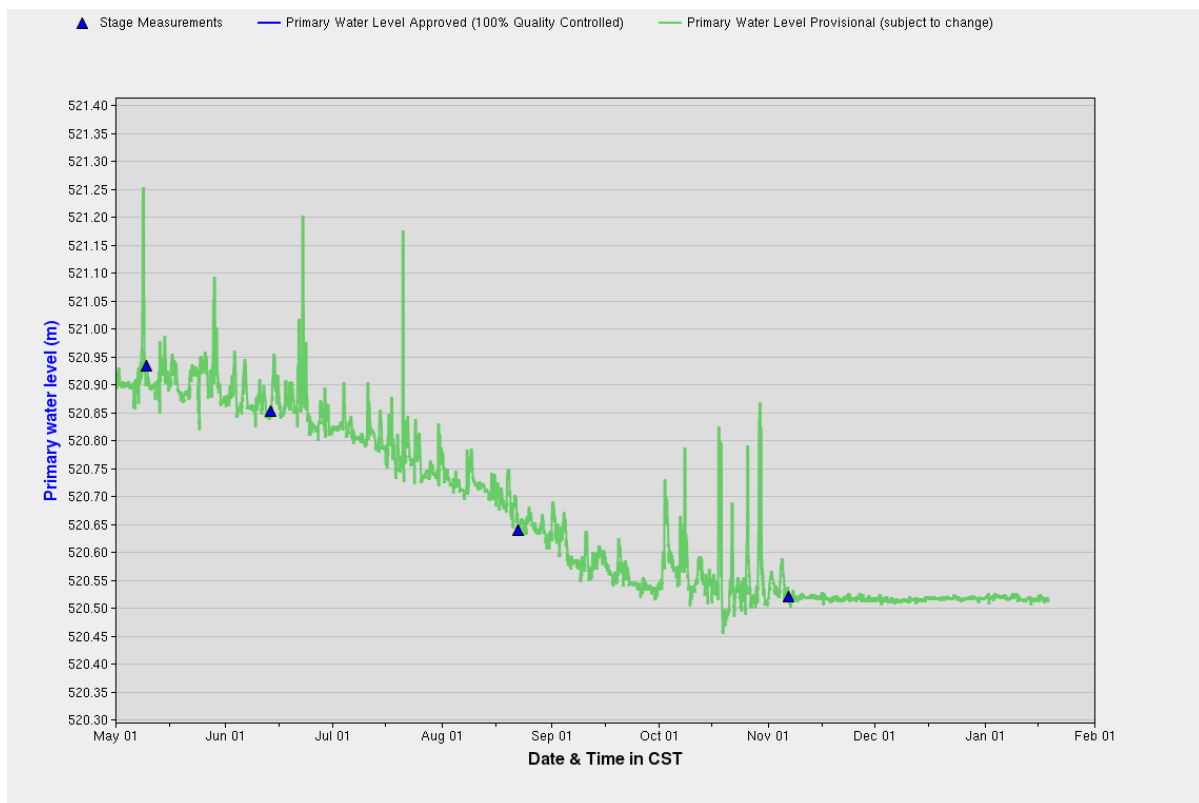
The Ministry of Environment has concluded that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this project in part because there was not public concern and the QLWA told them there is support for the project from those of us downstream. Without an EIA Saskatchewan citizens are not privy to the details of the project and have no opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the project – a project that has the potential to create an environmental and economic disaster to one of Saskatchewan’s major recreational areas including a 20-30 million dollar a year sport fishing industry.

Water is one of the most valuable resources in our province. We have an obligation to protect and preserve this resource for future generations.

There is widespread concern among Saskatchewan citizens that they are being left out of the process and many questions remain unanswered:

- What is the complete plan? Is there more than one phase to the plan?
- How much water will be diverted in total when complete?

- Why is the QLWA proceeding with Phase 1 when WSA has said it will have minimal benefit in mitigating the flooding at the Quills?
- Why is the QLWA saying they are draining fresh water when WSA says it's as saline as the Quill Lakes?
- Where are the detailed engineering drawings and plans?
- Are our tax dollars paying for the project and at what cost?
- Why has legislation not been enforced regarding wetland drainage that is contributing to the Quill Lakes flood?
- Water levels at the Quill Lakes have been receding since spring of 2017 and the level is now 1m below spill point. Why are we not looking at long term solutions that will prevent contamination in our lakes and rivers?
- Why have LML residents not been involved in the process?
- Why have public meetings not been organized in our communities?
- Why has QLWA not requested an EIA?



Real- Time Hydrometric Data Graph for Big Quill Lake.

Note: The spikes in the graph indicate wind gusts.

Manitoba is spending millions of dollars to clean up their water resources, after decades of abuse and mismanagement. Alberta and other provinces are introducing legislation that aims to strengthen watershed management and protect wetlands. Please refer to the links below to learn more.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/lake-winnipeg-phosphorus-algae-blooms-1.4293366>

[Provincial act hikes fines on **wetlands** abuse](#)

<http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/water-for-life/default.aspx>

This lack of transparency is unacceptable. Saskatchewan citizens deserve the right to know exactly what is being planned, the impacts of the project and who will be providing the funding.

....January 20, 2018