



Release

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For Immediate Release

FLOODWAY AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES **\$7.7 MILLION IN DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

No Land Acquisition Required for Floodway Channel: Gilroy

Oakbank, Manitoba - The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) announced today that approximately \$7.7 million will be invested to improve seven drainage outlets along the floodway and that no additional land will be required to widen the floodway channel.

“As the Minister of Water Stewardship, I recognize the importance of drainage for local municipalities and conservation districts,” said Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship. “We are pleased to be able to work with the municipalities to incorporate drainage improvements and other long-term benefits for their communities from the floodway expansion project.”

“Reducing the need for valuable agricultural land for the floodway channel means that more land will be preserved for agricultural and other purposes,” said Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. “We are pleased that the authority has been able to respond to local municipalities who raised concerns with the potential loss of their tax base. This is another example of how the authority is responding to the needs of local communities.”

“During our ongoing public consultation process, local agricultural producers and rural municipalities have expressed the need to maintain existing drainage along the floodway,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “We are pleased to announce that we are investing approximately \$7.7 million for the repair or replacement of the agricultural drainage drop structures that will accommodate increased flows and the future growth of the local drainage system.”

The specific investments include:

- \$2,700,000 investment to replacement the Kildare trunk-Transcona sewer Outlet drop structure
- \$1,100,000 investment to replace the Centreline Drain drop structure
- \$1,100,000 investment to replace the Skholny Drain drop structure
- \$1,000,000 investment to replace the North Bibeau Drain drop structure
- \$950,000 investment to replace the Springfield Road Drain drop structure
- \$810,000 investment to replace the Ashfield Drain drop structure
- \$28,000 investment to repairing the Cooks Creek Diversion drop structure

In addition, as announced previously, MFA will be constructing a new gate chamber on the Seine River overflow pipes to allow the pipes to be closed to prevent backwater flooding from the floodway to Grande Pointe. MFA will also be constructing a new gated culvert through the West Dike southwest of La Barriere Park to improve drainage in the region to the La Salle River. The cost of both of these improvements will be determined during the final design stage of the project.

Gilroy also announced today that work on the floodway channel will not require any land acquisition. In June, MFA had announced that the land acquisition requirements for the floodway channel had been reduced from 1,000 acres (405 hectares) to 500 acres (202 hectares). As a result of today's announcement, no additional land will be required to widen the floodway channel.

"After hearing concerns from several municipalities and local agricultural producer about taking valuable agricultural out of production, we have been working with our engineers to reduce the land acquisition requirements for the floodway channel," said Gilroy. "We are pleased to be able to meet our flood protection objectives while addressing local concerns."

MFA anticipates acquiring a limited amount of additional lands related to the expansion of the West Dike south of Winnipeg and to accommodate bridge improvements. The amount of land and specific locations will be determined once the final design stage is completed. MFA will continue to work closely with municipal governments, local residents and agricultural producers on this matter.

"Previously this year we worked with the residents and the RM of Springfield to begin planning for a four-lane bridge on PTH 15," said Gilroy. "Today's announcements and other recent announcements are more examples of how MFA is committed to working with the public as we move forward with this critical flood protection project."

The Red River Floodway expansion project will divert more water around Winnipeg during major floods by increasing the capacity of the floodway channel from 1,700 cubic metres (60,000 cubic feet) of water per second to 4,000 cubic metres (140,000 cubic feet) per second.

Once completed, the Red River Floodway expansion project will protect 450,000 residents, 140,000 homes, over 8,000 businesses and prevent over \$12 billion in flood losses in the event of a 1-in-700 year flood. Canada and Manitoba have confirmed their commitment to complete the expanded floodway at an estimated cost of \$665 million. In the aftermath of the 1997 "Flood of the Century", the Governments of Canada and Manitoba invested \$130 million in flood protection measures, including \$110 million for rural Manitoba communities.

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Contact: Ronuk Modha, Manitoba Floodway Authority
(204) 945-4178, (204) 945-4900, or 1-866-356-6355

Naline Rampersad, Manitoba Cabinet Communications
(204) 945-1494

Lise Jolicoeur, Press Secretary to the Honourable Reg Alcock,
Government of Canada
(613) 944-6512, (613) 282-9744