

Information Release

10 August 2011

Watershed Research Proposals Now Being Accepted

Tobacco Creek, MB – Scientific researchers seeking to advance society’s understanding of flooding, nutrient loading, and biological health in agricultural watersheds are encouraged to explore emerging opportunities in the Tobacco Creek Model Watershed (TCMW).

The TCMW is one of four watershed research nodes supported by the Canadian Water Network (CWN), through which \$600,000 of funding will be available for studies occurring between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2015 (\$200,000 per year). The current research call is for indicators and potential management solutions related to hydrology, water quality, and biodiversity – all within the context of the Red River Valley and Lake Winnipeg Basin.

Tobacco Creek has been monitored for the past 20 years by various federal and provincial agencies and research groups, making it an ideal location to develop a regional monitoring network in the Red River Valley, which contributes the majority of nutrients and flow to Lake Winnipeg. Major research gaps still exist, in relation to understanding water flow, nutrient movement, and relative contributions of nitrogen and phosphorus – to determine the most appropriate agricultural Beneficial Management Practices for agricultural watersheds on the Canadian Prairies. There is a new focus on biological health as one of the best means for assessing cumulative impact trends.

A central goal of this research is to begin the search for watershed solutions that also help address the socio-economic interests of agricultural communities and the policy priorities of government. The TCMW was announced by the CWN as the only watershed node in Western Canada on 27 June.

Interested researchers and research teams should review the CWN and TCMW websites and contact Janice Levangie (jlevangie@cwn-rce.ca, 519-888-4567 ext. 31144) at the Canadian Water Network for questions regarding process. Questions on the research topic area specific to the consortium node should be directed to either of the following as applicable:

Mr. Les McEwan, Chair Tobacco Creek Model Watershed Box 28 Altamont, MB R0G 0A0 Tel. 204-744-2344 E: mcewan_les@hotmail.com	Dr. David Lobb, Co-Chair Watershed Science Committee Tobacco Creek Model Watershed 276 Ellis Bldg. University of MB Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2 Tel. 204-474-9319 Email: lobbda@cc.umanitoba.ca	Dr. Henry Venema, Co-Chair Community Partnership Committee Tobacco Creek Model Watershed 161 Portage Avenue East Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y4 Tel. 204-958-7706 Email: hvenema@iisd.ca
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For detailed Science or Watershed Questions contact:

Dr. Selena Randall at University of Manitoba: 204-891-1287 and randall@cc.umanitoba.ca
Bryan Osborne at Tobacco Creek: 204-885-7308 or panterrman@shaw.ca

Relevant Websites:

CWN: <http://www.cwn-rce.ca/news-and-events/cwrc-rfp-tcmwrc/>
TCMW: <http://www.tobaccocreek.com/>