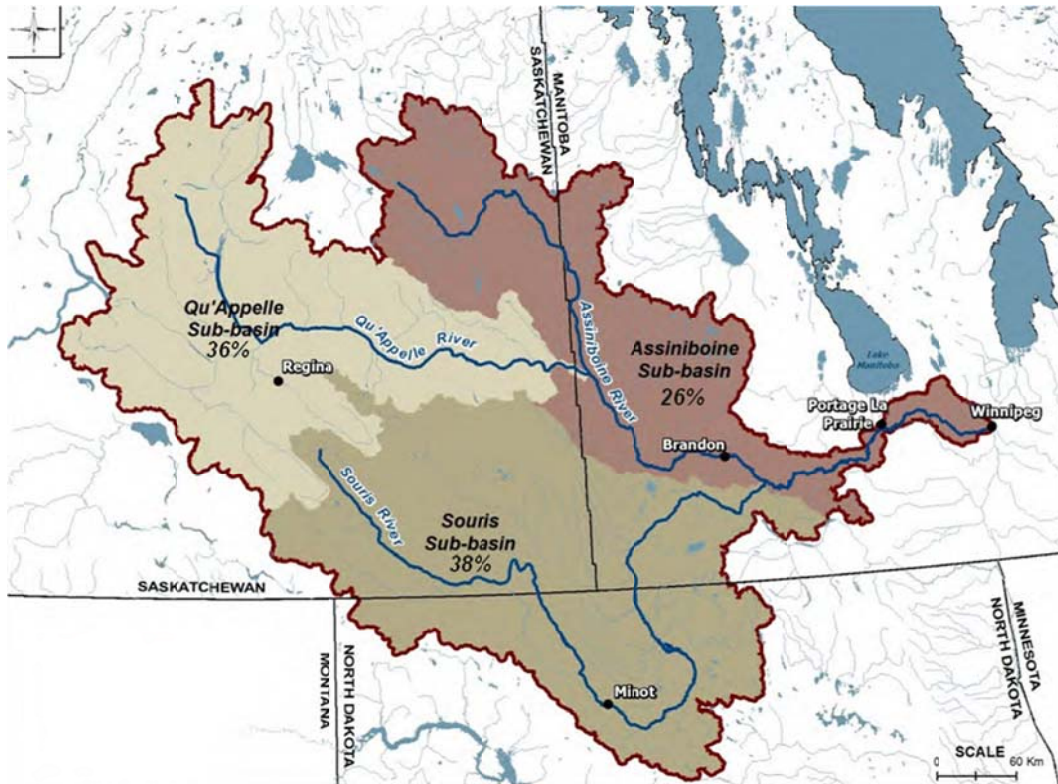


# Assiniboine River Basin Initiative Phase 1 - April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 \*\* Final Report \*\*



09 April 2014



Prepared by: Murray Grant

Major Contributions by:

Lance Yohe  
Allan Preston  
Robin Woodward  
Les Routledge  
Wanda McFadyen  
Helena Marak

# Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary .....	3
2. Background .....	7
2.1 2008 ARB workshop.....	7
2.2 Approach.....	8
3. ARB Planning Committee .....	11
4. Engagement Plan.....	13
5. Workshop Planning .....	14
5.1 Invite List.....	15
5.2 ARB Portal .....	16
6. Workshop results .....	18
6.1 Breakout Session Questions .....	19
6.2 Breakout Session - Responses .....	19
6.3 Workshop survey .....	22
7. Sponsorships and Funding .....	23
7.1 Sponsorships .....	23
7.2 Funding Programs - Government .....	24
7.3 Funding Programs - Foundations .....	25
7.4 Funding Conclusions.....	26
8. Options for ARB and PIN .....	27
8.1 ARB Structure - Options.....	27
9. Recommendations and Next Steps.....	28
Appendix A - Workshop Questions (detailed responses) .....	30
1a) Could we address our problems better by working together? (Y, N).....	30
1b) Do you we need to take a basin wide approach? (Y, N) .....	30
1c) Why do you think a basin approach would work? .....	30
2a) What in your mind are the main issues?.....	32
2b) What would you like to see happen in the next 25 years? .....	33
2c) Are you willing to help us get to this vision?.....	34
3a) Do you think we should meet again in the fall?.....	34
3b) What would we want to accomplish in the fall?.....	34
3c) What are the next steps to prepare for the fall? .....	35

## 1. Executive Summary

On December 19<sup>th</sup> in Brandon, Manitoba, an Assiniboine River Basin (ARB) Planning Committee was formed to examine the management effectiveness of the Assiniboine River Basin. The Planning Committee consisted of senior representatives from agriculture, water/conservation organizations, and local, provincial and state governments from Saskatchewan, North Dakota and Manitoba. It was determined there was a strong need to implement a grassroots workshop on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Virden, Manitoba to define the needs of key stakeholders in the Assiniboine River Basin and to discuss whether a separate organization could assist in improving the overall management framework for future generations.

The goals of the March workshop were:

1. To engage a committed planning committee that has holistic representation of jurisdictions (SK, ND, MB) and stakeholder organizations - agriculture, water and conservation organizations, and all levels of local, provincial, state and federal government.
2. To create and execute a workshop in the Assiniboine River Basin, inviting all grassroots stakeholders and creating a safe environment for open dialogue to determine whether a separate organization could assist in improving the overall management framework now and for future generations.
3. To attract funding sources through event registration fees, and sponsorships to offset some of the financial requirements of this initiative.
4. To leverage and transform this initiative into a long term organization capable of coordinating sustainable effective watershed management within the Qu'Appelle, Souris and Assiniboine Basins.

Highlights of the workshop planning process include:

- 8 Planning Committee e-conference calls were conducted over a period of 12 weeks.
- An invitation email (or fax) was sent to over 600 invitees.
- Awareness materials included an invite handout, 2 page brochure, sponsorship packages, event and sponsorship signage, a customized handout folder for every participant, and workshop presentations by the featured speakers.
- An engagement process including personal contact with over 100 stakeholders in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota via phone, email and face-face meetings.
- Approximately 140 people registered for and actively participated in the workshop.

Funding and Sponsorships

- \$13,826 was approved by Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Development (MAFRD) via the Growing Forward II “Growing Competitiveness - Agri-Extension” program.
- 20 sponsors were contacted and \$4,000 in sponsorships were raised through Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP), Manitoba Pork Council (MPC), Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP), Manitoba Canola Growers Association (MCGA), Dairy Farmers of Manitoba (DFM), and Andrew Agencies (Virden local business).
- An additional \$2,000 was requested by the North Dakota State Water Commission (but due to time limitations did not come through). Interest was expressed in support for the next phase.
- An additional \$5,000 was requested from Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship (follow up required).

ARB Portal

- A 10 page ARB portal was developed with “one stop shop” information including the ARB

Planning Committee, Projects, Research Information and Papers, Industries and Associations, Watershed Information, Government Information, and Corporate Sponsors.

- An ARB “blog” was also developed and is currently in use.

The workshop featured:

- Greetings from the Mayor of Virden - Jeff McConnell.
  - Background and greeting from PIN - Terry Fehr, Chair, Prairie Improvement Network.
  - Introduction presentation from Murray Grant, MasterKey Business Solutions.
  - Featured speakers Robert Sandford (EPCOR Chair), and Lance Yohe (ex-Director, Red River Basin Commission).
  - 3 breakout sessions (10 tables) answering the following questions (details in appendix)
    - WHY - Should we work together and use a basin wide approach?
    - WHAT - What are the main issues and what would you like to see happen in the next 25 years? Are you willing to help?
    - HOW - Should we meet again in the fall, what is the agenda, and what planning steps are required? How do we need to prepare to become a basin-like organization?
    - WHO - Should we continue to use a (this) planning committee approach? Who else should be on it?
- \*\* Detailed responses to these questions can be found in section 6 (workshop Results) and in Appendix A.

Key themes identified from breakout sessions were as follows:

- **A Unified Management Structure** - We can address our problems better by working together. We need to take a system wide basin approach as it will allow us to be more proactive, encourage teamwork, enable balanced decision, increase focus on end-end quality, improves communication, invites science, and expands stakeholder base and strength.
- **Build the Stakeholder base** - The watershed impacts individuals, businesses, and organizations across Saskatchewan, North Dakota and Manitoba; challenges exist to coordinate international and interprovincial response. Many stakeholders exist with different interests and delivery timelines.
- **Communication** - There are many projects and activities looking at watershed problems, but the system to share information and define the decision making process is not well understood by all stakeholders in a consistent way. There is a need for an information dissemination and knowledge management system for stakeholders to contribute to and stay informed.
- **Water Quantity** - Excessive water levels in spring devastate property and cause massive infrastructure & environmental damage. Climate change also contributes to flooding as the atmosphere holds more moisture, making it less likely to predict torrential downpours causing flooding. Drought periods lead to restricted economic activity and economic loss. A growing economy throughout the watershed will place more demand upon existing supply.
- **Water Storage and diversion** - Water storage (dams, ponds, marshland, potholes, etc.) across the watershed need to be sufficient to help mitigate major floods and provide resources during droughts. Conflict between economic, environmental and social uses of these retained waters need to be identified and addressed for the benefit of all watershed users. Holding or storing water has a direct positive effect on water quality, preventing movement of fertile soil nutrients through the river systems and ending up in our lakes.
- **Water Quality** - Nutrient loading of rivers and lakes is a result of both urban and rural sources. Farm-based nutrients are being lost due to excess water flow over nutrient-rich soils resulting in economic challenges for farmers as well as contributing to eutrophication of

lakes throughout the drainage basin (Lake of the Prairies, the Qu'Appelle Valley Lakes, Rafferty, etc.), and ultimately into Lake Winnipeg.

- **Environmental Challenges** - Wetland conservation, eco-system health and bio-diversity could be protected or improved through applied best management practices and linked revenue identification for land-owners.
- **Required Research** - Significant research is underway that can be accessed, but more emphasis is required on the Assiniboine River Basin as a whole. Science and research based organizations should be invited to participate and advise the Planning Committee.
- **Funding and Leadership** - This is recognized as a significant undertaking by all stakeholders, and a common theme was to identify find new paths to funding sources. It was also agreed by all that an unbiased organization should continue to lead the ARB Initiative in a collaborative fashion as was demonstrated in Phase 1.

The unanimous feedback at the end of the session was:

**Continue to use the existing planning committee for Phase 2, with PIN continuing to lead the facilitation and coordination of the Planning Committee towards a workshop in the fall, and consider inviting other interested stakeholder groups.**

Of the 98 people that responded to the event survey, the overall satisfaction rating for the workshop was 86% (4.3 out of a possible 5.0).

**Recommendations going forward are as follows:**

- 1. Communicate Phase 1 workshop success, and the plan going forward**
  - a. A workshop report should be drafted and communicated to the Planning Committee, approved, and distributed to all participants and workshop invitees
  - b. All workshop materials should be posted on the ARB Portal and communicated to the Planning Committee, workshop participants and invitees.
  - c. Further development of the ARB Portal should provide ongoing communications to the Planning Committee and stakeholders on an ongoing basis and up to a workshop in the fall of 2014.
  - d. Frequent and ongoing, informative communications should be provided to the Planning Committee and invited participants.
  - e. Contact names should continue to be collected (using the contact database developed in Phase1) and used to invite stakeholders to a fall workshop.
- 2. Develop a plan for a fall workshop**
  - a. A detailed work plan should be developed to achieve a successful workshop in the fall.
  - b. The plan should be reviewed and approved by the Planning committee, and communicated to all ARB stakeholders.
  - c. The plan should include definition of goals, funding required, work breakdown structure, PIN's role, Planning Committee role, deliverables, funding plan, sponsorships, speakers, location, and agenda.
- 3. Continue Developing the Planning Committee Development**
  - a. PIN should identify a project leader to define, coordinate, and facilitate the ARB Planning Committee as soon as possible.

- b. The project leader should define any additional staff or resources to execute the plan to a successful workshop in the fall.
- c. The project leader, working with the Planning Committee, should lead the process to define an interim governance model for the Planning Committee, including identification of a subcommittee executive team to provide multi-jurisdictional leadership.
- d. The Planning Committee should seek broad representation from Saskatchewan, North Dakota, and Manitoba in the following areas:
  - i. Major industries in the Assiniboine River Basin including but not limited to agriculture, oil and gas, and mining.
  - ii. Local government including major cities, towns, municipalities, villages, rural municipalities and counties.
  - iii. Water, conservation, and stewardship organizations.
  - iv. Provincial and State governments.
  - v. Science, technical and research institutions, communities and organizations.
- e. Small groups should be considered within the Planning Committee to focus on the future structure of an ARB Organization including but not limited to:
  - i. Future board size/scope, representation, governance models, funding options (sponsorships, funding programs, memberships, etc), and technical support from academia or research organizations.
  - ii. Articles of incorporation, by-laws, office location, staffing, business plan, operating budget, sustainable cash flow model, etc.
  - iii. Subsequent workshops and conferences beyond phase 2.

#### **4. Secure Funding**

- a. Sponsorships - Continue to build a sponsor target list and pursue aggressively for the support of the fall workshop. Enhance sponsorship value by considering ARB Portal advertising, newsletter spots, radio interview spots, event booths, signage, logos, and workshop recognition via handout advertising. Pursue list of sponsors (over 70) included in the appendix of this report.
- b. Public Sector Funding Programs - Continue to pursue public sector funding focused at Growing Forward II via Manitoba and Saskatchewan jurisdictions, Sustainable Innovations development Fund, Western Economic Diversification federal programs, and other provincial and federal programs found in the appendix of this report.
- c. Foundations - Seven private foundations are identified as having potential funding support. It is recommended the following three be pursued immediately: The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, Thomas Sill Foundation, and RBC's Blue Water Fund. Details can be found in the appendix of this report.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 2008 ARB workshop

In 2008, the Manitoba Provincial Government asked the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), a well-established multi-jurisdictional basin organization along the Red River to investigate and report on the interest for a similar effort that could be applied to the Assiniboine River Basin.

RRBC has an organizational structure that includes the Red River of the North and its tributaries (excluding the Assiniboine River system). From its beginnings, citizen and stakeholder involvement, communication, and education were encouraged as a means of joint problem solving.

RRBC contracted with Eastman Regional Development Inc. (Harold Taylor, General Manager) to project manage the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative. Duncan Stewart, Reeve of the R.M. of Brenda, was also contracted to implement an outreach effort that included visits with potential stakeholders to assess their interest and encourage their participation in gathering as a basin to discuss working together collaboratively.

Municipalities, Counties, Conservation Districts, Water Resource Districts, Watershed Associations, Provincial and State representatives and other interested groups within the basin were invited to attend a one day meeting. The meeting was held to discuss the Assiniboine River Basin and to gauge interest by participants in a more structured cooperative approach across the basin. Attendance at the meeting was by invitation (Attachment 1). However, it was not intended to be a “closed” meeting and all invitees were asked to pass along the invitation to any interested parties.

The purpose of Assiniboine River Basin meeting held October 30, 2008, was to meet as a basin to:

- Discuss issues in the Assiniboine River Basin.
- Discuss and determine the level of interest in linkage with RRBC or the formation of some type of a multi-jurisdictional trans-boundary basin effort.
- Develop recommendations for the future.

#### Recommendations:

The meeting highlighted the fact that there is a desire and strong interest by local leaders in the Manitoba, North Dakota, and Saskatchewan portions of the Assiniboine River Basin to work more cooperatively and collaboratively within the basin and across political boundaries. The specific recommendations were as follows:

- a. Continue involvement by working with the newly formed steering committee. (RRBC will assist with the steering committee efforts through the spring gathering).
- b. Initiate a dialogue with North Dakota (State Water Commission) and Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan Water Authority). (RRBC will assist if needed).
- c. Initiate a dialogue with Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan Water Authority).



- d. Develop an internal Manitoba strategy for involvement of CD's in the Assiniboine River Basin concept. (This may vary from the RRBC model as it is evident that CD's in western Manitoba are more organized and have a stronger historical role than along the Red River. This opens the door for a clearly defined CD role and linkages to the Province from the outset with respect to any new efforts on the Assiniboine River).

Note - For more details, please reference the report entitled [Assiniboine River Basin Meeting \(Victoria Inn, Brandon, MB, October 30, 2008\)](#).

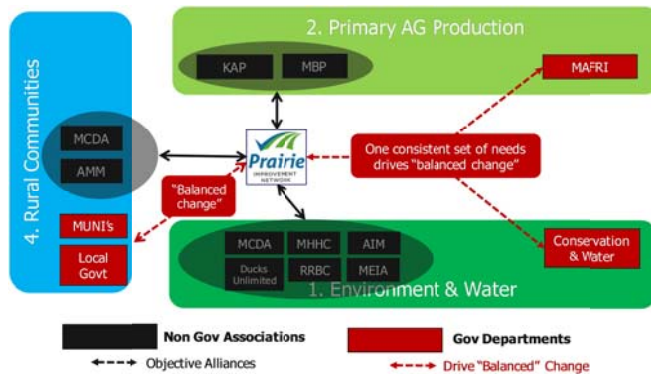
While the steering committee's intentions were honorable, it was unable to align Manitoba and Saskatchewan governments to continue this initiative and as a result the steering committee disbanded.

Nor further work was attempted on the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative until 2013, when the Prairie Improvement Network decided to reinstate the steering committee with a slightly different approach.

## 2.2 Approach

In January 2013, PIN completed a scenario planning exercise where it was decided to focus on activities that met the following criteria:

- Cross jurisdictional (not just Manitoba)
- Cross portfolio - not just one industry or sector as there are already many associations looking at specific areas
- Leverage our objectivity - look for areas of conflict (areas of cooperation would likely not benefit from our help)



**PIN's Stakeholder Model and Key Stakeholders**

The adjacent diagram illustrated an opportunity for PIN to play a water management change agent role as an objective collaborator to get agricultural, municipal (local) government, water organizations, provincial and other organizations to work together for the common good. It was further decided that the scope of this endeavor had to expand beyond Manitoba.

PIN set out to speak further to key stakeholders and discovered there was an immediate need to apply this kind of model to improve the management of the Assiniboine River Basin (ARB). It turns out that the ARB was one of the only river basin watersheds that did not have a management structure. The diagram below depicts other basin management watersheds that currently exist.





Why do other basins have a management organization but not ARB?

PIN contacted the Lance Yohe, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission and immediately developed a strategic partnership to examine this initiative further. With RRBC's assistance, the original "steering committee" (from 2008) was contacted and most representatives expressed an interest in participating. In parallel with activity, PIN defined its vision for a planning committee consisting of strong representation across agriculture, municipality, water/conservation and government organizations from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and North Dakota in as depicted in the diagram below.



Manitoba



Saskatchewan

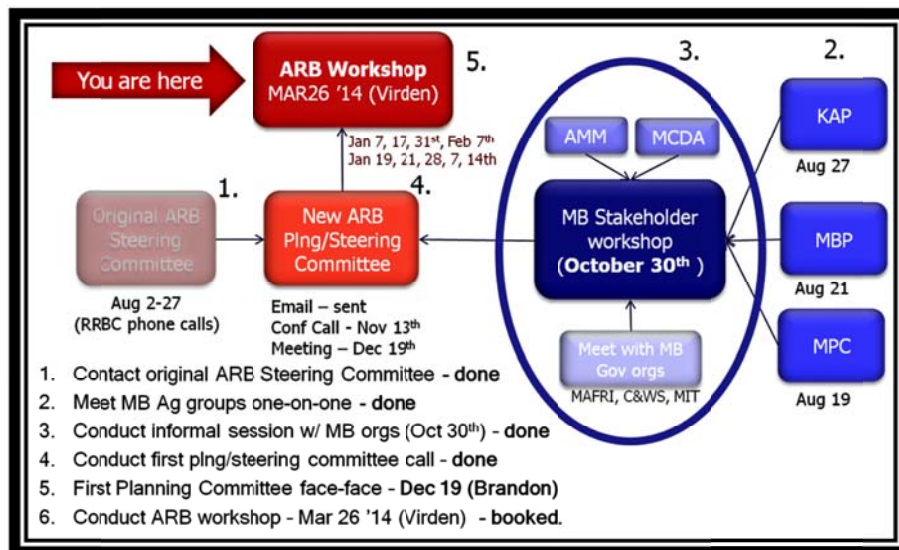


North Dakota

this

- Agricultural Associations
- Local (Rural, Municipal) Government
- Conservation/Water Organizations
- Provincial/State Government

With this vision in mind, PIN approached Manitoba organizations first, attracting key agricultural organizations (KAP, MBP, MPC), Manitoba Conservation Districts Association (MCDA), Association of Municipalities of Manitoba (AMM), and key Manitoba Government departments including Conservation & Water Stewardship (C&WS), and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (MAFRD) as depicted in the diagram below.



**PIN's Approach to building a Planning Committee**

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Manitoba stakeholders officially joined the original steering committee and renamed the group the Assiniboine River Basin Planning Committee. At the first ARB PC conference call, it was decided a face-face meeting was warranted and hence the ARB PC met in Brandon on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Victoria Inn. The result of the session produced a list of key focus areas as depicted in the diagram below.

		WATER USERS				
		<u>Industry</u>	<u>Primary Agriculture</u>	<u>Municipalities, Residents</u>	<u>Environment</u>	<u>Animal and Wildlife</u>
WATER GOALS	Quantity					
	Flooding					
	Drainage					
	Drought					
	Storage					
	Quality					
	Drinking Water					
	Other Water uses					
	Land Use					

Water Management Model from Dec 19<sup>th</sup> session (Brandon)

It was further decided a grassroots workshop be conducted in the March timeframe. The date was set for March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

### 3. ARB Planning Committee

The ARB Planning Committee was officially defined on December 19th, 2013, at a meeting in Brandon, Manitoba.

The desired organization for the Planning Committee would ultimately have multi-jurisdiction, multi sector representation as depicted in the diagram below.

Area	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	North Dakota
Agricultural	KAP, MBP	APAS	NDAA
Municipality / County	AMM	SARM	NDAC
Conservation / Water	MCDA	SAW	WRB's, JWRB's
Government	Cons. & Water Stewardship	WSA	Dept of Health

**Agriculture**

- o KAP - Keystone Agricultural Producers
- o MBP - MB Beef Producers
- o APAS - Agricultural Producers Association of SK
- o NDAA - ND Agricultural Association

**Conservation & Water Associations**

- MCDA - MB Conservation Districts Association
- WRB - Water Resource Boards (county)
- JWRB - Joint Water Resource Boards (watershed)

**Government - Province / State**

- o Manitoba - Conservation & Water Stewardship
- o Saskatchewan - Water Security Agency
- o North Dakota - Dept of Health

**Local Government**

- o AMM - Association of Municipalities of MB
- o SARM - SK Association of Rural Municipalities
- o NDAC - ND Association of Counties

#### Desired Planning Committee

The Planning Committee is defined in the table below. It continues to grow as associates add delegates and new stakeholders continuing to request direct participation.

ARB Planning Committee	Organization	Delegates and Supporters
Heather Dalgleish	Chair, MCDA	<u>KAP</u> Wanda McFadyen
Shane Robins	Executive Director, MCDA	
Dan Mazier	Vice President, KAP	
Wanda McFadyen	Operations Manager, KAP	<u>APAS</u> Cam Wiebe Todd Lewis
Joe Masi	Executive Director, AMM	
Melinda German	General Manager, MBP	
Tom Mollard	CAO, R.M. of Hamiota	<u>MB Beef Producers</u> Caron Clarke Maureen Cousins
Duncan Stewart	Reeve, R.M. of Brenda	
Nicole Armstrong	Conservation and Water Stewardship	
Sheldon Kyle	Coordinator, Lower Souris Watershed Association	<u>RRBC</u> Christine Hutlet Kaylee Mestdagh
Marlo Schappert	Councillor, R.M. #181 Langenburg	
Jim Hoff	Municipal Administrator, R.M. #125 Chester	
Kenny Rogers	Bottineau County	<u>Conservation and Water Stewardship</u> Mark Lee
Dan Schaefer	All Seasons Water District	
Norm Hall	President, APAS	
Aron Hershmilller	Manager, Assiniboine Water Stewards Association	

It is important to note several key organizations that will continue to be sought after for direct participation on the Planning Committee as follows:

- Government of Saskatchewan - Water Security Agency (WSA)
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)
- Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)
- Saskatchewan Associations of Watersheds (SAW)
  - Note - 2 watershed organizations already participate on the ARB PC
- North Dakota Water Resource Districts and Counties in the ARB area
  - Note - several counties and WRD's are already represented on the ARB PC
- ND State Water Commission (although they are already closely connected through Lance Yohe's relationship)

The Planning Committee will explore additional representation from RM's, counties, cities, and municipalities but before doing so, a governance and management structure will have to be established.

## 4. Engagement Plan

A detailed engagement plan and results are provided in section 12 of this report.

There were 3 goals for the engagement plan:

1. Identify key Saskatchewan-based groups interested in participating on a planning committee
2. Identify potential Saskatchewan-based participants for the March workshop ;
3. To create general awareness about the Prairie Improvement Network and the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative.

There were 3 phases for engagement as follows:

1. Phase I describes the initial contact process. This phase was essentially a 'ground-setting' phase where key contacts were identified, key associations found and contacted and government agencies identified.
2. Phase II was the key discussion phase. Meetings were held with key stakeholders to inform them of the initiative, identify their key issues and concerns and invite them to the conference.
3. Phase III included follow-up discussion and contact. This concluding phase involved other conference participation, additional phone and emailing of key personnel and linking with the host planning committee to ensure all of the key issues identified in Phases I and II are recognized in the conference. Throughout the process regular contact with the host planning committee and MasterKey took place to ensure the issues and opinions of those contacted were communicated to the host.

This direct engagement plan contributed to a successful workshop on March 26, 2014 in Virden. Over 100 people were contacted directly, with many phone calls, meetings and via conference gatherings. Additional contacts can be found in the PIN ARB Workshop contact MASTER database (jointly developed by Murray Grant and Helena Marak).

## 5. Workshop Planning

The purpose of the ARB workshop was to implement a grassroots workshop in March 2014 to define the needs of key stakeholders in the Assiniboine River Basin and to discuss the organization structure to manage this precious resource for future generations.

The goals of the workshop were:

1. To engage a committed planning committee that has holistic representation of jurisdictions (SK, ND, MB) and stakeholder organizations - agriculture, water and conservation organizations, and all levels of local, provincial, state and federal government.
2. To create and execute a workshop in the Assiniboine River Basin, inviting all grassroots stakeholders and creating a safe environment for open dialogue to determine the best structure for managing the Assiniboine River Basin now and in the future.
3. To attract funding sources through event registration fees, and sponsorships to offset some of the financial requirements of this initiative.
4. To leverage and transform this initiative into a long term organization capable of coordinating sustainable effective watershed management within the Qu'Appelle, Souris and Assiniboine Basins.

A complete workshop plan is reflected in the following ARB Workshop project charter as follows:

<b>Project Title</b>		Assiniboine River Basin Initiative - Phase 1		<b>Start Date</b>		19-Dec-14			
<b>Project Sponsor:</b>		Prairie Improvement Network		<b>End Date</b>		04-Apr-14			
<b>Purpose:</b>		<b>Planning Committee</b>		<b>Saskatchewan</b>		<b>North Dakota</b>			
To implement a grassroots workshop in March 2014 to define the needs of key stakeholders in the Assiniboine River Basin and to discuss the organization structure to manage this asset for future generations.		<b>Project Mgmt</b>		Lance Yohe (Senior Advisor)		Murray Grant (PIN)			
		<b>Agriculture</b>		Norm Hall (APAS)		tbd			
				Cam Wiebe (APAS)				Dan Mazier (KAP)	
		<b>Muni / County</b>		Marlo Schappert (Langenburg)		Keny Rogers (Bottineau)		Cam Dahl, Caron Clarke (MBP)	
				Jim Hoff (Chester)				Joe Masi (AMM)	
<b>Key Milestones</b>		<b>Watershed Mgmt</b>		Sheldon Kyle (Lower Souris)		Dan Schaeffer (All Seasons)			
30-Oct Manitoba Stakeholder Meeting						Tom Mollard (Hamiota)			
13-Nov 1st ARB PC conf call		<b>Government</b>		Doug Johnson **		Nicole Armstrong (CWS)			
19-Dec 1st ARB PC meeting (Brandon)				John-Mark Davies **		Mark Lee (CWS)			
07-Jan ARB PC conf call - define March event				Aron Hershmillier (Assiniboine)					
15-Jan March agenda, approach, invitees agreed		<b>Project Costs (estimated)</b>		<b>Risks Assumptions Dependencies</b>					
22-Jan March venue booked		ARB Portal		\$3,500		Funding			
31-Jan ARB Portal launched (PIN Web site)		Workshop		\$15,000		representations and commitment level of Plng Committee			
31-Jan Invitations sent out		Speakers		\$3,500		Grassroots engagement from large # of stakeholders			
07-Feb Awareness campaign launched		Consulting Fees		\$41,076		Conflicting stakeholder objectives			
15-Mar ARB Grassroots workshop (Brandon)		Travel, Hotel, Meals		\$16,470		Government alignment and relative priority			
30-Mar Workshop recommendations (Phase 2)		<b>Total</b>		<b>\$79,546</b>		Short term water issues (vs longer term planning)			
<b>Goals</b>									
1) To engage a committed planning committee that has holistic representation of jurisdictions (SK, ND, MB) and stakeholder orgs - Agriculture, Muni/Counties, Watershed orgs, and provincial/state government									
2) To create and execute a plan to conduct a workshop in the ARB, inviting all grassroots stakeholders and creating a safe environment for open dialogue to determine the best structure for managing the future of the Assiniboine River Basin									
3) To attract funding sources through event registration fees, and sponsorships to offset some of the financial requirements of this initiative.									
4) To leverage and transform the result of this initiative into a subsequent program(s) which creates a longer term sustainable organization managing the ARB									
** notified but not yet involved									

### ARB Phase 1 - Project Charter

Weekly conference calls were held with the Planning Committee using computer based screen sharing. The following was developed from January to March, 2014:

- Invite list
- Invite e-letter
- Invite handout
- 2 page brochure
- Sponsorship packages
- Event and sponsorship signage
- Customized handout packages for every participant
- Customized workshop venue with breakout tables of 13 people, each with their own flip chart, facilitator, and dedicated recorder.
- Workshop Presentations by:
  - Murray Grant - Introduction
  - Robert Sanford
    - Thinking Like a Watershed: Holistic Water Governance on a Basin Scale”
  - Lance Yohe
    - Trans-boundary Cooperation Models

## 5.1 Invite List

A complete invite list was developed and is included as an attachment (MASTER contact database).

A summary of invitees as of March 21<sup>st</sup> is as follows:

Invited (21Mar)	RM / Province / Water Cons						Grand Total
	Federal	County	State	Agriculture	Org	Other	
MB	3	37	22	23	19	52	156
ND	1	20	5	2	38	3	69
SK	3	154	16	12	13	27	225
AB						1	1
CAN						1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>452</b>

Invitees to March 26 ARB Workshop

Overall there was good jurisdictional and organizational breadth of coverage. This list will be used for ongoing communications, newsletters, and upcoming events for the ARB Initiative.

A summary of participants is as follows:

Table	AB	MB Total							ND				SK				TOT	
	Total	AG	Fed	Other	Prov / State	RM / County	Water Cons	Tot	Other	RM / County	Water Cons	Tot	AG	Other	RM / County	Water Cons		Tot
1		3		3		2	1	9						1	1	1	3	12
2		2		1	2	3	1	9						1	1	1	3	12
3		3		1		4	2	10							1	1	2	12
4		1		3	1	2	1	8						2	1	1	4	12
5	1	2		1	1	1	1	6		1		1		1	1	2	4	12
6		2		2	1	1	2	8			1	1	1		1	1	3	12
7		1		2	1	2	2	8					1	1	1	1	4	12
8		3		1	1	2	2	9					1		1	1	3	12
9		2		2	1	3	1	9					1		1	1	3	12
10		2	1	2		2	2	9					1		1	1	3	12
Hosts				1			1	1	1			1						2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>122</b>

Participants - March 26 ARB Workshop (Virden, Manitoba)



- it is estimated there were approximately 140 participants at the workshop,
- note - reduced representation from ND was a concern, but there were an additional 10 people who showed up at the door. Also, due to the short time frame, it was difficult for many people to get approval to cross the border (passports). For the next workshop, more notice must be given for ND participants.

See attachments for invite details, handouts, and 2 page brochures. Also, a handout folder was developed which provided the above documents as well as a sponsor recognition page, GF2 survey, and 2 presentations. It is recommended all information will be made available to participants as soon as possible.

## 5.2 ARB Portal

One of the biggest challenges with water management is the ability to find information and knowing who to send information to. The ARB Portal was developed as a service to the ARB Planning Committee, and to all stakeholders in the Assiniboine River Basin.

The ARB Portal was organized into four categories (see diagram below):

- industry and associations
- watershed information
- government organizations
- ARB Planning Committee

WEB SITE LAYOUT (concept)			
<b>INDUSTRY &amp; ASSOCIATIONS</b>			<b>ARB Planning Committee</b>  Who are we?  Why do we exist ?  What do we expect to achieve?  When do we expect things to happen?  Where are things happening?  How do we operate and make decisions?
<b>Watershed Orgs</b> SK ND MB Federal	<b>Agriculture Org's</b> SK ND MB Federal	<b>Key Corporate Stakeholders</b> Food Processing Oil & Gas Mining (Potash) Hydro Energy	
<b>WATERSHED INFORMATION</b>			
<b>Watersheds</b> SK ND MB Lake Winnipeg Basin	<b>Information</b> Presentations Videos Research Papers Articles & Newspaper	<b>Academia &amp; Research</b> SK ND MB Federal	
<b>GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS</b>			
<b>Local Gov't (RM, Counties)</b> SK ND MB	<b>Provincial, State</b> SK ND MB Federal	<b>Firs: Nations</b> SK ND MB	

ARB Portal Layout

The ARB Portal is now active and evolving as more people provide information. A portal screen shot is provided below. It includes a blog, ARB Planning Committee, ARB Projects (under construction), Information, Industry and Associations, Watershed Information, Government Organizations, and Corporate Sponsors.

Home | About Us | **Assiniboine River Basin** » | RAC Programs » | Knowledge Centre » | Stakeholders & Partners »

Talk to Us: ARB Blog

Assiniboine River

- ARB Planning Committee
- ARB Projects


The Assiniboine River Basin (ARB) is a partnership between the Government of Manitoba, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Alberta. We are working with rural municipalities, counties, agricultural, water, governing organizations, and academia from across the region to improve water stewardship and water quality in the Assiniboine River Basin.

The Prairie Improvement Network (PIN) in Virden, Manitoba. PIN will complement existing water stewardship programs and provide a platform for water stewards to work together and provide seed funding to conduct a grassroots workshop on March 25<sup>th</sup> to develop a Sustainable Management Plan (SMP) by facilitating the development of a sustainable management structure which will be implemented by the Assiniboine River Basin Planning Committee.

This ARB portal is an online tool to help you find out who the stakeholders are in your area. It provides information about water stewards, stakeholder organizations, geography and water ways, local projects and papers. This information can be used to learn about the ARB, as a networking tool to find out about activities, projects, and new technologies and methods being planned or employed.

We believe that providing useful information is one of the key ingredients to managing our precious water resources.

We hope you enjoy this portal, and we are very interested in your feedback and ideas on how to improve it!



ARB Portal -Screen Shot

## 6. Workshop results

On March 26, 2014, over 140 people gathered at the Tundra Oil and Gas Place in Virden, Manitoba to participate in a 1 day workshop to define the needs of key stakeholders in the Assiniboine River Basin and to discuss the organization structure to manage this precious resource for future generations.

The agenda for the workshop is show to the right.

The morning speaker was Robert Sanford; his presentation was entitled "Thinking like a Watershed: Holistic Water Governance on a Basin Scale". His profile is provided below.

9:00	Welcome (Jeff McConnell - Mayor Virden)
9:15	<u>Overview</u> : How we got here (Prairie Improvement Network)
9:30	<u>Keynote Speaker: Robert Sanford</u> "An Integrated Watershed Approach"
9:50	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Small Group Breakout - "WHY"</b>
10:30	Break
10:45	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Small Group Breakout - "WHAT"</b>
12:00	<u>Lunch - Guest Speaker: Lance Yohe</u> "Trans-boundary Cooperation Models"
1:45	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Small Group Breakout - "HOW"</b>
3:00	Break
3:15	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Small Group Breakout - "HOW, Continued"</b>
4:15	<b>Open Plenary Discussion - "WHO" (will lead)</b>
4:45	Summation: of day and clarification of next steps.

### Morning Speaker:

#### Robert W. Sanford:

Bob Sanford is the Canadian Chair of the United Nations International "Water for Life" Decade, a national partnership initiative that aims to advance long-term water quality and availability issues in response to climate change in this country and abroad. In this capacity, Bob is the only Canadian to sit on the Advisory Committee for the prestigious Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy. Bob is also the Director of the Western Watersheds Climate Research Collaborative: a not-for-profit research institute that promotes understanding of climate impacts on river systems originating in the Rocky Mountains. Bob's third book on water issues in Canada, *Restoring the Flow: Confronting the World's Water Woes*, was published by Rocky Mountain Books in the fall of 2009. His fourth book on water policy, *Ethical Water: Valuing What Really Matters*, was co-authored with Merrell-Ann Phare and was published by Rocky Mountain Books in the fall of 2011. Bob's next book, *Cold Matters: The State & Fate of Canada's Snow and Ice* was published in late 2012.



The afternoon speaker was Lance Yohe; his presentation was entitled "Trans-boundary Cooperation Models". His profile is provided below.

### Lunch Speaker:

#### Lance Yohe:

Lance Yohe did his undergraduate work at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN graduating with a degree in Biology. In 2002 several organizations: The International Coalition, The Red River Basin Board, and the Red River Water Resource Council merged to form the Red River Basin Commission. Lance has been the RRBC Executive Director since its formation. He has over 25 years of experience and familiarity with Red River Basin water and land resource issues. Lance has given many conference presentations over the years on issues in the Red River Basin including such topics as: trans-boundary approach, grass-roots involvement, local leadership roles, international issues, and resources issues: water quality, water supply, flooding, drainage, water laws, flow modeling, etc. He has managed numerous projects, and guided or co-authored several key basin documents: "Land and Water Guide to the Red River Basin;" "Red River Basin Drought: Scoping Document" and "The Red River Basin Long Term Flood Solutions Report/Recommendations".



## 6.1 Breakout Session Questions

Facilitators were assigned to each table and breakout sessions were conducted answering the following questions:

### Breakout session #1

1. WHY
  - a) Could we address our problems better by working together? (Y, N)
  - b) Do you we need to take a basin wide approach? (Y, N)
  - c) And why or why not? (Open answers)
2. WHAT
  - a) What in your mind are the main issues? (A, B, C)
  - b) What would you like to see happen in the next 25 years? i.e. what should “it” look like? (A, B, C)
  - c) Are you willing to help us get to this vision? (Y, N)

### Breakout Session #2

3. HOW (45 min breakout, 30 min plenary report)
  - a) Do you think we should meet again in the fall? (Y, N)
  - b) What would we want to accomplish in the fall? List
  - c) What are the next steps to prepare for the fall? List
  - d) What “things” do we need to operate as a basin organization? (A, B, C)

### Open Discussion

4. WHO (30 min open forum)
  - a) Should we continue to use the planning committee approach? (Y, N)
  - b) Should we continue to operate with this current planning committee? (Y,N)
  - c) Should it be larger? If so, who else should be on it? (Y,N and list)
5. SUMMATION
  - a) Here is what we heard
  - b) Here are the proposed next steps

## 6.2 Breakout Session – Responses

Approximately 80-100 flip charts were produced, and transcribed onto an excel spreadsheet (available upon request - please contact Helena Marak, Executive Director, PIN).

Responses were then converted into key phrases and themes. More details can be found in Appendix A. A summary of the key trends are as follows:

### Question 1 - WHY ?

- a) *Could we address our problems better by working together? (Y, N)*
- b) *Do you we need a basin wide approach would work? (Y, N)*
- c) *And why or why not? (Open answers)*

- It was strongly believed by ALL 10 tables we could address our problems by working together.
- 9 of 10 tables believed we need to take a basin wide approach.

- 1 group felt it “depends” on the approach the group takes to address issues.
- Each table provided many detailed reasons as to why a basin approach would work; a summary is as follows
  - ✓ Basin Wide (systems) approach is better
  - ✓ To be more proactive (not reactive)
  - ✓ Encourages team work
  - ✓ Enables better "balanced" decisions
  - ✓ Quality Focus
  - ✓ Improves Communication
  - ✓ Cross jurisdiction
  - ✓ Invites Science
  - ✓ More effective management
  - ✓ Expands Stakeholder base and strength

\*\* more detailed responses found in Appendix A.

## Question 2 - WHAT ?

a) *What in your mind are the main issues?*

### Response trends:

- ✓ Water Architecture
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Sustainable Environment
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Government Alignment
- ✓ Knowledge & Info
- ✓ Land Use
- ✓ Organization & Management
- ✓ Planning to optimize
- ✓ Use Science approach
- ✓ Stakeholders
- ✓ Mother Nature's Challenges
- ✓ Man Made Challenges

\*\* more detailed responses found in Appendix A.

b) *What would you like to see happen in the next 25 years? i.e. what should “it” look like?*

### Response trends:

- ✓ Water Architecture
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Conservation & Ecosystem
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Knowledge & Education
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Water Quality
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Stakeholders

- ✓ Water Storage
- ✓ Flood Control
- ✓ Water - Value

\*\* more detailed responses found in Appendix A.

*c) Are you willing to help us get to this vision?*

- All 10 tables expressed a strong interest to help.

### Question 3 - HOW ?

*a) Do you think we should meet again in the fall?*

- YES - All 10 tables, prefer meeting the fall, after harvest (after Nov 11<sup>th</sup>).

*b) What would we want to accomplish in the fall?*

#### Response trends:

- ✓ Architecture
- ✓ Communication - Awareness
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Knowledge
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Stakeholders
- ✓ Structure

\*\* more detailed responses found in Appendix A.

*c) What are the next steps to prepare for the fall?*

*d) What "things" do we need to operate as a basin organization?*

- ✓ Architecture
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Knowledge
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Planning Committee
- ✓ Stakeholders
- ✓ Structure

### Question 4 - WHO ?

*a) Should we continue to use the planning committee approach?*

*b) Should we continue to operate with this current planning committee?*

*c) Should it be larger? If so, who else should be on it?*

The unanimous feedback from the group was:

Continue to use the existing planning committee for Phase 2, with PIN continuing to lead the facilitation and coordination of the Planning Committee towards a workshop in the fall, and consider inviting other interested stakeholder groups.

### 6.3 Workshop survey

Approximately 140 participants registered for the workshop, and 132 attended.

The table to the right illustrates approximately 78% of attending participants completed a survey. The last question of the survey was “overall, how satisfied were you with the program?”.

The average score was 4.3 out of 5, or 86%. This validates the event was a success.

<b>Average Score /5</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Scores</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
3	4	4%
4	57	61%
5	32	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	
Survey Participation	78%	est.

Detailed results of the breakout sessions and specific participant’s comments are found in the Appendix of this report. All flip charts from the session were transcribed by PIN staff into spreadsheets and will be made available to participants at a later date.



## 7. Sponsorships and Funding

### 7.1 Sponsorships

A detailed report on sponsorship and funding is provided in section 13 of this report.

The objective of sponsorship and funding was:

- To identify and contact possible funding sources to support some of the costs for this phase and for continuation of this initiative beyond March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014.
- Identify and contact possible funding sources to support some of the costs for this phase and for continuation of this initiative beyond March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014;

The following process was executed:

- Conduct a web search of public sector funding programs involving agriculture, the environment, municipal, and water quality issues
  - Summarize the information in the form of a spreadsheet with relevant contact and intake information
- Conduct a web search of Foundations with an interest in water issues
  - Summarize the information in the form of a spreadsheet with relevant contact and intake information
- Identify potential corporate or association sponsor of the March workshop
  - Identify sponsors of previous events
  - Rate each member of the list in terms of contact priority (high, medium, low)
  - Make initial telephone contact with high priority candidates, followed up with an information package sent by email
  - Reminder call in mid-February

\$4,000 in sponsorships were secured, with an additional \$2,000 verbally committed (ND State Water Commission). Also, The Government of Manitoba (Conservation and Water Stewardship) has not responded to a request for \$5,000 - which we will follow up. The following table indicates sponsors contacted and sponsorship levels.

Organization	Contact	Comments	Amount
KAP	D. Mazier		\$1,000.00
Manitoba Pork	A. Dickson		\$2,000.00
APAS	N. Hall	Not enough time	
MCGA	B. Ross		\$250.00
SCGA	C. Folkerson	Not enough time	
Keystone Potato Producers	D. Sawatzky	Not enough time-sending delegate	
Dairy Farmers of Man.	C. Chevalier	In product	\$250.00
MBP	M. German		\$250.00
Ducks Unlimited	G. Bruce	Not enough time - sending delegate	
NCC	K. Teneycke	Not enough time - sending delegate	
MHHC	T. Sopuck	Year end - sending delegate	
MPGA	F. Labelle	Not enough time	
MASC	K. Poschenrieder	Not enough time	
FCC	B. Watson	Not enough time	

Andrew Agencies	C. Kennedy		\$250
Mainline Motors	R. Smith	declined	
Oak Island Resort		decision maker on holidays in March	
MNP	L Connibear	not enough time to process	
Manitoba Hydro		not enough time to process	

### ARB Workshop - Sponsorship Campaign

\*\* funding requests have also been made to:

- North Dakota State Water Commission for \$2,000 (contact Pat Fridgen), Verbal confirmation of approval was provided through Lance Yohe.
- Government of Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship (\$5,000). Approval has not been received as of date of this report.

See appendices for future target sponsors and sponsorship promotion package,

## 7.2 Funding Programs – Government

Initially, this activity was envisaged to consist of identifying public sector funding programs that could support the ARB process after the March event. However, an immediate opportunity arose in late March to pursue and secure \$15,000 of funding support from the Manitoba Ag (MAFRD) Growing Forward II program.

### Growing Competitiveness - Agri-Extension fund (MB Agriculture Food Rural Dev)

A decision was made to focus resources on submitting that funding application. As a result, a low priority was placed on contacting funding managers with intakes in the late summer or fall.

Under the new Growing Forward II agreement, the Manitoba and federal governments established a “Growing Competitiveness - Agri-Extension” fund. This program provides financial assistance for the development and delivery of group learning activities for knowledge sharing, information transfer, networking and partnership development amongst industry stakeholders; including resources, workshops, and symposia.

The consulting team, PIN staff and Wanda McFadyen collaborated to prepare and submit a funding request for \$15,000. That request was **approved** at a level just over \$13,800, with the funds to be spent during March in support of the event in Virden.

With respect to the Growing Forward Funding Programs in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, it is recommended to identify funding priorities for the next 3 to 6 months. Once that step has been taken, it will then be possible to identify potential matches with available funding support.

The second recommendation is to have PIN executives or ARB representatives meet with senior officials in each province to determine how Growing Forward funds could be accessed.

In Manitoba another potential funding program of interest is the Sustainable Innovations Development Fund. Again, it is advised to have people from the ARB Planning Committee and the PIN executive meet with senior officials to determine potential eligibility.

In Saskatchewan, it appears that the Growing Forward funds are being administered with much less program detail than in Manitoba. Again, meeting senior department officials is a key step of moving forward.

### Other Programs

There are a number of agencies and organizations in the public sector that offer funding for in-scope projects. These include funds focused on water, the environment, Agriculture and municipal sectors. While most programs work on a budget year basis, some offer multi-year funding possibilities.

In the initial scan of programs, the project team did not attempt to identify county/city, state and US federal government programs. It is important to note that those sources of funding support provide a core base of nearly \$1 million to the Red River Basin Commission.

For the next 3 to 6 months, the challenge will be to identify programs that support capacity building projects in the short term. In the longer term, there will be a need to examine programs that support infrastructure planning, pilot projects, and scientific research.

The list of potential public sector funding programs is provided in section 13 for reference and pursuit in the next phase of the ARB Initiative.

### 7.3 Funding Programs – Foundations

Approaching private Foundations for funding support needs to be looked at from a strategic perspective. While several Foundations could support the cost of capacity building efforts for the remainder of 2014, some may also be candidates to provide multi-year core funding support.

In most cases, seeking funding support from Foundations is most effective when the approach and request is channelled through a person who is known to the fund administrators. Unlike public sector programs, Foundation funding support can often be more patient and view the relationship with its funding organizations over a longer term time horizon than a few months.

The following table presents a preliminary list of private sector Foundations that could be approach for support in the next 3 to 6 months. Probabilities for securing some funding is provided in the last column,

Foundations	Richardson Foundation		medium
Foundations	The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation	Bill Payton	high
Foundations	Thomas Sill Foundation	Bill Payton	high
Foundations	RBC Blue Water Fund	Bill Payton	high

Foundations	Donner Canadian Foundation		low
Foundations	Tides Canada		low
Foundations	The Coca Cola Foundation		low

Detailed program descriptions can be found in section 13 of this report. This initial profile of private foundations is only scratching the surface of possible candidates to approach. There are many more in the US to look at.

## 7.4 Funding Conclusions

Given the embryonic state of the ARB process, there has been a surprisingly strong degree of interest and support from funders to contribute funds to the effort.

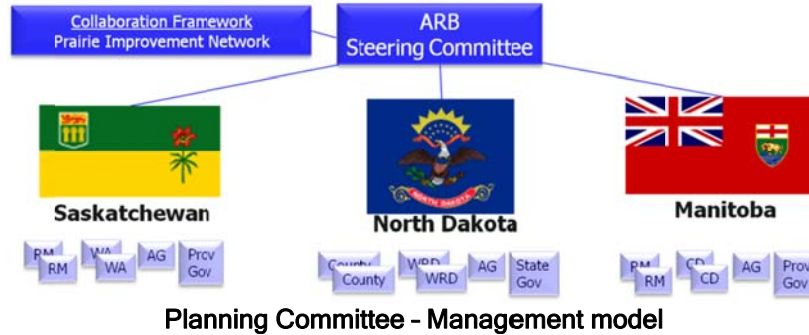
As a next step, the ARB Planning Committee and the PIN Board need to identify priority action items for the next 3 to 6 months and then look at matching funding needs with funding support.

It will be important to establish personal connections with potential funders, whether they come from the corporate sector, the public sector or private Foundations. A well formulated plan of action can attract substantially more funding providing a reasonable amount of time is given to identify and approach funding candidates, understand program priorities and criteria, and build strong relationships with funding partners.

## 8. Options for ARB and PIN

### 8.1 ARB Structure - Options

The structure used for phase 1 of the ARB Initiative was a Planning Committee (see section 3) of invited stakeholders designated by PIN as depicted in the picture below.



The following key questions were asked of the workshop attendees:

- Should we continue to use the planning committee approach? (Y, N)
- Should we continue to operate with this current planning committee? (Y,N)
- Should it be larger? If so, who else should be on it? (Y,N and list)

The unanimous feedback from the session was:

**Continue to use the existing planning committee for Phase 2, with PIN continuing to lead the facilitation and coordination of the Planning Committee towards a workshop in the fall, and consider inviting other interested stakeholder groups.**

It is assumed the Planning Committee and PIN will determine which other interested stakeholder groups be included. It is further assumed planning committee representation and participation will be further defined as part of Phase 2 of the ARB Initiative.

Given the structure of the ARB Initiative for Phase 2 will likely be similar to Phase 1 (i.e. using a Planning Committee approach with PIN coordinating the initiative), there are several key questions which need to be answered as follows:

- What is the purpose, goals and deliverables of Phase 2?
- Is PIN willing to lead Phase 2? Who from PIN will lead this?
- What other resources will be required to support PIN leading this initiative?
- What is expected of the Planning Committee?
- How much funding is required?
- Who will provide funding and on what terms?
- When and where will the workshop be held, and what are its objectives?
- What will happen if Phase 2 is deemed a success; what are the next steps?

## 9. Recommendations and Next Steps

The ARB workshop held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Virden Manitoba was a huge success, by all accounts. Over 140 people from agriculture, water organizations, academia and government all agreed there is a strong desire to continue using the same Planning Committee structure to deliver a second workshop in the fall of 2014.

There was strong support from the Manitoba and North Dakota state government for this phase, and strong support will be sought from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota governments for Phase 2 and beyond.

The focus of the workshop will be on developing a sustainable structure to manage the Assiniboine River Basin for our benefit and the benefit of future generations.

**Recommendations going forward are as follows:**

### **1. Communicate Phase 1 workshop success, and the plan going forward**

- a. A workshop report should be drafted and communicated to the Planning Committee, approved, and distributed to all participants and workshop invitees
- b. All workshop materials should be posted on the ARB Portal and communicated to the Planning Committee, workshop participants and invitees.
- c. Further development of the ARB Portal should provide ongoing communications to the Planning Committee and stakeholders on an ongoing basis and up to a workshop in the fall of 2014.
- d. Frequent and ongoing, informative communications should be provided to the Planning Committee and invited participants.
- e. Contact names should continue to be collected (using the contact database developed in Phase1) and used to invite stakeholders to a fall workshop.

### **2. Develop a plan for a fall workshop**

- a. A detailed work plan should be developed to achieve a successful workshop in the fall.
- b. The plan should be reviewed and approved by the Planning committee, and communicated to all ARB stakeholders.
- c. The plan should include definition of goals, funding required, work breakdown structure, PIN's role, Planning Committee role, deliverables, funding plan, sponsorships, speakers, location, and agenda.

### **3. Continue Developing the Planning Committee Development**

- a. PIN should identify a project leader to define, coordinate, and facilitate the ARB Planning Committee as soon as possible.
- b. The project leader should define any additional staff or resources to execute the plan to a successful workshop in the fall.
- c. The project leader, working with the Planning Committee, should lead the process to define an interim governance model for the Planning Committee, including identification of a subcommittee executive team to provide multi-jurisdictional leadership.
- d. The Planning Committee should seek broad representation from Saskatchewan, North Dakota, and Manitoba in the following areas:

- i. Major industries in the Assiniboine River Basin including but not limited to agriculture, oil and gas, and mining.
- ii. Local government including major cities, towns, municipalities, villages, rural municipalities and counties.
- iii. Water, conservation, and stewardship organizations.
- iv. Provincial and State governments.
- v. Science, technical and research institutions, communities and organizations.
- e. Small groups should be considered within the Planning Committee to focus on the future structure of an ARB Organization including but not limited to:
  - i. Future board size/scope, representation, governance models, funding options (sponsorships, funding programs, memberships, etc.), and technical support from academia or research organizations.
  - ii. Articles of incorporation, by-laws, office location, staffing, business plan, operating budget, sustainable cash flow model, etc.
  - iii. Subsequent workshops and conferences beyond phase 2.

#### **4. Secure Funding**

- a. Sponsorships - Continue to build a sponsor target list and pursue aggressively for the support of the fall workshop. Enhance sponsorship value by considering ARB Portal advertising, newsletter spots, radio interview spots, event booths, signage, logos, and workshop recognition via handout advertising. Pursue list of sponsors (over 70) included in the appendix of this report.
- b. Public Sector Funding Programs - Continue to pursue public sector funding focused at Growing Forward II via Manitoba and Saskatchewan jurisdictions, Sustainable Innovations development Fund, Western Economic Diversification federal programs, and other provincial and federal programs found in the appendix of this report.
- c. Foundations - Seven private foundations are identified as having potential funding support. It is recommended the following three be pursued immediately: The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, Thomas Sill Foundation, and RBC's Blue Water Fund. Details can be found in the appendix of this report.



## Appendix A - Workshop Questions (detailed responses)

1. **WHY (25 min breakout, 15 min plenary report)**
  - i. Could we address our problems better by working together? (Y, N)
  - ii. Do you we need a basin wide approach would work? (Y, N)
  - iii. And why or why not? (Open answers)
2. **WHAT (45 min breakout, 30 min plenary report)**
  - i. What in your mind are the main issues? (A, B, C)
  - ii. What would you like to see happen in the next 25 years? i.e. what should "it" look like? (A, B, C)
  - iii. Are you willing to help us get to this vision? (Y, N)
3. **HOW (45 min breakout, 30 min plenary report)**
  - i. Do you think we should meet again in the fall? (Y, N)
  - ii. What would we want to accomplish in the fall? List
  - iii. What are the next steps to prepare for the fall? List
4. **HOW - 2 (30 min breakout, 30 min plenary report)**
  - i. What "things" do we need to operate as a basin organization? (A, B, C)
5. **WHO (30 min open forum)**
  - i. Should we continue to use the planning committee approach? (Y, N)
  - ii. Should we continue to operate with this current planning committee? (Y,N)
  - iii. Should it be larger? If so, who else should be on it? (Y,N and list)
6. **SUMMATION**
  - i. Here is what we heard
  - ii. Here are the proposed next steps

### 1a) Could we address our problems better by working together? (Y, N)

- ✓ YES by all 10 tables
- ✓ Comments - a resounding yes by all. Unanimous. We can address our problems by working together

### 1b) Do you we need to take a basin wide approach? (Y, N)

- ✓ YES by 9 tables
- ✓ 1 table indicated "depends" - on how the group addresses the issues.
- ✓ Decision to proceed forward

### 1c) Why do you think a basin approach would work?

Each table provided many detailed reasons as to why a basin approach would work. Detailed responses have been collected by PIN staff and are available upon request.

A summary of responses are summarized as follows:

- ✓ Basin Wide (systems) approach is better
- ✓ To be more proactive (not reactive)
- ✓ Encourages team work
- ✓ Enables better "balanced" decisions
- ✓ Quality Focus

- ✓ Improves Communication
- ✓ Cross jurisdiction
- ✓ Invites Science
- ✓ More effective management
- ✓ Expands Stakeholder base and strength

Specific responses for each trend are as follows:

**Basin Wide (systems) approach is better** - Focus on ARB, physical size, complexity, Water flows travels between jurisdictions, water does not see political boundary, can take system inventory of mother nature and man-made structures. Hard to link cause-effect relationship of many small scale projects. Top down management establishes standards; bottom up means sometimes you cannot see the forest for the trees. The whole can be greater than the sum of the parts.

**To be more proactive (not reactive)** - Focus on risk mitigation and prevention of damage (instead of reacting to catastrophe).

**Encourages team work** - We are in this together - by working together we believe we can achieve better results.

**Enables better "balanced" decisions** - Water quantity and water quality are interrelated. Find the right balance. Balance the different needs of stakeholder groups. Balance the architecture to deal with too much water (floods) or not enough water (droughts). Look at solutions like distributed water management to address both. Balance need to drain land for farming with conservation/ecological needs of environmental sustainability

**Quality Focus** - Set consistent benchmarks across the basin from source to termination point. Everybody is accountable to maintain quality.

**Improves Communication** - Improve communication across jurisdictions and between various stakeholders and government in a consistent and frequent manner.

**Cross jurisdiction** - Water does not know jurisdictional boundaries.

**Invite Science** - Science is universal and should be applied across jurisdictions in a consistent and transparent manner. Focus on fact based decision making. Provide a focal point for academia to direct their knowledge.

**More effective management** - Align management tools, less talk and more action, accomplish something tangible but minimize admin costs.

**Expands Stakeholder base and strength** - There are similar organizations within different jurisdictions. Bring them together to share common issues and solutions. Bring provincial and state governments and stakeholders together - create a safe environment for collaborative problem solving. Expand stakeholder base to include all those affected by water challenges - even those outside the basin but affected by it. Strength in numbers - get local support.

Additional details can be found in a detailed excel spreadsheet containing all flip chart responses.

## 2a) What in your mind are the main issues?

- ✓ Water Architecture
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Sustainable Environment
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Government Alignment
- ✓ Knowledge & Info
- ✓ Land Use
- ✓ Organization & Management
- ✓ Planning to optimize
- ✓ Use Science approach
- ✓ Stakeholders
- ✓ Mother Nature's Challenges
- ✓ Man Made Challenges

- **Water Architecture** - Levels and flooding on lakes and river systems, swamps, man-made structures (dams, diversions) and decision making process to operate, connecting head waters, potholes, etc.
- **Communication** - Vast amounts of information, need to improve, not sure who to send info to, not sure where to find info ...
- **Sustainable Environment** - balance economics and environment, environmental decision making, value of eco-systems,
- **Funding** - Who is going to pay, what are the costs, are they justified, what about corporations helping out...
- **Government Alignment** - Is there the political will, inconsistent regulations and policy across jurisdictions, better long term vision and planning, aligning various government bodies to a common goal and results, measurable commitment.
- **Knowledge and Information** - Lake and river info, info on man-made structures, educating people, understanding the issues. Where do I find information? Who do I send info to? Land use conflict. Bank erosion, nutrient leaching. Understanding land use changes.
- **Organization & Management** - Too many stakeholders with different needs, no mission statement or common goals. More action (less talking). Give us hope - aim for a direction and align people. Align industry. Balance priorities. Enforce policies. Lack of basin wide mgmt. Fractured or unclear decision making processes. Accountability and measurement.
- **Planning to optimize** - Investment and return, more reactive than proactive, governance, long term planning, forecasting, integrated flood/drought plan, Risk mitigation.
- **Use Science approach** - Lack of science based policy, fact based decision making, making use of technology to measure and optimize water mgmt.

- **Stakeholders** - Need to include Saskatchewan government, First Nations, industry - oil & gas, potash, food processing, etc., (ocean and fisheries), RMs, counties, water associations, academia! Not jut rural - urban needs to be at the table too.
- **Mother Nature's Challenges** - Floods, Flood management, Drought, Aquifer capacity, watershed protection and sustainability, invasive species, quantity and quality.
- **Man Made Challenges** - Drainage, Storage, Irrigation, water quality, nutrient loading, eutrophication, water quality, pollution, public health, recreation, what crosses the jurisdictional boundaries.

## 2b) What would you like to see happen in the next 25 years? (what should "it" look like? )

- ✓ Architecture
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Conservation & Ecosystem
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Knowledge & Education
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Water Quality
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Stakeholders
- ✓ Water Storage
- ✓ Flood Control
- ✓ Water - Value

- **Architecture** - Storage (distributed), execution, reduce use of portage diversion (nutrient load), water retention, smaller dams.
- **Communication** - Improve communication between jurisdictions and amongst stakeholders, partner with other basin groups, awareness to make water management a higher priority, drive behavior changes.
- **Conservation & Ecosystem** - Land, marshes, nature, forestry, embrace storage, protect the supply, more attention to eco-system, more use of land and bio-systems, collect comprehensive data, include wildlife and fish.
- **Funding** - Find a sustainable funding structure.
- **Government** - Align jurisdictional goals. Federal support (international), involve government directly, influence and support water policy, proper zoning to minimize risk.
- **Knowledge & Education** - Education of younger people, broad education initiatives.
- **Water Management** - Riverbank authority, land buyout, incentives to land owners, integrated water management system, set rules people will follow, accountability, take nature's force into account, adapt to change, common voice / common plan, better coordination, use water efficiently, promote a healthy basin, wiser multi-objective development, execution, long term management, leadership, measure and deliver results, a well-managed watershed that meets the demands and needs of residents and leads to a flourishing economy, eliminate political boundaries, proactive not reactive, prevention, CFI would be a good model, deliver

goals, synergy - whole is greater than the sum of the parts, balanced decisions, vision, able to deal with extreme weather, sustainable.

- **Water Quality** - Quality is critical, look at industry, agriculture, wildlife, environment, recreation. Effluent release, monitoring, nutrient management plans, need funding, reduce pollution, biodiversity, floods impact quality
- **Science** - Scientific led assessments, more solid science based decisions,
- **Stakeholders** - Respect differences and commitments within basin, apolitical, farmland / wetland balance, agricultural productivity - global demand, risk of losing farms / farmers, equal say, hear smaller community voices, cottagers voices, help each other, rural and urban, protect infrastructure.
- **Water Storage** - Storage, controlled release, coordinate existing structures, drainage outflow vs storage,
- **Flood Control** - Storage, more flood controls, structures, basin strategy for floods, flood mitigation strategy, shift irrigation to surface,
- **Water Value** - Need to put a value on Water, water is a valuable resource.

### 2c) Are you willing to help us get to this vision?

- All 10 tables willing to help!

### 3a) Do you think we should meet again in the fall?

YES - All 10 tables, Meet in the fall, after harvest (after Nov 11<sup>th</sup>).

### 3b) What would we want to accomplish in the fall?

- ✓ Architecture
- ✓ Communication - Awareness
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Knowledge
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Stakeholders
- ✓ Structure

- **Architecture** - Land issues, watershed details, dams, overview of hydrology.
- **Communication & Awareness** - develop communication and awareness materials, create public awareness
- **Funding** - Pursue sponsors, establish an interim funding structure, explore eco-action GF2, attract new funding sources, fundraising, membership.
- **Government** - Attract deeper involvement from government, include Saskatchewan government, federal, first nations, ND state.
- **Knowledge** - Provide more background knowledge on ARB, what is it, what are the issues, provide this workshop information to those who could not make it. Define informational needs.

- **Management** - Planning Committee to define and communicate short term objectives, lay out the outcomes expected from the workshop, solicit input. Define the direction and structure of the planning committee. Set goals, make it manageable, define needs and communicate, organizational needs, look at it top down and bottom up (grassroots), define structure options / pros and cons, purpose, define leadership strategy, priorities, needs, mission statement, goals and objectives.
- **Science** - bringing a science symposium to the fall meeting to inform stakeholders, research other basin orgs.
- **Stakeholders** - Ensure broad and deep representation across the ARB, active engagement, identify new planning committee members, make sure the right groups are represented, don't forget lake Manitoba, first nations, meet other basin boards, have other basin orgs present, include urban (city government), industry - oil and gas, potash, food processing, mining, forestry, etc. Define everyone's roles.
- **Structure** - Make sure the right orgs are represented on the planning committee, consider RRBC template, options, best fit model, not robbing existing smaller orgs, one stop shop for water management, what other structures are in place, governance and board of directors, ask - do we truly need another org, can we make use of an existing one?

### 3c) What are the next steps to prepare for the fall?

- ✓ Architecture
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Knowledge
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Planning Committee
- ✓ Stakeholders
- ✓ Structure

- **Architecture** - Define ARB topography, geography, hydrology.
- **Communication** - Grassroots communications--there's the PIN website which can be used for this. Communications plan, share today's results, find a way to keep in touch, bring the message back to constituencies.
- **Funding** - Identify funding sources, programs, consider membership fees, sponsors, secure funding.
- **Government** - Explain government organizations and their role, attract Saskatchewan government to become involved, ND, First Nations.
- **Knowledge** - Data collection plan, where do we find the info we need, how do we share it, provide summary info on watershed, identify topics of interest, overview of the basin hydrology, land use.
- **Management** - Define the problem statement, bring forward ideas and solutions, work from a plan, prioritize issues, activities, keep the momentum going, maintain continuity with today's group, short term focus, long term vision, incentives, identify a lead org, develop a leadership role and model, should PIN continue to lead this? Develop a collective mission statement, draft a plan, define where we are headed.
- **Planning Committee** - Develop additional presentations / discussions. Prepare a summary report of today and communicate to stakeholders. Need the planning committee to continue their role to get to the fall workshop. Consider a smaller secretariat group within the planning committee, consider sub-committees, ensure / increase technical depth within the planning

committee, pick the brains of others with experience (other basin groups) to help move this forward. Set a date, define a location - consider Saskatchewan to get them on board.

- **Stakeholders** - Ensure full basin representation, who is missing, approach industry / water users and invite them to participate, consult directly with missing orgs, add other groups - federal wildlife agency, first nations, more intimate stakeholder engagement, include more Saskatchewan RM's, industry - potash, oil and gas, mining, transportation - rail, trucking, irrigation groups, urban and rural, watershed orgs, academia.
- **Structure** - Governance - what should this look like, there are other models out there; make sure grassroots is directly involved, what other orgs are doing will guide whether we use an existing org or a new one. Bylaws, policies, work on the model options right now, are we going to establish a commission, consider RRBC model. Include sub basins in the name. Identify a governance model. Develop a resolution to agree in principle on a governance structure. Define the fall meeting agenda.