Prairie Provinces Water Board

RELATIONSHIP TO IJC’S 1921 ORDER

Jim Rogers,
Secretary to the PPWB,
Regina, Saskatchewan
MASTER AGREEMENT ON APPORTIONMENT

October 1969
AGREEMENT COMPONENTS

- A Master Agreement Amongst Canada, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba
- An Apportionment Agreement Between Alberta And Saskatchewan (Schedule A)
- An Apportionment Agreement Between Saskatchewan And Manitoba (Schedule B)
- A Prairie Provinces Water Board Agreement
- An Agreement on Water Quality (1992)
MASTER AGREEMENT

- No termination clause
  - Alteration/cancellation of Agreements in writing by all 4 parties
- Includes water quantity, quality & groundwater at boundaries
- Monitoring by federal government
- Proclaims principle of cooperation

Alberta - Saskatchewan - Manitoba - Canada
Alberta – Saskatchewan Apportionment Formula:

- Alberta to use up to $\frac{1}{2}$ natural flow of water arising in or flowing through Alberta

- subject to:
  - prior rights on South Saskatchewan River to 3,000,000 cubic decametres (2,100,000 ac-ft)
  - passing more than the lesser of $\frac{1}{2}$ the natural flow of the South Saskatchewan River or 42.5 cubic metres per second (1,500 cfs).

- provinces decide how to use their share of water
Battle-Lodge Creeks

- Are eastern tributaries of Milk River
- Apportioned between Canada & U.S.
- Canada’s share (50%) further apportioned between Alberta and Saskatchewan through PPWB
Success

- Provincial governments have:
  - primary authority for regulation of water supplies,
  - complied with the Agreement and Board's recommendations.

- Compliance confirms the usefulness of the PPWB's policy of seeking consensus on all issues.
Boundary Waters Treaty and IJC 1921 Order Recognized:

- Equal & similar rights in the use of the waters
- Prior use by U.S. on Milk River
- Prior use by Canada on St. Mary River
- Irrigable lands “far exceed the capacity of the rivers”
- Share equally water in eastern tributaries
- Greatest beneficial use to the two countries
Agreements need to be respected
- resolve concerns within agreements
- Agreements have flexibility

Long-term planning requires certainty

Changes could cause ripple effect:
- St. Mary’s contributes to South Saskatchewan River, which is apportioned between 3 provinces;
- Apportionment decisions on eastern tributaries for international & inter-provincial requirements.
Alberta - Saskatchewan - Manitoba - Canada

Thank-you