



**International Souris
River Study Board**

January 31, 2020

Dear Camille Mageau and Charles Lawson,

A review of artificial drainage in the Souris River basin was requested by the Public Advisory Group co-chairs, and was adopted into the International Souris River Study Board's work plan as Task HH3. The purpose of the task is to provide information to the public on the potential impacts of artificial drainage in the Souris River basin.

The International Souris River Study Board retained Bob Harrison to gather and assess the available information and prepare the report. The "HH3: Souris River Basin Artificial Drainage Impacts Review" final report is attached to this letter.

This report summarizes the current knowledge of artificial drainage, both surface and subsurface, in the Souris River basin. This includes information on: artificial drainage regulation in the three state and provincial jurisdictions; a scientific literature review on the impacts of drainage on water quantity and quality; an attempt to quantify drainage in the Souris River basin as well as identifying issues in quantifying artificial drainage; and identifying potential impacts to transboundary water. The report also includes a list of recommendations for future investigations into artificial drainage.

As the report's intended use is for public education, specific recommendations for further work will not be conducted by the International Souris River Study Board. A deeper investigation into the impacts of artificial drainage is out of scope for the International Souris River Study Board, and the findings of this report are for informational purposes only. The International Souris River Study Board recommends that further investigations into artificial drainage be conducted.

Sincerely,

International Souris River Study Board

**Michael J.
Bart, PE** Digitally signed by
Michael J. Bart, PE
Date: 2020.02.01
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Michael Bart – United States Co-chair

Alain Pietroniro – Canadian Co-chair

Enclosure: HH3: Souris River Basin Artificial Drainage Impacts Review final report