

International St. Mary-Milk Rivers Study Technical Working Groups Infrastructure Options



U.S. Co-chair Chris Gomer

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Expertise: Facility Operations and Maintenance, U.S. Infrastructure





Canadian Co-chair **Paul Elser** *Alberta Environment and Protected Areas* Expertise: Operations, maintenance, and surveillance of large-scale water management infrastructure

Focus

The Infrastructure Options (IO) Technical Working Group (TWG) will evaluate potential water infrastructure options that could be modified within, or added to, the International St. Mary-Milk River system. The IO TWG will:

- Evaluate past studies for water infrastructure development.
- Conduct an analysis of infrastructure options.
- Provide rough design considerations and estimated costs to assist with incorporating public and Indigenous Nations' ideas into potential options.

Background

The IO TWG will build on the legacy of numerous historical studies that have identified potential infrastructure options for the St. Mary-Milk River system, some dating as far back as 1978. The Study has specifically identified four infrastructure options for the highest priority to consider by the current study, including:

- 1. St. Mary Canal Improvement
- 2. Lower St. Mary Lake Storage
- **3.** Canadian Milk River Storage, and
- **4.** Canadian Conveyance Alternative.

Planned Outputs

The IO TWG will review previously studied water infrastructure options, consider those and potential new options, and recommend water infrastructure options to be considered by the study.

The IO TWG will identify technical considerations for future engineering feasibility of options (capital construction and operation and maintenance costs) and describe and define details of the option so it may be incorporated into the water management models. Input from the IO TWG will be used by the St. Mary-Milk River Study Board as they consider the many water management modelling scenarios.

The Technical Working Groups are formed by, and report to, the International Joint Commission's International St. Mary-Milk Rivers Study Board. The study is seeking to ensure and/or improve equitable sharing and apportionment of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers today and into the future. The ISMMRSB Work Plan is posted here: https://www.ijc.org/sites/default/files/ISMMRSB_Final_Work Plan_20230401.pdf *Image of the Hoodoo badlands at Writing-on-Stone Park and Aisinaipi National Historic Site in Alberta, Canada used under license from Shutterstock.com