

---

# Water Sharing Agreement Meeting Report – June 27/28, 2024

## Southern Tributaries

A two-part ad-hoc meeting was held among signatories of the Southern Tributaries MOU to discuss potential updates to farm-gate irrigation allocation. The discussion balanced the need to make timely, data-based decisions, to optimize agricultural productivity given basin conditions, and to optimize long term storage in key reservoirs. The ad-hoc meeting was in alignment with the Memorandum of Understanding and did not impact the activation status of the agreements.

## Basin Conditions – Reservoir level projections

The Government of Alberta has managed Waterton, St Mary, Milk River Ridge (WSM) reservoirs to maximize storage to recover from the low levels from 2023 season end. It is expected that the St. Mary Reservoir will not reach full supply level as snow melt is near completion and demand is starting to increase.

At the request of the MOU signatories, the Government of Alberta assessed the combined year-end water storage volumes within the WSM reservoirs under a range of seasonal irrigation allocation demand increases within irrigation districts. This analysis informed a targeted combined year-end water storage volume for these reservoirs of 39% to optimize storage for winter carry over and support a range of allocation increases from 8" to a mix of 9" and 10" amongst the districts.

The impact of the St Mary Siphon break on the Southern Tributaries was factored into discussions. Based on current projections by Government of Alberta, it was determined that the additional water for farm gate allocation would be minimal, i.e. less than 0.5".

## Drought Management Metrics

Drought management metrics will be reported following the next regular MOU meeting.

## Summary of Management actions by MOU signatories

### Irrigation districts

All irrigation districts made the unanimous decision to increase their seasonal irrigation allocation from 8 inches per acre, factoring the WSM storage targets detailed above. The actual increase in allocation will be different for each irrigation district, given the variation of conditions and priorities upstream and downstream of the WSM headworks.

- Magrath Irrigation District: 10"
- Mountain View Irrigation District: 10"
- Raymond Irrigation District: 9"
- Southwest Irrigation District: 10"
- St. Mary River Irrigation District: 9"
- United Irrigation District: 10"

### Municipalities

The County of Warner, being the only municipal signatory in this MOU, will continue to implement restrictions as previously committed.

## Communication with Water License Holders (Non-Signatory to the MOU)

Water users that operate under their own water license, outside of municipal or district conveyances, have previously been asked by the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas to match the water use reductions of the MOU signatories.

Licensees affected by the updated irrigation allocation will be notified. Additional information may be obtained at [alberta.ca/drought](https://alberta.ca/drought).