

# Water Sharing Memorandum of Understanding Meeting Report – October 10, 2024

## Southern Tributaries

### Water Sharing Memorandum of Understanding Activation Status

Based on conditions in the basins, operational needs and other considerations, the MOU Signatories in the Southern Tributaries have made the unanimous decision **to deactivate the Water Sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**. October 10<sup>th</sup> was the last of the regularly scheduled Water Sharing MOU meetings. The Water Sharing MOU remains in effect until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

### Basin Conditions Summary

Over the past two weeks, precipitation within the Southern Tributaries of the Oldman basin have been variable but are within normal range with temperatures above normal. Streamflows in the Southern Tributaries are normal for this time of year and all instream objectives on mainstream rivers are being met. Most key reservoirs are within their usual range, and reservoir levels are stable and within normal levels for this time of year.

### Drought Management Metrics

- 1. **Instream Objectives**
  - All mainstem instream objectives in the basins are being met.
- 2. **Shortages<sup>1</sup>**
  - There are no reported shortages in the basins.
- 3. **Reservoir levels (as of October 8)**
  - Most GoA reservoirs are within normal range and are being operated to maintain winter targets.

Type of managed reservoir	Reservoir name	Normal storage (%)	Current storage (%)	Comments
GoA	Oldman Reservoir	62-79	61	2% decrease from last meeting
GoA	Keho Reservoir	83-86	88	2% decrease from last meeting
GoA	Chain Lakes	88-100	97	2% decrease from last meeting
GoA	Pine Coulee	59-87	58	No change from last meeting
GoA	Waterton	18-55	29	14% decrease from last meeting
GoA	St. Mary	38-69	48	No change from last meeting
GoA	Payne Lake	69-82	85	9% decrease from last meeting
GoA	Milk River Ridge	86-87	83	1% decrease from last meeting
Private	Chin Reservoir	65-77	81	11% increase from last meeting
Private	Murray	55-64	47	4% decrease from last meeting
Private	40 Mile	87-97	95	5% increase from last meeting

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this report, shortages refer to impacts on MOU Signatories beyond projected demand.

## Summary of Management actions by MOU Signatories


### Irrigation districts

Irrigation season has come to an end, all irrigation districts within the Southern Tributaries have been shut down with the last districts shutting down October 11<sup>th</sup>. Through their shutdown process districts will be dewatering systems and preparing for winter operations.

Overall, irrigation districts have met their farm-gate allocation targets, with most districts reporting lower farm-gate allocations than target.

### Municipalities

Warner County, being the only municipal MOU Signatory to this MOU, is continuing to enact educational programs and communication strategies to conserve water within their communities.

Warner County has reported a 21% reduction in water use throughout the county compared to last year, exceeding their MOU commitments. 

## 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.

Private irrigators impacted by updated irrigation allocation have been notified via mail or email. Additional information may be obtained at [alberta.ca/drought](https://alberta.ca/drought).

# Water Sharing Memorandum of Understanding Meeting Report – October 10, 2024

## Oldman South Saskatchewan River Basin

### Water Sharing Memorandum of Understanding Activation Status

Based on conditions in the basins, operational needs and other considerations, the MOU Signatories in the Oldman and South Saskatchewan River basins have made the unanimous decision **to deactivate the Water Sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**. October 10<sup>th</sup> was the last of the regularly scheduled Water Sharing MOU meetings. The Water Sharing MOU remains in effect until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

### Basin Conditions Summary

The Oldman and South Saskatchewan River basins have seen variable precipitation over the last two weeks; however, it is still within typical range given the above-average temperatures. For this time of year, streamflows are typical, and mainstem rivers are meeting all instream objectives. Many key reservoirs are within their typical range.

### Drought Management Metrics

#### Instream Objectives

All mainstem instream objectives in the basins are being met.

#### Shortages<sup>1</sup>

There are no reported shortages in the basins.

#### Reservoir levels (as of October 8)

Most GoA reservoirs are within normal range and are being operated to maintain winter targets.

Type of managed reservoir	Reservoir name	Normal storage (%)	Current storage (%)	Comments
GoA	Oldman Reservoir	62-79	61	2% decrease from last meeting
GoA	Keho Reservoir	83-86	88	2% decrease from last meeting
GoA	Chain Lakes	88-100	97	2% decrease from last meeting
GoA	Pine Coulee	59-87	58	No change from last meeting
GoA	Waterton	18-55	29	14% decrease from last meeting
GoA	St. Mary	38-69	48	No change from last meeting
GoA	Payne Lake	69-82	85	9% decrease from last meeting
GoA	Milk River Ridge	86-87	83	1% decrease from last meeting
Private	Chin Reservoir	65-77	81	11% increase from last meeting
Private	Murray	55-64	47	4% decrease from last meeting
Private	40 Mile	87-97	95	5% increase from last meeting

## Summary of Management actions by MOU Signatories

### Irrigation districts

Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District (LNID), being the only irrigation district signatory to this MOU, is ending their irrigation season on October 11. As part of their shutdown process, LNID will be dewatering their system and preparing for winter.

Overall, LNID reported water use below their 13" farm-gate allocation target, with an average of 8" per irrigated acre across the district.

### Municipalities

Municipalities continue to ask for voluntary water reductions and are continuing to see decreases in use. Municipalities continue to enact educational programs and communication strategies to conserve water within their communities. Municipalities are in the process of shutting down internal irrigation.

Overall, municipalities reductions in water use ranged from approximately 13 – 23.5% as compared to previous year(s), exceeding their MOU commitments.

## 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.

Private irrigators impacted by updated irrigation allocation have been notified via mail or email. Additional information may be obtained at [alberta.ca/drought](http://alberta.ca/drought).

# Water Sharing Memorandum of Understanding Meeting Report – October 10, 2024

## Red Deer River Basin

### Water Sharing Memorandum of Understanding Activation Status

Based on conditions in the basin, operational needs and other observations, the MOU Signatories have made the unanimous decision **not to activate the Water Sharing Memorandum of Understanding at this time**. October 10<sup>th</sup> was the last of the regularly scheduled Water Sharing MOU meetings. The Water Sharing MOU remains in effect until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

### Basin Conditions Summary

There has been minimal recorded precipitation in tandem with higher-than-normal temperatures in September. Government of Alberta (GoA) managed reservoirs are within normal range for this time of year. Low flows are reported in some headwater streams (e.g., Blindman River), however all mainstem instream objectives relevant to the Water Sharing Memorandum of Understanding are being met.

#### Drought Management Metrics

##### Instream Objectives

All mainstem instream objectives in the basin are being met.

##### Shortages<sup>1</sup>

There are no reported shortages in the basin.

##### Reservoir levels (as of October 8)

GoA managed reservoirs are at normal levels for this time of year.

Type of Managed Reservoir	Reservoir	Normal storage (%)	Current storage (%)	Comments
GoA	Dickson Dam/Gleniffer	95-100	100	No change from last meeting
Private	Crawling Valley	76-84	87	No change from last meeting
Private	Snake Lake	77-88	72	18% decrease from last meeting

### Summary of Management Actions by MOU Signatories

#### Municipalities

Municipalities and regional water commissions have experienced normal demand as compared to last year. Municipalities and regional water commissions continue to promote voluntary, educational programs and communication strategies to conserve water within their communities.

#### Industries

Industrial signatories continue to maintain normal operations and are implementing water reductions where possible.