



Executive Summary

Prairie Water Annual Partners' Meeting 2022 Report

This executive summary provides a brief report of discussions and learning points from the Annual Partner's Meeting in February 2022.

Exploring Prairie Water's knowledge mobilization network.

- Knowledge transfer from Prairie Water to users happens directly with partners and indirectly through partners.
- Direct knowledge transfer with users is an opportunity to test and refine data and products at local scales
- Bi-directional knowledge transfer activities such as pilot studies and research project collaborations are effective for refining data and products for users
- Indirect transfer through intermediaries is an opportunity to reach larger audiences.
- Collaboration and/or co-development of education programs, education materials and guidance with "association" type partners are effective ways of transferring knowledge to larger audiences
- Weaknesses in Prairie Water's knowledge mobilization network include a lack of connection with senior government decision-makers, municipal government associations, and Indigenous communities

Mobilizing Prairie Water and other new knowledge in water management decisions.

- Incomplete and fragmented data, loss of government and academic extension activities, existing decision-making processes, and relationships between institutions influence the availability of knowledge for decision-making.
- Misconceptions, different priorities, and incomplete information contributes to conflict and mistrust between different user groups. Some sources of knowledge may be considered less trustworthy
- Knowledge can be used to play the 'blame game', assigning responsibility for solving problems to specific user groups, rather than taking collective responsibility
- External factors such as market forces and politics can constrain the choices available to water users, and require decisions to be made urgently with incomplete information.

Key messages for Prairie Water going forward.

- We need to be aware of our knowledge mobilization network and take advantage of its strengths.
- We need to be aware of the gaps and weaknesses in our knowledge mobilization network and keep trying to address these.
- We need to avoid presenting information in ways that appear to assign blame or responsibility. Our goal is to understand water resources on the prairie to help decision-makers manage them effectively into an uncertain future. Our goal is not to make any judgement on past water resource management.