Manitoba
Infrastructure

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

April 9, 2019 – 9:00 am

Flood Watch*: - **Roseau River**

Flood Warning*: - **Red River, from Emerson to the Red River Floodway Channel Inlet**

Summary

- Manitoba Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre entered into operational forecasting mode today which means that forecasts for areas of potential flooding will be updated on a daily basis.

- All flow and water level information is based on data available at 7:00 am. Flood sheets with updated information will be posted later today at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.

- Manitoba Infrastructure has prepared and positioned flood fighting equipment such as pumps and sandbags into areas of potential concern.

- Much of the snow has already melted in southern Manitoba. A portion of the snowpack remains in the Duck Mountain, Riding Mountain and Porcupine Mountain areas. Northern Manitoba remains snow covered.

- Flows on the Pembina, Souris, Whitemouth, Whitemud Rivers, and most major tributaries of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers are low, with water levels close to their peak or beginning to decline.

- Generally, significant or full ice cover is reported on all major Manitoba lakes. The water levels on Manitoba's major lakes are relatively stable and within normal ranges.

- Any questions or concerns about flood mitigation should be directed first to the municipal authority. Questions about forecasts, water levels, provincial waterways, or provincial water control infrastructure can be directed to 204-945-1165 or by email to floodinfo@gov.mb.ca.

Weather

- Above-zero daytime temperatures and sub-freezing overnight lows continue to sustain a slow rate of melt. No major storm systems are forecasted for southern Manitoba over the next ten days.

Red River Basin

- The USA National Weather Service has advised that the Red River crested at Fargo yesterday at just above 35 feet.

- Water levels on the main stem of the Red River in Manitoba have been rising for a number of days. The Red River at Emerson rose 3.4 feet in the last 24 hours and is expected to rise above bankfull capacity around April 10. The peak flow at Emerson is forecasted at approximately 67,200 cfs (1,900 cms) and a water level of 789.2 feet (240.5 m) between April 16 - 19. The forecast is being assessed on an ongoing basis and updates will be provided regularly.

- Provincial crews are deployed in a number of communities in the Red River Valley preparing for potential ring dike closures. A partial ring dike closure is currently underway at Emerson but the community remains accessible by road. A partial ring dike closure is expected at Morris on PTH 75 North between April 14 – 16.

- The Red River Floodway is now expected to begin operations over the weekend but may be delayed until ice is flowing freely at the Floodway control structure. The forecasted peak flow on the Red River Floodway is estimated at approximately 25,000 cfs (710 cms).

Roseau River

- Water levels on the Roseau River continue to rise. The forecasted peak flow at Gardenton is 3,800 cfs (110 cms) and is expected to occur between April 16 - 18.

Assiniboine River Basin

- The Shellmouth Reservoir was drawn down over the winter in preparation for spring runoff. Water levels are beginning to rise due to increased runoff flows into the reservoir. The reservoir water level is at 1393.4 feet. Inflows to the reservoir are approximately 1,980 cfs (55 cms) and outflows are 35 cfs (1 cms). There are minor increases in flows at some points on the river due to local runoff from recent precipitation events. The Shellmouth Reservoir Regulation Liaison Committee will meet as required to re-assess runoff volumes and discuss operation scenarios.

- Flows and water levels upstream of the Portage Diversion have peaked and are beginning to decline. Operation of the Portage Diversion began on April 6 and will continue to limit flows on the Lower Assiniboine to less than 5,000 cfs (140 cms) to manage ice while it is still in place downstream. The current flow down the Portage Diversion is 240 cfs (7 cms). Ice in the Assiniboine River upstream of Portage La Prairie continues to break up which will cause fluctuations to Portage Reservoir inflows and Portage Diversion flows over the next several days.

***Definitions**

Flood Warning: A flood warning is issued when river or lake levels are exceeding or are expected to be exceeding flood stage within the next 24 hours.

Flood Watch: A flood watch is issued when river or lake levels are approaching and likely to reach flood stage, but likely not within the next 24 hours.

High Water Advisory: A high water advisory is issued when a heavy storm or high flows are expected and may cause water levels to rise, but not necessarily reach flood stage. A high water advisory can be an early indicator for conditions that may develop into a flood watch or flood warning.