

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

April 7, 2020

**High Water Advisory*: - The Red River, from Emerson to the Red River
Floodway Inlet Control Structure**

Summary

- All flow and water level information is based on data available at 7:00 am. Morning Conditions reports, with current water level data, are available on the department's website, and flood sheets with updated forecast information will be posted at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- Daytime temperatures in southern Manitoba are expected to remain above zero throughout the week, while dropping just below freezing overnight. It is expected that most of the snow in southern Manitoba, and the USA portion of the Red and Souris River basins will melt by Thursday. Temperatures in central and northern Manitoba, including the Assiniboine River basin, are expected to remain below freezing starting Thursday and all the way until mid-April. These cooler temperatures will slow melting and delay runoff in these areas.
- Yesterday's minor storm system brought 20 – 25 mm of precipitation in areas north of Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg, including The Pas area. The southern portion of Manitoba received minimal precipitation, while areas in central Manitoba and Interlake region received 5 – 10 mm of precipitation.
- Yesterday the USGS (The United States Geological Survey) recorded flows of 53,700 cfs (1,520.61 cms) at Grand Forks, North Dakota and 53,900 cfs (1526.28 cms) at Oslo, North Dakota. These measurements indicate that flows and levels on the Red River north of Emerson are predicted to be at the upper range of the forecasted flows and levels, which is near 2006 conditions.
- 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

- Daytime temperatures in southern Manitoba are expected to remain above zero throughout the week, while dropping just below freezing overnight. It is expected that most of the snow in southern Manitoba, and the USA portion of the Red and Souris River basins will melt by Thursday. Temperatures in central and northern Manitoba, including the Assiniboine River basin, are expected to remain below freezing starting Thursday and all the way until mid-April. These cooler temperatures will slow melting and delay runoff in these areas.

- Yesterday's minor storm system brought 20 – 25 mm of precipitation in areas north of Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg, including The Pas area. The southwest portion of Manitoba received minimal precipitation, while areas in the southeastern corner of Manitoba and northern Minnesota received 5 – 10 mm of precipitation. See Figure 1 below for a map showing the observed precipitation for the last 24 hours. There are no significant storms in the short-term forecast.

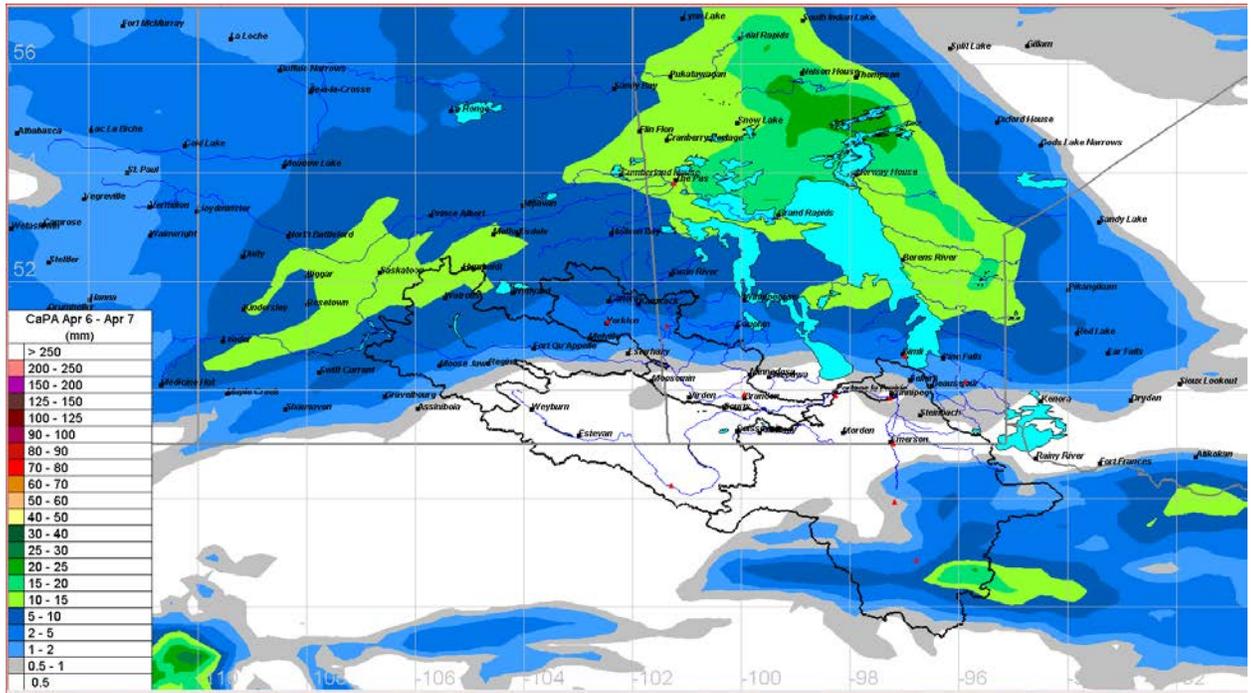


Figure 1: Observed precipitation April 6-7 (Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada)

Red River Basin

- Water levels on most of the main stem of the Red River continue to rise slowly. Readings at individual stations may be affected by ice on the river as some sections of the river begin to open up. Over the last 24 hours the water level rose by 1.2 feet (0.37 m) at Fargo as warm temperatures begin to melt the recent snowfall. Water levels decreased by 0.1 feet (0.03 m) at Grand Forks but are anticipated to rise throughout the week as the snowmelt continues. Water levels rose by 1.5 feet (0.46 m) at Emerson, 1.1 feet (0.34 m) at Morris, and 1.0 feet (0.30 m) at Ste. Agathe.
- Yesterday the USGS recorded flows of 53,700 cfs (1,521 cms) at Grand Forks, North Dakota and 53,900 cfs (1526 cms) at Oslo, North Dakota. These measurements indicate that flows and levels on the Red River north of Emerson are predicted to be at the upper range of the forecasted flows and levels, which is near 2006 conditions. Manual flow measurements to verify current flow estimates will be conducted over the coming days along the Red River in Manitoba as the ice begins to clear out. Conditions will continue to be monitored and the latest forecast information for the Red River is available online at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- Manitoba Infrastructure will endeavour to keep PTH 75 open for as long as possible but portions of the highway may need to be closed as water levels rise on the Red River.

- Partial dike closures at Emerson on both the Noyes and West Lynne dikes will be implemented later in the week. Both diked areas will remain accessible by road after the partial closures. Additional closures may be required in communities along the Red River as water levels begin rising towards the upper range of the forecast.
- Manitoba Infrastructure has prepared and positioned flood fighting equipment such as pumps and water-filled barriers into areas of potential concern. Pumping operations are underway at some ring dike communities. Flood response teams are observing recommended public health mitigation measures for COVID-19.
- Water from the Red River has started to flow naturally into the Floodway channel. The gates at the Red River Floodway inlet control structure are expected to be operated later in the week, as river flows increase and once ice conditions permit. The current water level at James Ave is 16.5 feet (5.03 m), a rise of 2.0 feet (0.61 m) in the last 24 hours. This rise is due to ice pile-up downstream as the river ice within the city has broken-up and is moving at some locations.
- Some ice pile-up has been reported downstream of Lockport causing river levels to rise, however river levels are still within bank.
- Red River tributaries are beginning to respond to the warmer temperatures and the snowpack from last week is beginning to melt. Over the last 24 hours the water level rose by 2.9 feet (0.88 m) on the Elm Creek Channel near Elm Creek, 2.6 feet (0.79 m) on Tourond Creek, and 6.2 feet (1.89 m) on the Manning Canal near Ile des Chenes.

Assiniboine River Basin

- Some water monitoring stations on the upper Assiniboine River appear to be ice affected as sections of the river begin to open up.
- Temperatures in the Assiniboine River basin are expected to remain cool until mid-April. These cooler temperatures will slow melting and delay runoff. The Assiniboine River is expected to largely stay within banks at most locations, with a risk of overland flooding on low lying agricultural land. The latest forecast information for the Assiniboine River is available online at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.
- The water level on the Shellmouth Dam Reservoir decreased slightly to 1,395.5 feet (425.4 m); outflows remain at 800 cfs (23 cms) and inflows have increased to 275 cfs (8 cms). The Shellmouth Reservoir Regulation Liaison Committee will meet on Thursday to discuss operating scenarios.
- Operation of the Portage Diversion to clear ice from the diversion channel continues. Flow down the channel is currently 180 cfs (5.1 cms). The current operation is being done in anticipation of later operation to manage ice and limit flow on the Lower Assiniboine to less than 5,000 cfs (142 cms).

Souris River

- Water levels on most sections of the Souris River are relatively stable with some sections seeing minor increases and other sections seeing minor decreases. The river remains well within bankfull capacity.

Eastern Region

- Water levels on rivers and creeks in the eastern region are relatively stable, with some areas seeing minor increases. All rivers and creeks are reported within bankfull capacity.
- Over the last 24 hours the water level rose by 2.4 feet (0.73 m) on the Brokenhead River at Beausejour and by 3.3 feet (1 m) on Devils Creek near Libau.

Interlake Region

- Water levels on rivers and creeks in the Interlake are relatively stable and remain within bankfull capacity.
- Ice cover remains intact on the Fisher River but is beginning to break up in some sections of the Icelandic River.

Parkland Region

- Due to colder temperatures in the region, water levels on some rivers and creeks in the Parkland Region are seeing minor increases while others are seeing decreases, all remain within bankfull capacity.
- Over the last 24 hours the water level increased by 0.8 feet (0.24 m) on the Swan River in Town of Swan River and 1.0 feet (0.30 m) on the Turtle River near Laurier, and decreased by 2.7 feet (0.82 m) on the Valley River near Dauphin.

Manitoba Lakes

- Generally, significant or full ice cover is reported on all major Manitoba lakes and there are no concerns with ice movement at this time.
- The water levels on Manitoba's major lakes are relatively stable and within normal or desirable ranges. Lake levels will be posted later today at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.

***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.