

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

April 16, 2020

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

High Water Advisory*: - **Red River, from Lockport to Netley Creek**

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.
- A flood warning is in place for the Red River from Emerson to the Red River Floodway inlet, just south of the City of Winnipeg as the Red River is spilling its banks in most of these areas.
- A high water advisory is in place for the Red River from Lockport to Netley Creek as water levels remain high and will continue to rise as the peak moves down the river.
- The peak on the Red River at Emerson is anticipated between April 18 and 21 and is expected to reach the Red River Floodway inlet control structure between April 23 and 25. Between Emerson and Letellier, the upper range of the forecast is just above 2006 spring levels, whereas areas north of Letellier are below 2006 spring levels. With the operation of the Floodway, the Red River level in Winnipeg at James Avenue is expected to peak between 19.0 feet and 19.5 feet between April 19 and April 23.
- Some roads are impacted by high water levels. For detours and a complete list of road closures please call 511 or visit www.manitoba511.ca.
 - The northernmost extent of PR 320, 6 km north of PTH 4 is closed.
- 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

- There are no significant storms in the short term forecast, some precipitation may occur in central and northern Manitoba but it will have a minor impact on the flood risk on those areas.

Red River Basin

- Water levels on most of the main stem of the Red River continue to rise. This morning's current water levels and the latest forecast information are summarized below. Between Emerson and Letellier, the upper range of the forecast is just above 2006 spring levels,

whereas areas north of Letellier are below 2006 spring levels. 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.

	Today's level	Forecasted peak	
		Level	Date
Emerson	788.3 feet (240.27 m)	789.4 - 790.0 feet (240.6 - 240.8 m)	April 18-21
Letellier	783.2 feet (238.72 m)	784.1 - 784.8 feet (239.0 - 239.2 m)	April 20-22
St. Jean Baptiste	777.4 feet (236.95 m)	779.5 - 780.2 feet (237.6 - 237.8 m)	April 22-24
Morris – PTH 23	773.1 feet (235.64 m)	776.6 - 777.2 feet (236.7 - 236.9 m)	April 22-24
Ste. Agathe	764.7 feet (233.08 m)	768.0 - 768.7 feet (234.1 - 234.3 m)	April 23-25
St. Adolphe*	761.2 feet (232.01 m)	762.8 - 763.8 feet (232.5 - 232.8 m)	April 23-25
Above Floodway Inlet	757.7 feet (230.95 m)	761.2 - 762.1 feet (232.0 - 232.3 m)	April 23-25

Note: water levels at Emerson and Ste Agathe will differ from those posted on the Water Survey of Canada website because different vertical datums are in use. For conversion information please see the most recent flood sheet.

* Water Survey of Canada verified the water level at the St. Adolphe gauge yesterday. A sensor correction was applied which increased today's water level reading. The actual change in water level over the past 24 hours at St. Adolphe is approximately 0.49 feet (0.15 m).

- Manitoba Infrastructure continues construction of a ramped closure on PTH 75 on the north side of Morris as part of efforts to keep the highway open for as long as possible. The peak water level on the Red River at Morris will determine if there is a need for a full closure over the next few days.
- Provincial crews are deployed in a number of communities in the Red River Valley preparing for and implementing ring dike closures. Pumping operations are underway at most ring dike communities. Flood response teams are observing recommended public health mitigation measures for COVID-19.
 - Partial dike closures are in place at Emerson on both the Noyes and West Lynne dikes, both diked areas remain accessible by road.
 - A ramped closure on the north side of St. Adolphe at PR 200 is in place. The highway ditches on the south end have been filled in to prevent water from backing up into town.
 - A partial dike closure is in place on the east end of St. Jean Baptiste, the community remains accessible by PTH 75.
 - A partial dike closure on the east side of Letellier at PR 201 is being constructed today.
- The Red River Floodway continues to be operated under Rule 1, reducing water levels in Winnipeg while maintaining water levels upstream of the inlet control structure at or just below natural. Flow in the Floodway channel was 14,320 cfs (405 cms) this morning.

- The current water level at James Ave is 18.0 feet (5.49 m). With the operation of the Floodway, the Red River level in Winnipeg at James Avenue is expected to peak between 19.0 feet and 19.5 feet between April 19 and April 23.

Assiniboine River Basin

- The water level on the Shellmouth Dam Reservoir is 1,395.9 feet (425.47 m), and inflow decreased to 518 cfs (15 cms). Following yesterday's meeting to review basin conditions with the Shellmouth Reservoir Regulation Liaison Committee (SLC), outflows remain at 25 cfs (0.7 cms). As part of the normal spring operation plan, the next SLC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd.
- Some sections of the lower Assiniboine River are now open while some areas remain ice covered, however, the ice is beginning to degrade quickly. Flows on the lower Assiniboine River were increased to 5,333 cfs (151 cms) as the risk of ice jamming is low. Flow down the diversion channel is currently at 978 cfs (28 cms).

Northern Manitoba

- Temperature forecasts indicate that snow melt could start in late April in northern Manitoba regions, including the Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers.
- Due to the near normal to slightly lower than normal snow content in many northern Manitoba basins, the rivers are expected to remain within the banks at most locations. The flood risk is generally low for northern Manitoba basins.
- As in previous years, there is a risk of ice pile up and ice jamming that could create a sudden rise of levels on these basins in a short period of time.

Manitoba Lakes

- Manitoba's major lakes remain largely ice covered. The largest lakes are reported at 80% or greater ice coverage, with some smaller lakes in southern Manitoba showing 60% or greater ice coverage. Forecasted wind speeds are low 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 lead to a flood watch or flood warning.