

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

April 27, 2020

Flood Warning*: - **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.
- 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 this area.
- The Red River has peaked at all locations in Manitoba (from Emerson to Lake Winnipeg) and water levels are continuing to decline. Water levels at most locations along the Red River, from Emerson to the Floodway inlet control structure, are expected to remain out of bank until early May. Upstream areas, such as Emerson and Letellier, will begin to see quicker declines and water levels drop within bank over the coming weekend.
- A number of roads are impacted by high water levels. For detours and a complete list of road closures please call 511 or visit www.manitoba511.ca.
 - PR 217, from St. Jean Baptiste to PR 200, is closed.
 - PR 246, 1 km north of the PR 217 junction, is closed.
 - The northernmost extent of PR 320, 6 km north of PTH 4 is closed; however, clean up has begun.
- 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

- Portions of the Red River Valley received 10 - 15 mm of precipitation over this past weekend. This precipitation did not have an effect on water levels or flows on the Red River. This precipitation event also brought up to 10 mm of rain to northern areas of Manitoba. Figure 1 shows the observed precipitation across from April 25 to 27.
- An additional 10 mm of precipitation is forecasted for the Red River Valley over the next 48 hours. This forecasted precipitation is not expected to have an effect on water levels or flows on the Red River as water levels continue to decline.

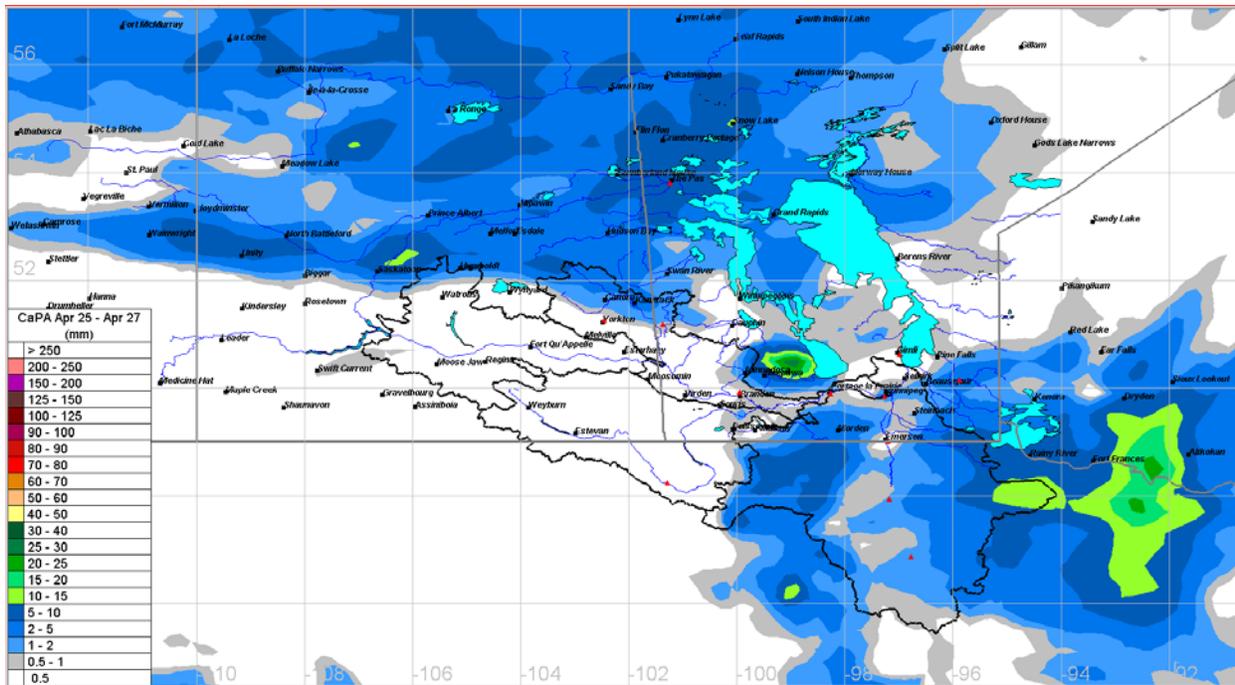


Figure 1: Observed Precipitation from April 25 - 27

- The long range forecast for northern Manitoba is calling for 15 – 20 mm of rain over the coming weekend. This is not anticipated to have a significant impact on the forecasted water levels or flows.

Red River Basin

- The Red River has peaked at all locations in Manitoba (from Emerson to Lake Winnipeg) and water levels are continuing to decline. Water levels at most locations along the Red River, from Emerson to the Floodway inlet control structure, are expected to remain out of bank until early May. Upstream areas, such as Emerson and Letellier, will begin to see quicker declines and water levels drop within bank over the coming weekend. Conditions will continue to be monitored and the latest water level information for the Red River is available online at https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/index.html#river_conditions_plots.
- Provincial crews are deployed in a number of communities in the Red River Valley monitoring ring dike closures. Pumping operations are underway at most ring dike communities. The removal of closures will commence this week as water levels decline to acceptable limits. 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.
 - The partial dike closure on the east side of Letellier at PR 201 will be removed today.
 - A partial dike closure is in place on the east end of St. Jean Baptiste, the community remains accessible by PTH 75.
 - 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.

- 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 17,325 cfs (491 cms) this morning. The Floodway is expected to be operated into early to mid-May depending on weather conditions.
- With the operation of the Floodway, the Red River level in Winnipeg at James Avenue is at 18.6 feet (5.67 m). River levels within the City of Winnipeg will continue to gradually decline over the coming days.

Northern Manitoba

- The snowpack in many northern Manitoba basins, including the Saskatchewan and Carrot River basins, is near normal to slightly lower than normal. Snow is melting as temperatures warm.
- Runoff in northern basins is increasing quickly with warmer temperatures and the amount of runoff is expected to be near normal to slightly above normal, the rivers are expected to remain within the banks at most locations.
- 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.
- Latest flood sheets with forecast information for the Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers can be obtained at https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#forecasts_reports.

Manitoba Lakes

- Manitoba's major lakes remain largely ice-covered but the ice is weak and is beginning to degrade. The largest lakes are reported at 60% or greater ice coverage, with some smaller lakes in southern Manitoba showing as little as 10% ice coverage. Today's wind forecast and the risk of ice pile up on most Manitoba lakes is low.
- Inflow into most lakes has been generally lower than average (about 20 to 30% of historic). Water levels on most Manitoba lakes are expected to be within their operating ranges or near long-term average levels throughout the spring and summer. The risk of lake flooding remains low.
- 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.