

FLOOD REPORT FOR MANITOBA

April 28, 2020

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

Summary

- As water levels are near peak or declining at most locations in Manitoba, Flood Reports will no longer be published as of April 29, 2020 for this season. Information on Manitoba lakes and river conditions will continue to be updated at the following websites:
 - Flood Sheets (https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/?header=3#forecasts_reports)
 - Flood Hydrographs (https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/?header=7#forecasts_reports)
 - Wind Alert Maps (<https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/?header=2#lakes>)
 - Lake Levels (<https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/?header=1#lakes>)
 - River Conditions (https://gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/#river_conditions_plots)
- Flows and levels continue to increase in northern Manitoba basins, including the Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers. Levels are expected to remain within the banks along these river. These rivers are being closely monitored for the potential of ice jam that could raise levels in short period of time.
- 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

- A precipitation system is moving across Manitoba that is expected to bring 15 mm to 20 mm of rain over the next 5 days. This forecasted precipitation is not expected to have a significant impact on the forecasted water levels or flows.
- Long range climate forecasts indicate near normal precipitation for most portions of Manitoba for May and June, with a chance of higher than normal precipitation in northern Manitoba. Climate models predict colder than normal temperatures for most central and southern Manitoba for May and June. Temperatures are forecasted to be near normal to above normal for northern Manitoba for May and June.

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 dike closures has begun at some locations. Additional closures will be removed as water levels decline to acceptable limits. Flood response teams are observing recommended public health mitigation measures for COVID-19.
 - Partial dike closures will be removed at Emerson on both the Noyes and West Lynne dikes today.
 - The partial dike closure on the east side of Letellier at PR 201 was removed yesterday.
 - 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 16,411 cfs (464.71 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 18.5 feet (5.64 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.
- The water level on the Saskatchewan River at The Pas is forecasted to peak between 260.3 and 260.8 m between May 2 and May 5. With these levels, the river is forecasted to remain within banks. The levels on the Saskatchewan and Carrot rivers are being closely monitored. Updated forecast information is being posted on flood sheets on regular basis.
- 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. Based on today's forecast, 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.
- Outflow from Pelican Lake was increased in anticipation of 10 to 15 mm of precipitation in the next 48 hours in the Pelican Lake basin. The lake is expected to remain within its operating range throughout the spring and summer periods.
- 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.