



North Saskatchewan River Basin Council
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Project Report: Water Quality Testing at Little Red River

We greatly appreciate SOEEA's and SaskLotteries' support for "Taking youth outside to test the water quality in their watershed" through the Outdoor Education Experience Grant.

We advertised the project as well as the support through SOEEA and SaskLotteries on our website www.nsrbc.ca, through our facebook and twitter channel, sent a flyer to the school divisions in our watershed and distributed it directly to schools through the three technicians hired for the NSRBC.

While searching for watershed related information on our website, two teachers from Prince Albert Collegiate Institute came across this opportunity and contacted us. After a few conversations, NSRBC staff headed out to the school to give two 45 minute presentations on ground- and surface water to students Grades 10 and 11 (April 30, 2014). The NSRBC has two water models that demonstrate how water and pollutants travel over land and through the ground. The staff discussed possible pollutants, their origin and impact on the environment when running off into a body of water. They also discussed how pollution can be minimized.

On May 7, 2014 two NSRBC staff went to the Little Red River to meet with 20 students from Grade 11 and the two teachers. They enjoyed a lunch together, introduced the students to the water quality test kits and mentioned the support through SOEEA and SaskLotteries. Together with the students the staff discussed why it is important to test water quality, what they will be testing for, what the test results will tell them about the water quality of the river and what can be done to maintain or improve the water quality. The staff handed out a fact sheet to the students which gives a brief overview of the parameters the students will be testing the water for: dissolved oxygen, nitrogen, phosphates, pH and temperature.

The class split into three groups (dissolved oxygen, nitrogen and phosphates). Each group familiarized itself with the test kit and the instructions on how to test the water for either dissolved oxygen, nitrogen or phosphates. The group testing for phosphates also determined the pH and the temperature of the water. Teachers as well as NSRBC staff assisted the students whenever they needed help. NSRBC staff also took the opportunity to briefly talk about riparian health along the river.

The students marked down their test results on a worksheet that was handed out to them, interpreted the results before discharging their samples into a bucket and rinsing the supplies with distilled water. They then rotated to the next station.

After completing all three stations the students determined the overall health and quality of the water.

The advertisement on the website and personal contacts already sparked interest to do the water monitoring field day with another school in the North Saskatchewan River watershed.

This report will shortly be posted on www.nsrbc.ca and communicated through social media and a newsletter.

We thank SOEEA and SaskLotteries for their support!

Program Expenses:

Item	Cost (\$)
Preparation and Consultation with school 5 hours x \$25	125
Travel to site NSRBC: School presentation, water model 260km x \$0.45/km	117
Water monitoring 260km + 350km x \$0.45/km	274.50
Field day: 2 staff x 3 hours x \$25	50
1 staff x 2 hours x \$25	150
Total	966.50
Total in-kind NSRBC	503.50
Total SOEEA OEE Grant	463