

**Fork River Low-level Crossing  
Replacement – Environmental  
Assessment Report**

PREPARED FOR:

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MOSSEY  
RIVER



**Stantec**

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## Sign-off Sheet



**Stantec**

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## Executive Summary

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The Rural Municipality (RM) of Mossey River is proposing to replace an existing low-level crossing over the Fork River located at NW 27-29-20W, approximately eight miles (13 km) west of Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) 20 and one mile (1.6 km) west of Provincial Road (PR) 269.

The existing low-level crossing was damaged during flooding caused by a heavy rainfall event in June 2010. The rains caused the river to rise appreciably; increased flow and the associated debris blocked the culverts and undermined the structural integrity of the bridge. The purpose of the Project is to provide a reliable means to ford the Fork River at the point of the existing structure.

The existing low-level crossing is a concrete slab with a ten barrel steel pipe culvert. The current structure has several plugged culverts and the concrete slab above has cracked and settled in several locations. The replacement structure is proposed to be ten, 17.5-m-long, arched corrugated metal pipes (CMP) with a cast-in-place concrete deck. Stantec's assessment of the proposed low-level crossing indicates that the potential environmental effects would be of low to moderate significance due to the following factors:

- The proposed low-level crossing will have a similar in-water footprint as the existing crossing.
- The hydraulics of the proposed low-level crossing meets all fish passage requirements during high and low flows.
- The hydraulic openings will be open bottom culverts and wider than those in the existing crossing.

Situated within the Lake Manitoba Plain Ecoregion and the Prairie Ecozone of south-central Manitoba, the Project lies within the Dauphin Ecodistrict. The natural vegetation in the ecodistrict has been strongly altered by agricultural development. Nearby communities include the settled areas of Zelana and Ukraina and the villages of Ethelbert and Fork River. The existing Fork River low-level crossing primarily services local traffic within the vicinity of the Project site. Removal of the existing low-level crossing may cause some minimal disturbance to the Fork River but this disturbance is anticipated to be temporary and short term. The construction of the replacement crossing is anticipated to cause minimal disturbance to the Fork River and be of low risk to fish and fish habitat. Construction is anticipated to commence in the fall of 2013, pending regulatory approval.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is being submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements for an *Environment Act* Licence.



## **Study Team**

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The study team involved in this assessment included:

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