

Water Dispatch

Water information and commentary

Spring 2017

Growing Forward 2 puts Money in Your Pocket While Increasing Efficiency

When irrigators increase their efficiency, they save money. To top that off, the Provincial government wants to give you money to do exactly that.

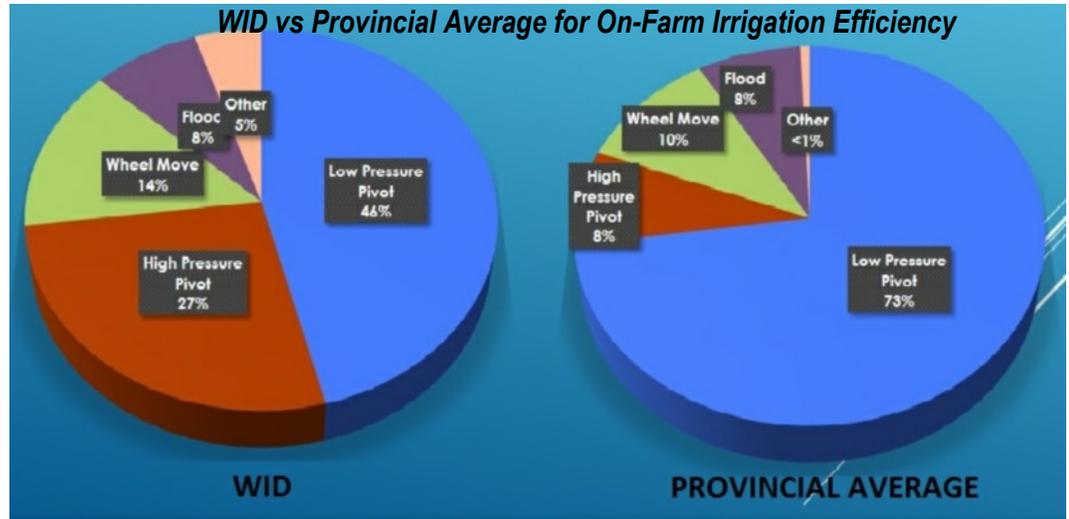
The WID hosted half day seminars on current opportunities in irrigation on January 19 in Cheadle and Nightingale. The District highlighted the programs available, and focused on ways that producers can access them.

Standard area producer Phillip Larsen of Valebourne Farms utilized Growing Forward 2 Irrigation Efficiency funding to convert from high-pressure impact sprinklers to low-pressure nozzles a few years back.

He started years ago with water drive pivots and overhead impact sprinklers requiring 60psi minimum at the pivot point. Now with the drop and low-pressure nozzles, he can run at 40psi at the pivot point.

“That’s quite a savings in energy,” Larsen said, also noting the water savings. “I couldn’t believe the difference. With high pressure impact sprinklers you stand out in the wind when it’s 28 above and you can see at least 30% of the water disappearing before it hits the ground. With the drops and the low pressure, I would say 90% of it goes in the ground.”

Larsen explained that the application process wasn’t too difficult. It’s a matter of *Cont. Page 2*



Growing Forward 2 grants help farmers invest in low-pressure pivot systems so there is more water to go around.



The WID hosted seminars on current opportunities in irrigation. These were well-attended, and provided participants with insights into available programs and technologies. - WID photo

Growing Forward 2 - continued from page 1

telling the story of what you're going to do and why. He also obtained another grant through a Provincial energy efficiency program and upgraded his system to a variable frequency drive with automated computer controls.

He feels the money he got back more than made up for the time he put into applying.

Increasing efficiency benefits all water users in the system. Contact the WID for more information on how you can put Growing Forward 2 dollars to work for you.

“For spending a day in the office writing the application, it’s certainly worthwhile. It’s the best money you’ll make as a farmer.”
- Phillip Larsen of Valebourne Farms on Growing Forward 2

WID AGM

The WID held a successful Annual General Meeting on April 5.

The meeting was focused on:

- Activating idle acres
- Investing in water efficiency in the WID network and on the farm
- Locating acres closer to the canal
- Advancing water quality projects

Visit www.wid.net/archive for access to the full Annual Report

Key Opportunities in Growing Forward 2:

- Up to \$15,000 available for replacement of less efficient systems with new low-pressure pivots
- Up to 40% funding for efficiency upgrades
- Farmers can now apply for one grant per parcel per year (rather than one grant total per year)
- Funding can now be retroactive for systems purchased since April 1, 2013

Winter Construction a Success

The WID focused on the Standard area for winter construction this year. Materials from the Wheatland Regional Corporation's reservoir construction were utilized in the rehabilitation of 8 km of canal on the Secondary B system. The cooperation between these two organizations enabled the WID to reduce cost for this portion of the construction.

Additionally, the WID laid 14 km of pipeline on the Jensen and McCallum laterals.

“The completion of the projects will benefit farmers in the area by enhancing water delivery,” said WID General Manager, David McAllister. “It reduces water loss, increase efficiency, and improves water quality.”



WID Photo

Staff Changes at the WID

The WID has introduced the new position, Assistant Water Master, and would like to congratulate Joey Mordy on his promotion to this role. Joey held previous positions as a Water District Supervisor in both Strathmore and Gleichen/Cluny.

With this change, Water District Supervisor Joe Friedman has transferred from Crowfoot to Gleichen/Cluny, and JR Dunbar from Strathmore to Crowfoot. These shifts allow them more flexibility and reduced driving distances.

To fill the gap in Strathmore, the WID welcomes new hire Jaye Wegener. Jaye has previous experience working in agriculture and for Wheatland County, and brings this knowledge into the role.

The WID is also pleased to announce the transitions of Eric Beingsessner into the role of Operations and Maintenance Supervisor and Cory Krahenbil as Construction Superintendent upon the retirements of John Kost and Dennis Kiemeny.

Additionally, the WID hired a new General Manager with the retirement of Erwin Braun. See article on Page 3.

WID Receives \$1.8 million in Provincial Funding

The WID is pleased to announce that the North Cluny Tailout project has been approved for funding by the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program (IRP). The IRP granted the District \$1.8 million in Provincial funding, which accounts for 75% of the cost. The WID will cover the remaining 25%.

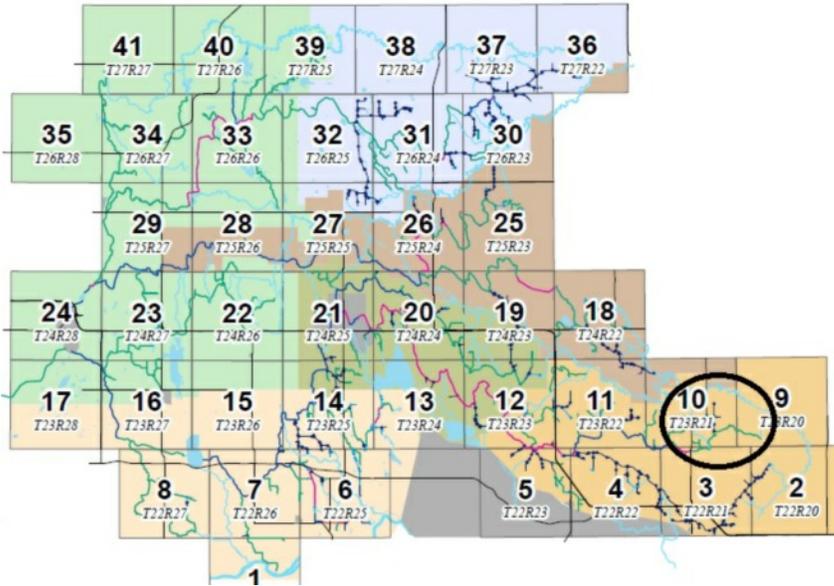
This is an excellent example of how combined efforts of the farmers and WID, along with Provincial funding, create opportunities for irrigation in our District. This project will increase irrigation capacity in this region, servicing up to 1750 acres. This includes existing acres, as well as a sizable potential for expansion.

Farmers have contributed to the success of this project by:

- Consolidating idle acres on multiple parcels to single parcels.
- Completing land classifications as required under the Irrigation Districts Act.
- Investing in high-efficiency irrigation systems that apply water more effectively, allowing for more water to be available for other farmers.

“The WID will continue to invest in rehabilitation of our canal network,” McAllister said. “We appreciate the farmers’ efforts that make this possible, and the Provincial funding recognizing our efforts in this regard.”

**Circled Area Represents the Western Irrigation District
North Cluny Tailout Project**



David McAllister Hired as the WID's New General Manager

The WID would like to introduce David McAllister, our new General Manager. David started with the WID in October, and worked with past manager, Erwin Braun, through December to ensure a smooth transition.

David was selected by the Board after a six-month search process using a nationally recognized executive search firm. Candidates from as far away as California and across western Canada were assessed during this process and David was selected to lead the WID into the future.

David is enjoying his role at the WID, and is glad to be living closer to family. He was born in Calgary, and graduated from the University of Calgary.

David's background includes engineering, agricultural water delivery, drainage and administration. His formal education in management and engineering combines well with his utility sector work experience in making him the ideal manager to lead the WID into the future.

David has worked for the Government of Alberta, City of Victoria and as the Director of Engineering and Public Works at the District of Central Saanich.

“I appreciate the opportunity to work full time in agriculture, providing service to farmers,” McAllister said. “I’m looking forward to meeting the irrigators of the District. I would be glad to have you stop by the office.”



David McAllister - WID's new General Manager

Notice of Acclamation



WID Photo

Irrigation Districts Act
(Section 61 (3), (5))

NOTICE OF ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION

TAKE NOTE that only one nomination was received for the election of a member to the Board of Directors of the Western Irrigation District in Electoral Divisions 2 and 5. When only one nomination is received for an electoral division, the nominee is elected by acclamation and balloting is not required. Therefore, I declare Henry Nicholas Colpoys to be elected as Director for Electoral Division 2 and Raymond Paul Kettenbach to be elected as Director for Electoral Division 5 of the Western Irrigation District.

Dated at the Town of Strathmore in the Province of Alberta, this 1st day of March 2017.

David McAllister

David McAllister
Returning Officer

Activate Your Acres!

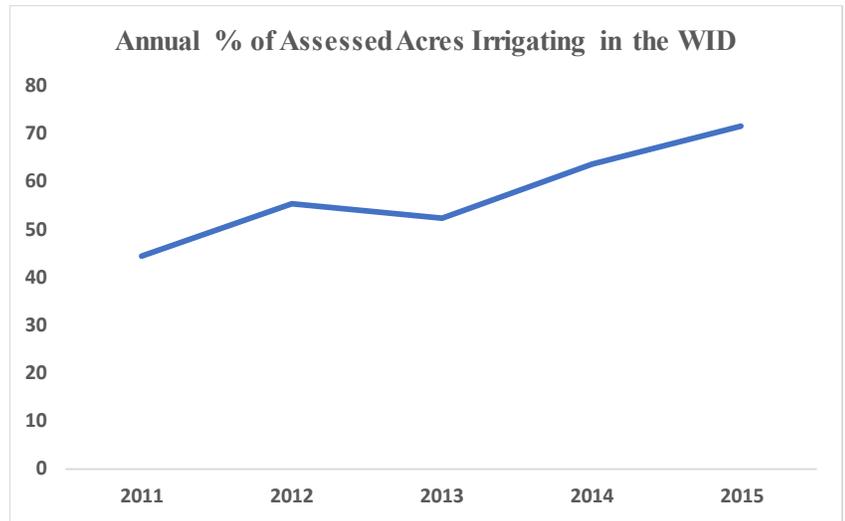
Do you have irrigation acres that you aren't using? Are you retiring and hanging up your pivot? Taking a year off of irrigation crops but planning to go at it again next year? Don't let those acres sit idle!

When you enable irrigation acres you aren't using to be utilized, you directly increase productivity in our region. Inactive acres are a continuing challenge within the WID, but there has been recent improvements. The District has seen the number of parcels actively irrigating increase by 27% between 2011 and 2016.

Producers have the option of either permanently transferring irrigation acres to other irrigators, or doing a temporary transfer on an annual basis (see sidebar).

The District currently has 38 alternative parcel agreements, which are renewable each year with WID Board of Directors' approval. The WID website also hosts a section for irrigation acres wanted and available.

Contact Charlotte Horne (403-934-3542 x223) at the WID for more information on how you can activate your irrigation acres.



Let Us Know!

Just a reminder that all water users must give 48 hours' notice before turning their system on, and 24 hours' notice before turning off. Equipment broke down? Needs service? Let your Water District Supervisor know as soon as possible. See below for contact information.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are two ways that inactive irrigation acres can be activated by a producer who isn't irrigating:

- 1. Acres can be permanently transferred to other irrigators. The District maintains a website with advertising for acres for sale. The terms for transfer are agreed upon between the two parties, and the WID must approve the transfer.**

<http://www.wid.net/buy-or-sell-acres>
- 2. Acres can be transferred on an annual basis. This allows the ownership of irrigation acres to sit with the original person, but they can transfer them for one year to another irrigator who will use them.**

<http://www.wid.net/copy-of-buy-or-sell-acres>

| WID Board of Directors | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Doug Brown | Div 1 |
| Henry Colpoys | Div 2 |
| Rick Page | Div 3 |
| Dan Shute – Vice Chair | Div 4 |
| Ray Kettenbach - Chair | Div 5 |

| Water Supervisor Contacts | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Brian Sander | Water Master | 403-325-0493 |
| Joey Mordy | Assistant Water Master | 403-325-0244 |
| Derrick McGougan | Chestermere | 403-899-4638 |
| Don Brownlee | Carseland | 403-899-4641 |
| Joe Friedman | Gleichen/Cluny | 403-325-4642 |
| Wes Sproule | Rockyford | 403-325-4640 |
| JR Dunbar | Crowfoot | 403-325-4639 |
| Jaye Wegener | Strathmore | 403-325-4601 |