

# Water Dispatch

*Water information and commentary*

*Fall 2019*

## **Western Irrigation District Announces Distribution of Acres**

The Western Irrigation District is offering 980 irrigation acres for sale for the 2021 water season. Anyone looking to expand their active irrigation is encouraged to contact Charlotte Mandel at the WID office to discuss the best options for them.

The application process ensures that the acres will be used actively and that the overall water efficiency of the WID system will increase.

The WID will evaluate the following factors to prioritize the allocation of these irrigation acres:

- Suitability of land for irrigation
- Present level of irrigation activity on the parcel
- System capacity
- On-farm system efficiency
- Conveyance system efficiency

These acres will be distributed at a capital asset charge of \$770 per acre, which has been determined based on future infrastructure requirements of the District. A limit of 130 acres per farm operation may be purchased during this sale process. The deadline to apply is June 10, 2020 and payment will be due for successful applicants by December 1, 2020.



## **Record Year for Irrigation in WID**

In 2019 WID irrigators surpassed all previous records by irrigating the largest total acreage in WID history. The acres increased by approximately 3,300 from last year's total, bringing it to 77,000 acres irrigated in 2019. This increase is due the cooperation of irrigators in ensuring available acres are being used, irrigators' investment in irrigation systems, and recent distributions of acres by the District.

WID's General Manager David McAllister appealed to irrigators to ensure available irrigation acres are active.

"The most important thing is that the acres are being used productively" McAllister stated. "If you're not using your acres, there are many different options available to you"

These options include:

### **Alternate Parcel Agreements**

- Ownership remains with original irrigator
- Acres are transferred to another irrigator who will use them for that year
- WID Board of Directors approves the alternate parcel agreement each year

### **District Repurchase of Acres:**

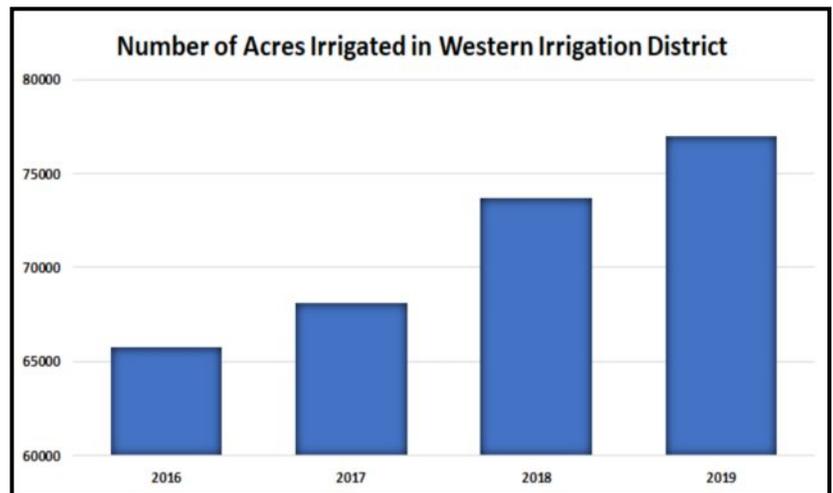
- District is willing to repurchase a limited number of permanent irrigation rights on a case-by-case basis
- Please enquire with Charlotte Mandel at the District office at 403-934-3542 or [cmandel@wid.net](mailto:cmandel@wid.net)

### **Permanent Transfer**

- Ownership is permanently transferred to another irrigator
- The terms for transfer are agreed upon by both parties
- WID must approve the transfer

The WID maintains a list on our website where irrigators can advertise that they have acres available or are interested in additional acres.

The WID will continue to pursue opportunities to allow District irrigators to expand their operations and provide service to additional parcels. These opportunities are only available due to the ongoing efforts of the WID and its water users to ensure that the system is as efficient as possible from the point of diversion on the Bow to application on the farm.



## **Stoodley Pump Station Solar Project Commissioned**



The WID is harnessing the power of the sun to move water through a portion of its system. On October 16<sup>th</sup> the WID commissioned a 500 kW solar generation system at the Stoodley Pump Station. This system is intended to entirely offset the energy usage of the pump station over the course of a year.

During the irrigation season more power is required than the solar system can generate, but in the off-season energy will be fed directly back into the grid. The

District anticipates saving between forty and fifty thousand dollars in a typical year at current power prices. These savings will increase if power prices rise, as is expected over the life of the system.

The District was awarded a \$263,000 grant from Energy Efficiency Alberta for this project and will no longer be susceptible to increases in electricity prices at this location over the twenty-five plus year plus estimated life of the system.

# WID Celebrates 75 Year Anniversary

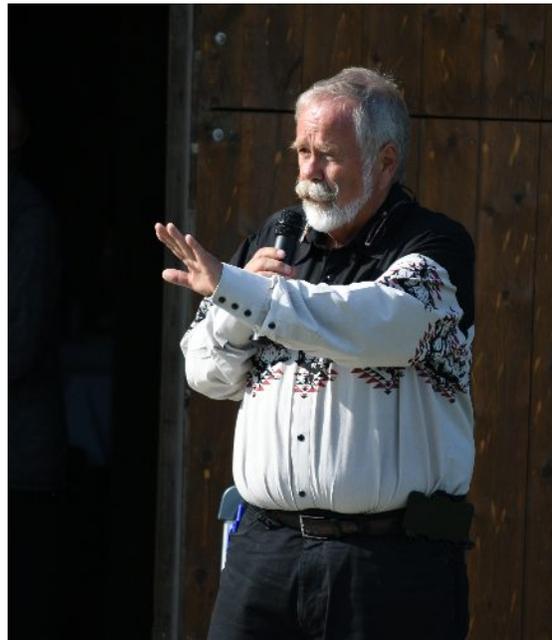
Over 250 people attended the celebration on August 3. They shared memories and stories of the WID's history.



Dignitaries including MLA Angela Pitt (above) and MP Martin Shields (below) attended to congratulate the WID on 75 years of service.



A collection of artifacts and photos highlighted the history of the WID and showcased the evolution of the infrastructure over time. The WID appreciates the irrigators, Board members and staff whose contributions over the years made the WID what it is today.



When in Drought was specially brewed for the WID's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary by Origins Brewing and Malting using barley grown under irrigation in the District. This brewery is owned and operated by long-time WID irrigation families the Geeraerts and Hiltons.



Gord Hilton & Kyle Geeraert of Origins Brewing and Malting present When in Drought at the WID's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

# 2020 Construction Works

## North Cluny Canal Rehab

The WID is completing the rehabilitation of the last 1.8 km of unremediated canal on the North Cluny system. This is the final year of a three-year rehabilitation project which has resulted in increased irrigation activity and additional capacity being introduced into the system. WID construction staff will be completing this work during our winter construction season. The cost of this work is estimated at \$890,000 and the District has been approved to receive 75% of the funding from the provincial Irrigation Rehabilitation Program (IRP).

## Glenrose Canal Rehab

In 2020 the WID is initiating the first year of a multi-year construction program on its Glenrose Canal system. This project spans 3.1 km and portions will be funded by WID capital funds and the IRP. The rehabilitation will include added in-line storage to improve conveyance and reduce return flows. The estimated cost of this work is \$1,800,000.

## Secondary A Canal Drop Repair

The scope of work to rehabilitate the existing structure, which is within the Town of Strathmore boundaries, will involve the replacement of the downstream walls due to structural deficiencies and additional height to contain water. The walls will be installed with appropriate gravel backfill to ensure that the walls will not be impacted by groundwater level and frost heave. The estimated cost of the rehabilitation of this structure is \$170,000.

## Field Pipeline Phase 1

This project involves the replacement of an existing open canal system with an enclosed pipeline. It will add significant capacity, increasing the acres serviced more than threefold from 400 to 1400. The WID is appreciative of the commitments by interested landowners to have their

lands classified for irrigation to allow for appropriate sizing of the system.

The first phase of the pipeline installation will begin in the summer of 2020 and is expected to cost 1.8 million dollars. This system is being sized appropriately to service both the Field and Strangmuir ditch systems creating additional water saving opportunities in the future.



### FORM 1

### Irrigation Districts Act

(Section 45(2) (b))

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

TAKE NOTE that the annual meeting of the irrigators of the Western Irrigation District will be held at the Strathmore Travelodge, Strathmore, Alberta, on the 1st day of April, 2020, beginning at 1.30pm.

(a) Present annual reports of:

- (i) the chair on behalf of the Board
  - (ii) the manager
  - (iii) the auditor of the district, and
  - (iv) the maintenance of irrigation works of the district,
- and

(b) conduct any other business

Dated at the Town of Strathmore, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2019

David McAllister P (Eng), MSc, MBA

General Manager

Western Irrigation District

**PLEASE BRING YOUR ANNUAL REPORT WITH YOU**

## WID Board of Directors

<b>Doug Brown</b>	<b>Div 1</b>
<b>Henry Colpoys</b>	<b>Div 2</b>
<b>Rick Page</b>	<b>Div 3</b>
<b>Dan Shute – Vice Chair</b>	<b>Div 4</b>
<b>Ray Kettenbach - Chair</b>	<b>Div 5</b>

## Water Supervisor Contacts

<b>Brian Sander</b>	<b>Water Master</b>	<b>403-325-0493</b>
<b>Derrick McGougan</b>	<b>Chestermere</b>	<b>403-899-4638</b>
<b>Don Brownlee</b>	<b>Carseland</b>	<b>403-899-4641</b>
<b>Joe Friedman</b>	<b>Gleichen/Cluny</b>	<b>403-325-4642</b>
<b>Wes Sproule</b>	<b>Rockyford</b>	<b>403-325-4640</b>
<b>JR Dunbar</b>	<b>Crowfoot</b>	<b>403-325-4639</b>
<b>Jaye Wegener</b>	<b>Strathmore</b>	<b>403-325-4601</b>