

Water Dispatch

Water information and commentary

Spring 2019

Irrigation Water Quality Remains High in WID

The WID is pleased to report that in 2018 the overall District water quality was the best it's been in the past decade.

The WID's steadily improving water quality is a result of various programs and initiatives:

1. Minimizing runoff into the canals via
 - Rehabilitation of canals and other infrastructure
 - Conversion to pipelines
2. Wheatland County/WID Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Project
 - Off-site watering systems for livestock
 - Exclusion fencing to keep livestock away from irrigation water channels
3. Using EcoSocks for weed management in canals where effective.

“These initiatives demonstrate the WID's ongoing commitment to maintaining high water quality, and

the results are showing that they are working,” said WID Water Master, Brian Sander.

High water quality is key for all irrigation water uses; crop irrigation, livestock water, yard and garden, municipal water, recreation, and wetland habitat maintenance for Ducks Unlimited. Water quality is tested both by an independent third-party contractor and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Thanks to a new initiative of the Alberta Irrigation Districts Association, detailed water quality data is now readily available to anyone with internet access. The website provides raw data from each of the testing sites within Alberta's irrigation infrastructure. It also provides a water quality index tab, showing an overall rating of each site from excellent to poor.

Visit idwq.ca to see historical and current water quality data for the WID and other Districts in Alberta.



WID photo

SAVE THE DATE!

WESTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON AUGUST 3, 2019 TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF IRRIGATION

OUR EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE BRUCE KLAIBER BARN IN STRATHMORE FROM 3PM TO 7PM



WESTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

DINNER AND BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED

PLEASE RSVP TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS EVENT

CONTACT CHRISSY MILLS AT

403-934-3542 EXT 248 OR

CMILLS@WID.NET

Construction Update

The WID continued their rehabilitation and construction program this winter. Crews completed canal rehabilitation sections on the Standard and North Cluny canal systems, and reworked two spillways.

The Standard Lateral on the Secondary "B" system was rehabilitated with 4.2km of buried liner and

armoured banks. Crews also added underdrain fill to decrease surface runoff and increase water quality. This project concludes the work on the Standard Canal system.

The North Cluny Canal also received 1.2km of buried liner and armoured banks. This section ties into the North Cluny tail out pipeline project. This coming winter, the North Cluny Canal rehabilitation will be completed.

In addition, the WID worked on two spillways. At the Hayes Spillway, at the upper end of the North Cluny lateral system, crews installed a new cast in place outfall structure and 300m of pipe. At Gleichen Drop Structure Number 3, the walls were replaced.

The North Cluny and Hayes Spillway projects cost \$1.3 million, and the WID received 75% of the funding required for the spillway projects through the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program.

"The work on the spillways will help protect infrastructure, increase our resilience, and allow us to mitigate the impacts from spring melt and significant rainfall events," explained WID Construction Supervisor, Cory Krahenbil.



Construction of Hayes Spillway - WID photo

For a free measurement of the flow delivered at your turnout, contact:

Water Master, Brian Sander

403-325-0493

Let Us Know!

Please remember 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 back page for contact information.



Installation of structure on Standard Canal - WID photo

WID's Board of Directors

Two positions on the WID's Board of Directors came to term this spring. Division 1 went to election, with Doug Brown securing another term. Division 4 was filled by acclamation, and Dan Shute will continue his service in this position.



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 Division 4. When only one nomination is received for an electoral division, the nominee is elected by acclamation and balloting is not required. Therefore, I declare **Dan Shute** to be elected as Director for Electoral Division 4 of the Western Irrigation District.

Dated at the Town of Strathmore in the Province of Alberta, this 14th day of March 2019.

David McAllister, P. Eng, MSc, MBA
Returning Officer

Distribution of Irrigation Acres

Water users in the Western Irrigation District all benefit when irrigation acres are being utilized efficiently. This enables more water to be available for existing users, as well as opening the potential for new irrigation projects. These factors are at the forefront of the WID's decision process when distributing available acres to applicants.

This year, the WID distributed 740 acres to twelve applicants. The acres awarded varied between applicants, with the maximum being 130 acres.

"The applications were prioritized on the basis of conveyance efficiency, on-farm system efficiency, land classification, capacity of servicing infrastructure and current irrigation activity on the parcel," said WID General Manager, David McAllister. "This prioritization benefits every irrigator of the District as the transition towards more efficient irrigation systems from end-to-end will mean that more water is available for everyone."

Any irrigators wishing to expand their use of irrigation should monitor the WID website which will provide information regarding any future distribution of acres.

Irrigators with inactive acres can make them available for use, either permanently or temporarily. See the "Did You Know" information box on this page for links.

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>



Exclusion fencing and off-site watering systems maintain District water quality - WID photo

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
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