

Water Dispatch

water information and commentary

Fall 2010

WID Takes Part in National Event

In October, Erwin Braun, WID Manager, Operations and Maintenance joined 49 other facilitators and 250 young Canadians for the Canadian Water Innovation Lab (CWIL); a national event to address the most compelling issues in water resource management.

“It is important for the young people in our country to know about and be informed about water,” says Braun. “Also it gave me an opportunity to find out what they’re thinking and what people are really feeling about water issues.”

The learners were young professionals and not necessarily students. Both facilitators and learners were from all over Canada. Braun says that it was refreshing to be among the youthful idealism and witness the depth of understanding the young professionals have regarding water.

“The CWIL was interactive and energizing,” Braun explains. One of the field tours took learners to a ranch run by a woman who irrigates. The learners were able to see the water use and the land. “That’s powerful. I learned that

a field tour has impact.” Braun also came away from the CWIL convinced that the younger generation, with its idealism intact, will create change in

The Canadian Water Innovation Lab’s “Aboriginal Communities and Water” working group explored the impacts of downstream water activities and policy issues on First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities across the country. Photo submitted by Waterlution



the future.

“Interacting with them left me feeling optimistic and hopeful.”

For more about the CWIL, visit <http://www.waterlution.org/cwil/>

Thank You Linda

Linda Beaton, Accounts Payable, retires after 15 years with the WID. Linda started out working part time for DU and part time for WID.

Administration Manager Lucie Montford says, “Linda is the ‘go-to’ person in the office. Her memory is amazing and if anyone is looking for something, Linda can usually find it or knows where it went. She is a very kind and patient person and everyone will miss her.”



Did You Know?

The Bow River irrigation districts, (Bow, Eastern and Western), hired White Iron Productions to produce a series of videos about irrigation.

The videos are short and educational for use on the web sites, at conferences, in classrooms and public venues.

Watch for them on the WID site.

New Manager Richly Experienced



January 2011 a new year dawns with a new man in the WID General Manager's chair.

Erwin Braun steps up to steer WID into the future.

"I've been preparing for the last 30 years," Braun says. Adding that in the last 5 or 6 years at WID much changed with new directions and opportunities on the horizon. "I'm really looking forward to seeing them through."

Braun is a third generation irrigation farmer and spent his career working for Bow River irrigation districts (BRID, EID & WID).

"He brings a wealth of relevant experience and knowledge to this chair," says Jim Webber current WID General Manager. "I'm confident I'm passing the district into particularly qualified hands."

South Cluny Pipeline Ready for 2011

After two full construction seasons (14 months), the South Cluny Pipeline was put into full operation during the 2010 growing season. WID Water Master Brian Sander explains, "The pipeline was fully pressurized which allowed us to test the performance and functionality. There were only a few little glitches and a couple of small leaks that were patched up without trouble."

With the abundance of rain in Southern Alberta, it was a slow year on the irrigation front putting little stress on the system. The excess moisture presented few problems in the way of slumping or settlement along the pipeline. Sander stated, "We had follow-up crews completing fencing and landscaping along the pipeline for most of the year. The crews monitored the pipeline for any malfunctions throughout the season

and encountered very few."

"The Cluny pipeline is a huge improvement over the old canal and will provide substantial water savings through reduction or elimination of losses from seepage, evaporation and conveyance. The South Cluny system is ready for the 2011 irrigation season and we look forward to testing its full capabilities," Sander noted.

WID Supports Local Student Trip

The WID Board sponsored 150 Grade 8 students from Crowther Memorial Junior High School to take part in a River Watch rafting trip last June. The students spent a day rafting the Bow River and learning about what af-

fects water quality, aquatic ecosystem health indicators and human activities that contribute to pollution.

As a thank you, the students created a scrapbook of photographs, essays and statements about what they learned for the WID Board.

"It's great to see the students enjoyed the day and developed a greater understand-

ing of our river. We will continue to support this activity for our schools," says Erwin Braun, WID Operations & Maintenance Manager.

Scrapbook Cover See the scrapbook on the WID office counter



*Students on the River Watch trip in June 2010
Photo submitted by Crowther Memorial Junior High*

The grade 8 students of Crowther Memorial Junior High would like to thank WID for sponsoring our Riverwatch field trip.

June 2010



*150+ students floating down the Bow River learning about water....
Every drop counts!*

WID Knows Where the Water Goes

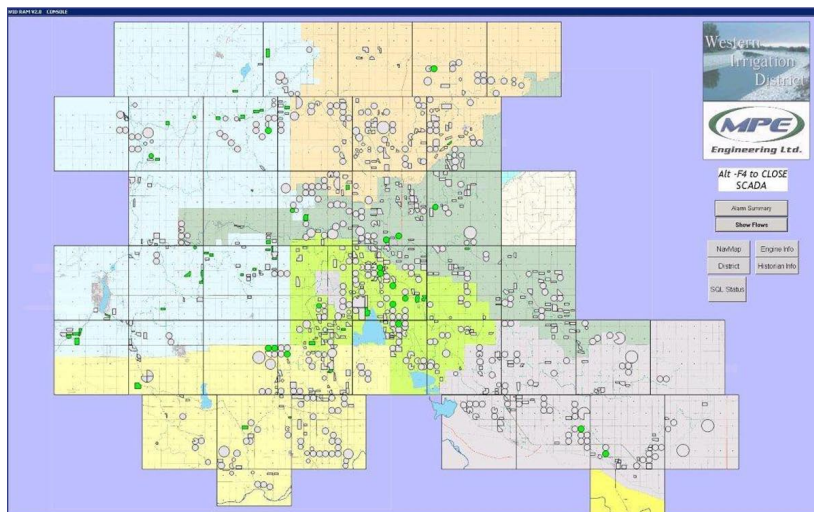
The Water District Supervisors (WDS) have now had one full operating season using the new RAM (recording and monitoring) system to monitor and operate the irrigation district. The RAM is paired with SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) to provide the WDSs with valuable tools for managing and operating the irrigation system in a more efficient and timely manner. The RAM system gives the Water District Supervisors the ability to log when irrigation systems turn on and off, monitor the flows, determine downstream demands, to name a few functions, and this can all be done through a laptop. RAM also includes an alarm component that has the ability to call the WDS for pre-set conditions such as a gate malfunction or unexpected water level fluctuations. In an alarm-triggering event, the system calls the WDS and informs them of the alarm situation. The WDS can then log onto their computer to see what is happening and make adjustments to correct the problem immediately upon entering the command on the computer. The systems provide the WDS with the ability to respond to potential situations much faster and gives them a prevention tool.

All supervisors, even the 20+ year veterans, quickly adapted to the RAM system and found that it added to their efficiency. "The Water District Supervisors embraced the new system. They gave us feedback throughout the pilot season and helped work through the bugs and glitches in the system," stated Brian Sander, WID Water Master. "Everyone involved in managing the system now has an overall picture that assists them with their operational decisions. We all get the big picture."

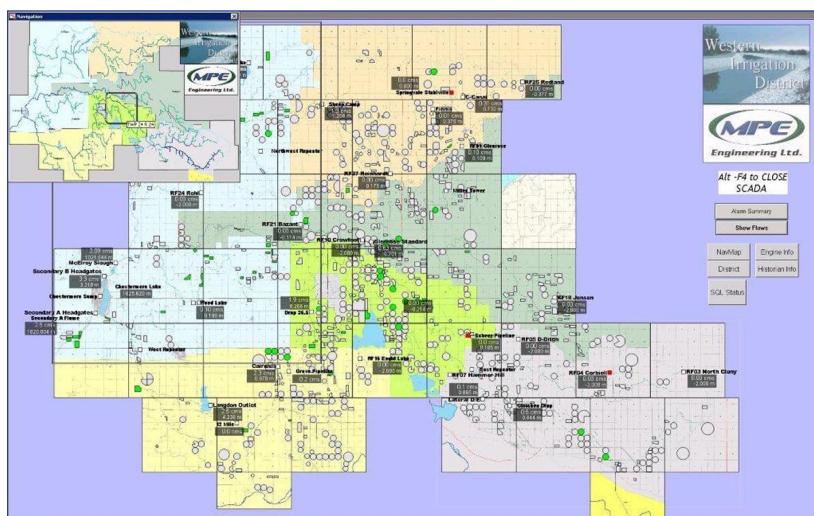
Irrigation IQ workshops

WID along with Alberta Agriculture will again offer the ever-popular Increase Your Irrigation IQ Workshop. The workshop introduces farmers to the Alberta Irrigation Management Model program (AIMM). AIMM is a software package that helps producers with irrigation scheduling decisions such as when and how much to irrigate. The decisions from the model take into consideration historic conditions, soil hydrologic properties, crops being grown, meteorological inputs and more. Additional workshop topics include disease control, pivot irrigation automation, soil texturing and irrigation pump selection. The workshop provides producers with management tools that help them get the most out of input costs and maximize profits.

The specific date and location for the workshop is not set but, the plan is early January in the Rockyford area. Watch the WID website for details.

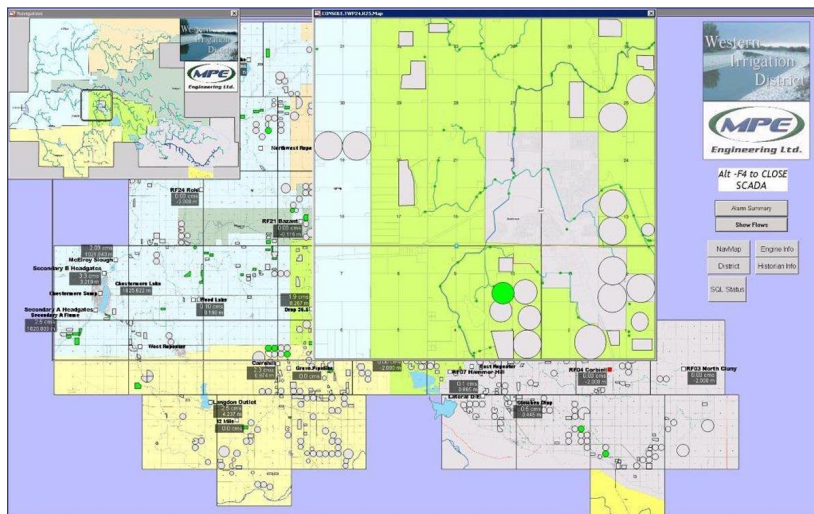


A basic overview screen shot of RAM



Pick a township...

and zoom in for a closer look.



New Rocky View County Water Treatment Plant Joins System

Rocky View County has been constructing a new water treatment facility as part of the Rocky View County East Balzac Water System.

Rocky View County's water diversion agreement with the WID is a diversion rate of 2.22 million cubic meters per year. Raw water is stored in the East Balzac Reservoir and the Graham Creek Reservoir.

The East Balzac Reservoir has a live storage capacity of 446,000 m³.

Raw water is pumped from the raw water reservoir by one of three lift stations to the water treatment plant (WTP).

The treatment process includes Dissolved Air Flotation, dual media filtration, Ultraviolet radiation and chlorine contact. The design capacity of the WTP is 3,900 m³/day.

The potable water from the WTP is pumped by three high lift pumps through 19 km of 400 mm diameter transmission main to the 6,100 m³ Balzac Reservoir. The Balzac Reservoir stores the potable water and pumps it to the distribution network.

Big Project - Busy Place

Crews work to put large culverts in place under Parklane Drive in Strathmore.
WID photo



Construction of the new Rocky View water treatment plant looking south east toward the treatment plant from the north west end of the Stilling Basin. Graham Creek Reservoir can be seen in relation to the new construction. Photo submitted by MPE Engineering Laurie Manion

Shepard Wetland Works!



Facing south from the deck of the Shepard Stormwater Diversion Channel control structure. WID photo

ed that inflows into the District remained stable throughout the season and did not fluctuate during heavy rainfall events as was the case in previous years.

The wet season of 2010 in southern Alberta provided a real test for the effectiveness of the Shepard Wetland at intercepting storm water runoff from the City of Calgary. The 560 acre wetland, constructed on the east side of Calgary, proved to work very well at intercepting the city's storm water, preventing fluctuations in the inflow into the WID throughout the rainy weather. The City of Calgary will install flow and level sensors downstream of the diversion structure and in the wetland so they will be able to measure volumes of storm water diverted through the system. Brian Sander, WID Water Master, indicat-

Planning Water Security for Wheatland County

The WID Board applied for an amendment to its water license to supply water to Wheatland County for drinking water use in hamlets. The District asked to amend the use of 1,000 acre-feet of water; which is approximate 0.0063% of the district license. "It fits the Wheatland Growth study requirements, so it offers economic stability for the County for the next 20 years of growth," says WID Manager Jim Webber.