

Water Dispatch

water information and commentary

Spring/Summer 2013

WID Infrastructure Upgrades Progressing Well - Water Savings Evident



This is the first year in the WID's history that irrigation water is supplied by anything more than gravity. This pump station, installed along the Stoodley pipeline, is capable of providing pressure up to 45psi and 20,000 gallons/minute. - WID photo

"The weather was cooperative for construction this past winter, and everything went very smoothly," Jeremy Hemsing, Manager of Operations and Maintenance reported. This, combined with the diligent work of WID staff on the pipeline, and contractors on the A Canal rehabilitation, led to everything being done on schedule.

WID staff installed 18km of pipeline to replace the Stoodley ditch. This pipeline ties into a pump station, which will supply water to both this line and the Sheep Camp pipeline, to be installed next winter. "Pipelines offer the greatest water conservation," explained Hemsing. "These are closed ended, so the only water that goes in

is water that will be taken out."

The WID estimates that since the year 2000, there has been over 20,000 acre/feet of cumulative water savings due to the rehabilitations and pipeline installations. We expect that the Stoodley Pipeline will result in another 1500-2000 acre/feet of annual savings.

Contractors completed 12km of rehabilitation work along A canal this past winter, working from Township 234 to Hammer Hill. This section is now a plastic lined canal with gravel



Plastic liner installed in A canal decreases seepage, and gravel armour along the edges reduces erosion. - WID photo

armour on the sides. It will experience less water loss to seepage, as well as decreased erosion on the edges.

Safety First!

The choices we make in each moment could affect our lives forever.

- I can take a few more minutes to read the paper. It's not a big deal if I drive faster to make that appointment in the city.
- I'm only going to be on the job site for a couple of minutes. It will take me longer to put on a hard hat and steel toed boots than it will to check that the crew is on track with this project!
- I've used this chemical before. Why should I read the label now?
- I'm only planting a couple of trees. It could take a couple of days for the utilities to be marked.

The Keynote speaker at the Alberta Common Ground Alliance conference in Lethbridge this March held his audience captive as he spoke of his experiences leading up to and following a chemical fire in his workplace. When Spencer Beach left home one morning, he didn't know his day would end in hospital with second, third and fourth degree burns over most of his body giving him a 5% chance of survival. Multiple surgeries and much therapy later, he is a successful speaker and Occupational Health and Safety Officer, but the road to recovery hasn't been easy.

Maintenance Foreman Robert Filippo was one of five WID employees who attended this conference, "There wasn't a person in the room who wasn't affected by Spencer's talk," Robert said, "I think they got a lot out of it. Are they going to retain any of it, or change their habits? I don't know. It would be nice if they are." The WID has extensive safety policies in place, but it takes employees willing to make the right decisions in the moment to ensure a safe workplace.

Staff safety training is a focal point for the WID. Field staff members have been provided with ground disturbance safety training, which applies to activities such as excavating pipelines, and the goal is to have 100% of staff trained in First Aid. GIS Coordinator and Systems Administrator Brett Huston heads up a regular meeting of



WID staff work with ground disturbance frequently. They are trained to plan ahead, and utilize all safety measures possible to ensure the job is completed safely. - WID photo

the safety committee, ensuring everyone is aware of current challenges and safety concerns. "The committee works to review and revise safety policies based on incident reports," Huston explained. "Office staff, water staff and operations staff meet regularly as well, and their findings are brought forward to the Safety Committee to see if any changes need to be made to policies and procedures."

The WID has also initiated a peer nominated safety award. If someone has been seen doing something to promote safety awareness, they can be awarded a gift certificate. "Safety needs to be a priority, and it is everyone's responsibility," WID's General Manager Erwin Braun declared.

Alberta One Call: www.albertaonecall.com
Spencer Beach www.spencerspeaks.ca



WID Welcomes New Administration Manager

Jason Wallsmith was hired in January to fill the Administration Manager position following Lucie Montford's retirement. He grew up in Brooks, and then moved to Edmonton to obtain his Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Alberta. Jason went on to work in Alberta Beach for Lac Ste Anne County for over four years, and obtained his Certified Management Accountant designation. Jason spent 3 months training at the WID with Lucie before she retired, and is enjoying his position here. Welcome aboard, Jason!

Did you know?? The WID has 1065km of canals and pipeline. Stretched out and laid end to end, they would reach from Strathmore to Great Slave Lake, NWT

Next Phase of Thanks to Irrigation Promotion Underway

The Alberta Irrigations Projects Association (AIPA) is continuing to promote the importance of irrigation in Alberta. If you've tuned into the radio lately, you may have heard the most recent phase of the Thanks to Irrigation PR campaign. Three radio ads, featuring the benefits of irrigation to food, wildlife and recreation, have been completed and are on the air.

These ads were timely, as Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) held a series of open houses through February and March to facilitate a Water Conversation with Alberta communities. The goal was to hear what the public has to say about how water will be managed in Alberta in the future, with a focus on four main areas; healthy lakes, hydraulic fracturing and water, drinking water and wastewater systems, and water management.

"As irrigators, we're concerned with the water management portion because this pertains to water licenses," Erwin Braun, WID General Manager explained. "The irrigation community was well represented at these events."

The ESRD states that the input given at these events, through email and an online workbook will be compiled and released this summer. This will help to shape the strategic direction in the four areas mentioned above, regional planning and the development of an integrated resource management system.

Langdon Reservoir Doubling in Volume

The WID is looking ahead to create greater water security for their water users, and to be prepared for future expansion. In 2014, construction will start on the Langdon reservoir, doubling the capacity from 6000 to 12000 acre/feet. The dike will be raised by 2 meters to achieve this volume increase, and the maximum water level will go up 1.5 meters.

"In the spring, when water supply is greater than demand, we can divert and fill the reservoir. Later in the summer, when supply is less than demand, the Langdon reservoir can be used as needed to supplement A canal users," explained Jeremy Hemsing, Manager of Operations and Maintenance.

This reservoir upgrade benefits all water users. The reservoir allows A canal to have less demand on the Bow River in drier months, and B and C canal to continue to be fed through diversion.

Thanks to Irrigation: www.thankstoirrigation.ca
Alberta ESRD: www.environment.alberta.ca



Doubling the volume of the Langdon reservoir will increase water security for all WID water users. - WID Photo

Two Members of Board of Directors Re-elected

Two of the Western Irrigation District's board members have been re-elected by acclamation. Dan Shute is entering his third term, having completed 6 years on the board up to now. Doug Brown has completed 3 years, and is entering his second term. The WID would like to thank all members of the Board for their time and commitment.

Advertise Your Irrigation Acres for Sale

Do you have permanent irrigation acres to sell within the Western Irrigation District? Thinking about purchasing more? The WID website is now offering a 'for sale' page on our website. If you have permanent irrigation acres that you would like to sell within the WID, please contact us for more information. www.wid.net/acres_sale.html

All transfers of irrigation acres are subject to approval by The Board of Directors of the Western Irrigation District. The Western Irrigation District is not the seller of acres listed through this service. The WID does not set or influence the market price of 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 Page 4 for contact information.

Get Irrigation Updates Fast!

Don't get left behind! Send us your e-mail address and:
Be updated on Special Events
Receive notices of Equipment for Sale
Be the first to know about Water Rights Opportunities
Receive Digital Newsletters

Contact Brett Huston: bhuston@wid.net or call 403-934-3542
Get electronically connected to the WID

WID Board of Directors

Doug Brown	Div 1
Henry Colpoys – Vice Chair	Div 2
Rick Page	Div 3
Dan Shute – Chair	Div 4
Don Kathol	Div 5

Get Money Back for Irrigation Upgrades

A Program from the Government of Alberta

The Alberta Government has launched an Irrigation Efficiency Program under the Growing Forward 2 initiative. Irrigators who purchase new equipment to improve the efficiency of their irrigation practice may be eligible for 40% reimbursement of their costs, to a maximum of \$5000. To qualify, the irrigator must have completed a Long-Term Irrigation Management Plan.

Some of the eligible upgrades are the purchase of low pressure center pivots, adapting high pressure center pivot systems to low pressure, making upgrades to pumps or adding controllers and software to allow for variable rate irrigation. Full details are available through www.growingforward.alberta.ca.



*Low pressure pivots save time, money and water.
Upgrade now, and you may be eligible for
reimbursement of part of your costs through the
Government of Alberta. - WID photo*

Keep an Eye out for Flowering Rush



Flowering rush is a plant species that is native to Eurasia, and has been introduced to North American water ways. This species has the ability to reproduce by rhizomes, seeds, and bulbils, which detach from the rhizomes or from the base of the flower stalks. The multiple modes of reproduction, coupled with the fact it grows in water, makes it extremely difficult to control.

This is a prohibited noxious weed, under the Alberta Weed Act, and it has been found between the Bow River and Chestermere Lake. If anyone sees this plant in WID canals, please do not try to remove it on your own. Contact us immediately. Please use the photos to the left for identification.



- Kristi Cox photos

Water Supervisor Contacts

Brian Sander	Water Master	325-0493
Jeff Maude	Chestermere	899-4638
Don Brownlee	Carseland	899-4641
Pat Smith	Gleichen/Cluny	325-4642
Wes Sproule	Rockyford	325-4640
Eric Beingessner	Crowfoot	325-4639
Joey Mordy	Strathmore	325-4601