



Newsletter: April 2017

Eastern Irrigation District

From the Board of Directors

Water Delivery Date . . .

The 2017 Water Delivery Date is **May 2**.

Water will be available to all irrigators on this date.

During the water season, please remember to contact your water operator by telephone or text message at least 48 hours prior to your intended irrigation start-up and 24 hours in advance of your intended shut down. This helps ensure the most efficient operation of the irrigation delivery system.

Irrigators are kindly asked not to request water deliveries to be made on Sundays.

EID Operations Contact Numbers

North Division

Divisional Superintendent	Chuck Getz	403-363-5607
Assistant Divisional Superintendent	Brent Kroschel	403-363-5606
N1 Bassano	Scott Beddows	403-363-5630
N2 Pitau	Pedro Isidoro	403-363-5631
N3 Gem	Derek Kroschel	403-363-5632
N4 Rosemary	Albert Hebig	403-363-5634
N5 Duchess	Chris Cameron	403-363-5636
N6 Cockerill	Gord Leland	403-363-5635
N7 Millicent	Will Allaby	403-363-5638
N8 Patricia	Scott McInnis	403-363-5639

South Division

Divisional Superintendent	Don Syvret	403-363-5604
Assistant Divisional Superintendent	Gary Bobinski	403-363-5605
S1 Antelope Creek/Brooks	Frank Klassen	403-363-5620
S2 Kitsim	Duce Currie	403-363-5621
S3 Bow Slope	Peter Thiessen	403-363-5623
S4 Aqueduct/Bantry	Troy Canning	403-363-5624
S5 Elizabeth	Dale Williams	403-363-5626
S6 Tilley	Stuart Cleland	403-363-5627
S7 North Rolling Hills	Jim Olund	403-363-5628
S8 South Rolling Hills	Dallas Beierbach	403-363-5629

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Division 1 and Division 5 2017 Elections

Elections are being held for Gem/Bassano and Scandia/Rainier areas. Election day is **Tuesday, April 25, 2017** and voting stations will be open from **10:00am to 8:00pm** on that day. Voting Stations are located as follows:

Division 1 (Gem/Bassano):

Bassano Community Hall
Gem Community Hall

Division 5 (Scandia/Rainier):

Rainier Community Hall

Grazing . . .

2017 grazing turn-out dates have been set as follows:

Regrass: May 1, 2017

Native Pasture: May 13, 2017

Irrigation Plebiscite

The EID Board of Directors is working toward authorizing the holding of a plebiscite vote which is required by the Irrigation Districts Act in order to increase the irrigation expansion limit. The potential plebiscite will request approval from water users for an increase to the current Irrigation Expansion Limit of 311,000 acres, however, considerable information still needs to be gathered. Stage one of this plan consisted of an irrigation assessment review to account for all acres presently being irrigated. The assessment review confirmed that the District is nearing the current expansion limit. Reaching this limit restricts the opportunity for development of any new irrigation acres as the assessment roll currently cannot exceed 311,000 acres.

The next step in the process is to analyze the District's past, present and future water use and compare them with water supplies of the District through computer modeling to determine the potential opportunity of expanding to a higher limit. The models will look at various factors such as the current crop mix, irrigation methods, operations, and potential limitations of the current District infrastructure. Several levels of irrigation expansion acres will be modeled to help determine the appropriate increase.

The District believes that it is in a very good position to justify expansion due to the increases in efficiencies the water users have achieved from on-farm conversions and the District's extensive rehabilitation program.

Alberta Agriculture along with Alberta Environment will complete the modeling on the water demand and water supply and when concluded, the information gained will be discussed and analyzed by the Board which in turn could authorize a plebiscite to be held. If a plebiscite is authorized the information will be conveyed to all irrigators through information meetings likely held in each Division. For the plebiscite to pass District irrigators must approve the proposed expansion limit by returning a majority vote in a plebiscite.

County of Newell Water Grant . . .

Don't forget to apply for the County of Newell Regional Water Grant. You may be eligible to receive \$2,000 if you are hooked up to the Regional Water System.

For more information contact the EID Office at 403-362-1400.

Farm Improvement Policy

Under The EID Farm Improvement Policy, EID irrigators are able to cost-share projects with, or access grants from the District that save water within their on-farm operations or improve District infrastructure.

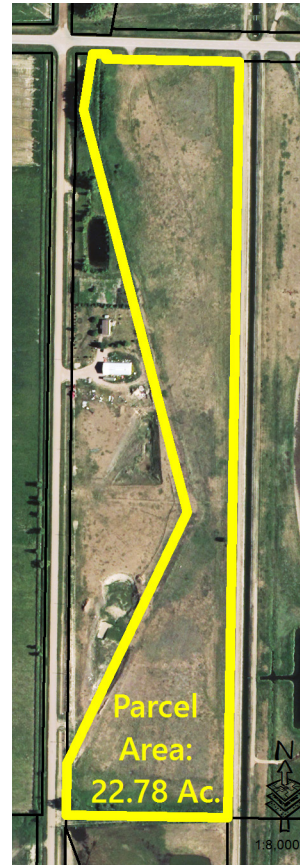
The Board of Directors has recently revised the Farm Improvement Policy, adding several new funding initiatives. If you are planning on completing any on-farm upgrades, such as converting to a more efficient method of irrigation, installing a low pressure corner arm to an existing pivot, or replacing

pivot nozzles or control panels, you may qualify for a grant. Check out the EID website at www.eid.ca for the revised policy once it is approved, or contact Staci Connauton at the EID office to see if you qualify for any of the cost-share projects or grants offered.

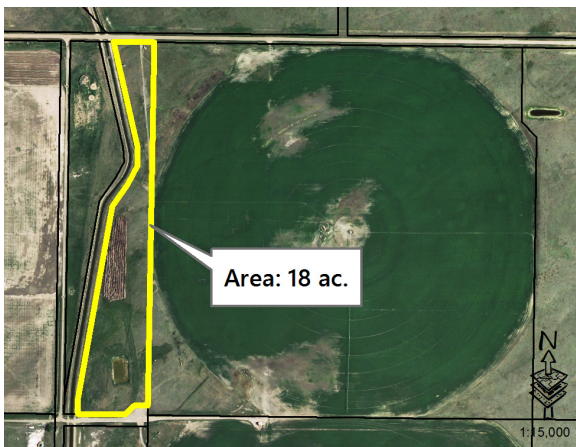
The Question of Selling District Owned Lands

Many questions were raised during the spring information meetings and during the AGM regarding potential sale of District land. The Board would like to repeat its position that it is not selling large parcels of land. To clarify, sale of District lands and properties has been on-going over a number of years. It is important to note that requests to purchase District owned lands or property, or the decision made to sell land, is entirely dependent on the specific situation. There have been situations where the Board has decided to sell property, such as the sale of non-utilized Ditch Rider residences and shop property, as well as land within the City of Brooks limits proving to have high development potential (the latter parcel became the new Brooks Industrial Park lands). In the first two instances, the properties and land were advertised for sale and open to any individual or business. In another past situation, the Board was approached and did agree to sell a ½ section of land to facilitate the development of a power substation in support of Provincial electrical distribution.

Other situations where land is offered for sale arise from some of the District's long term irrigated lease program. Leaseholders holding these types of leases with the District have, at the end of their lease term, the option of giving the lease back to the District or requesting that the land be put up for tender. When the latter occurs, the Board sets the minimum bid price. The land is advertised for tender in local newspapers, on the EID website, and in EID newsletters. Eligible EID irrigators have the opportunity to bid on the land, with the current leaseholder given the opportunity to match the high bid received under the tender process.



In recent years, the Board has received formal requests from irrigators and non-irrigators requesting purchase of District owned lands. Some examples of these requests stem from the District's rehabilitation activities which include realigning canals or replacing them with buried pipelines which sometimes



removes barriers that may have split a land title many years ago, or irregularly shaped rights-of-way that are no longer required. In many cases, the fragmented parcel is not actively utilized by the EID and the adjacent landowners may be able to better utilize and maintain the parcels for agricultural purposes. Moving forward, the Board has started to develop criteria to address some of these fragmented parcels. A holistic approach is essential when addressing these parcels. Some of the questions that are looked at include: is any revenue generated, is there any development potential, can it be consolidated in the adjacent parcel or is it a stand alone parcel, is legal access required, are there short term rehabilitation plans, among many others that make each

parcel unique. Some additional conditions include that all costs associated with a potential sale will be the purchaser's, which may include an independent appraisal, and all subdivision and legal costs. Aerial photos showing two examples are included for illustration.

Each request to purchase District owned land is unique and the Board feels it has an obligation to consider and address the information provided in all requests received, but particularly those received from EID irrigators. Any decision on sale of District property or land is made after all members of the Board are allowed to provide input and the matter is thoroughly debated and discussed.

Aquatic Invasive Species Update

The District continues to explore and support new initiatives to fight the threat of invasive species becoming established in our irrigation infrastructure.

Last summer the District supported research into the use of potash as a control against aquatic invasive mussels. This research involved the injection of potash into a closed pipeline to determine if the required concentration of potash could be maintained for the necessary amount of time. The pipeline did not contain mussels, but the test results appear promising in the ability to maintain levels of potash in pipelines to destroy mussels. The District hopes to collaborate on a similar project this summer involving a more complex pipeline system. Additional testing will ensure that we are prepared with the best treatment options if mussels become established in our area.

The District has also recently been involved in planning an emergency response plan to assist in containment should invasive mussels be found in our irrigation infrastructure.

If you think you've spotted a quagga or zebra mussel, report it to Alberta's invasive species hotline at 1-855-336 BOAT (2628)



Alberta Growing Forward 2 Irrigation Efficiency Program

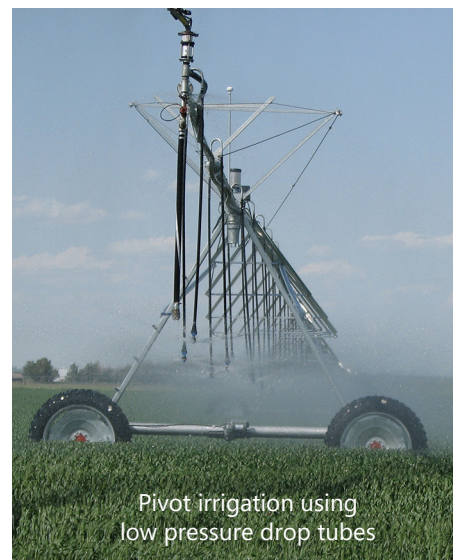
Don't forget that the Government of Alberta Growing Forward 2 Irrigation Efficiency grant program is still accepting applications from irrigators looking at making on-farm changes which increase the efficiency of their operations. A number of projects are eligible with varying levels of financial support. For more information check out the Growing Forward 2 website at:

www.growingforward.alberta.ca

Alberta IRRI-Cast: Crop Water Use Report . . .

The Alberta IRRI-Cast report provides up to date crop water use information for areas across Alberta. By selecting your nearest weather station and inputting your crop and seeding date you can view the crop water use forecast for the next five days. Check it out at:

www.agriculture.alberta.ca/acis/imcin/irricast.jsp



EID Contact Information . . .

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