

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL WATER USERS

June 15, 2023

Water Use Update

A review of the data to date concerning the District's current and projected water supply for this year's irrigation season confirms:

- a below average snowpack which feeds the Bow basin
- the snowmelt concluding 1 month earlier than average
- river levels for the District having dropped approximately 6-8 weeks earlier than average, to the point of only supplying river acres, while passing the required minimum flows for downriver
- weather conditions being unusually hot and dry which have increased irrigation demand and evaporation

Operationally, this has resulted in the river flow only supporting off-river acres and reservoirs only supporting under-reservoir acres. Reservoir levels are dropping and at this point, there is no diversion water available to refill or maintain reservoir levels.

Drought Plan

A Special Directors Meeting was held June 13th to review the above information and confirm response measures. As per the Maximum Water Delivery Bylaw #959 (2022), which can be accessed from the Information tab at www.eid.ca, Stage 3 of the Drought Plan was imposed. **Effective June 13, 2023, irrigators are limited to a total of 12" for the entire 2023 irrigation season, with the exception of acres supported by Crawling Valley Reservoir, which are limited to 16".** Conditions and water supply will continue to be monitored, and Drought Plan guidelines enforced in response.

Water Transfers

As per Stage 3 of the Drought Plan, a landowner may apply to transfer any amount of unused irrigation water from a parcel(s) to another parcel(s), subject to system support as described in 6.0(b)(x), on page 5 of Bylaw #959:

- same-farm water transfers and transfers between irrigators must first be approved by the District to be valid
- landowners or renters are to obtain and complete a transfer application at the EID Office
- renters must submit a signed and dated note or email from the landowner consenting to the transfer of water, indicating which parcels are affected and the volume of water being transferred [*see sample letter on the website*]
- the assessed number of irrigation acres will be verified at the office and water to be transferred will be calculated for the receiving parcel(s) [*ex. 2" of water from an 80 acre parcel = 1.2" of water on a 135 acre pivot parcel*]
- transferring any amount of water to another parcel is not valid and shall not be acted upon until a transfer application is completed by the landowner/renter and approved by the District
- the District reserves the right to adjust the overall maximum volume of water delivered under the Drought Plan; therefore, any transferred volumes of water are subject to the overall allowable inches per parcel that is imposed

IRMA

The *Irrigation Recording & Management App* is available for free to all irrigators. It is the same tool that is used by Water Operators to record water usage, irrigation method, and crop type on all irrigated parcels. Irrigators may access IRMA to view their water usage in real time, colour coded by amount used, on a smart phone, tablet, laptop, or computer. Call Mark Porter, Information Services Supervisor (403) 363-5920, Emma Getz, GIS Analyst (403) 409-9837, or visit the EID Office to get signed up.

Flow Rates & Water Orders

A parcel's total water usage for the season is calculated using the irrigation system's designated flow rate and the periods of time quantified between ON date & time and OFF date & time water orders. If you have any concerns regarding flow rates on your systems, please contact your Water Operator or your Divisional Superintendent. Please remember to phone or text at least 48 hours prior to your intended irrigation start-up and at least 24 hours in advance of your intended shut-down. Irrigators are also encouraged to rotate water orders within their farming units and, if possible, coordinate water orders with neighbouring land owners. These measures help ensure the most efficient operation of the irrigation delivery system.

Acres, Farmyards, & Other Users

All water users (irrigators, municipalities, conveyance agreement holders, acreage owners, etc.) within the Eastern Irrigation District are required to reduce their water usage immediately. Municipalities have been contacted by the General Manager and other medium – large users have been notified. Essential use is permitted, but users are requested to evaluate the areas where water use can be reduced or eliminated, and to carry out these measures immediately. For example, watering of trees and gardens on yards is permissible, but allowing the grass to go dormant is recommended.

Enquiries

If you have any enquiries, please contact any of the following:

- Brent Kroschel, Operations Manager (403) 363-5606
- Scott Beddows, North Division Superintendent (403) 363-5607
- Don Syvret, South Division Superintendent (403) 363-5604
- Ivan Friesen, General Manager (403) 363-5612



EASTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Phone: (403) 362-1400
Email: eid@eid.ca
Website: www.eid.ca

Thank you for your appropriate response to this exceptional situation.

Efficient watering methods, crop management, and mindful use of water by all users in our region should be a priority every year to maintain responsible stewardship of this valued resource.

Efficient use this year could help mitigate a multi-year drought.