

WATER SITUATION, STARTUP & ALLOCATION

The snowpack is well above normal and all reservoirs are rising with the spring melt. Overland flooding has resulted in an anticipated late start to the irrigation season. We are looking at the second half of May for startup, subject to repairs and weather. There is also some uncertainty of the rate of capture of snowmelt due to snow-filled AEP headworks canals, but we expect at least 12” per acre available to our irrigators. Please check the TID website later in May for announcement of the 2018 annual allocation and our startup week.

IRRIGATION ACRES The Board of Directors set aside 1,500 acres for intensification of existing TID parcels (e.g. corners), at a maximum of 30 acres/year/parcel. Due to significant interest in early 2018, this threshold has been reached for current applications to be added to the district. Once these have been processed there will be no TID irrigation acres available for new parcels and no waiting list maintained.

2018 Irrigation Rate: \$18/acre

Reminder – Respect TID Property

Please remember that the canals and driving banks are the property of TID. Some recent activities, including excavating ice/snow and driving heavy equipment has caused damage. You cannot clean out ditches with your own equipment. Our driving banks are not public roads. Where warranted, TID will bill the landowner for the cost of repairs.

If you have a concern or request, please call District Superintendent Barry Jensen (403-330-1070) and let the experts help.

PRECISION AGRICULTURE STUDY

TID is partnering with the **University of Lethbridge** to gain a better understanding of precision agriculture by irrigation producers. Drs. Lorraine and Chris Nicol received a \$25,000 grant from the Alberta Real Estate Foundation to determine the extent of the adoption of precision agriculture as well as challenges and barriers to adoption. Data gathering will involve a survey of irrigation producers in TID. Watch for the survey going out around October, 2018. We will notify you when it’s live and provide a link to the survey site. It will be open for a month and we encourage all irrigation farmers to participate.

Check out the Spring MD Connection for a behind-the-scenes take on TID’s response to recent overland flooding, and for pics of our new gabion fences.

IRP Funding



The Irrigation Rehabilitation Program provides Government of Alberta cost-share funding to irrigation districts to rehabilitate our infrastructure. Funding has been cut approximately 25% for 2018 and 2019, and another 25% for 2020. TID will be reviewing our overall capital works program and our budget to consider future planning. If you have an opinion on whether to stretch out construction projects or increase rates, let us know.



Need to cancel a Household or Rural Agreement?

Contact the office before water starts to avoid a 2018 invoice.