

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.

\$ RATES \$

2018 is the 3rd in a three-year process to bring rates closer to the cost to operate the district. During this time interest rates have remained low, our fee to SMRID has increased \$1/ac and IRP funding has been cut. Your board will be reviewing our planning and budget over the next several months. Don't wait until our AGM in March to share your thoughts. Call the office or talk to your board member.

WATER SITUATION & SHUTDOWN DATE

Another hot and dry summer is leading to another higher than average water use year. We are tracking at approximately 2.9 gross inches per acre less use than last year's near-record high due to a late start to both seeding and startup, a few timely rains early in the season, and crops catching up. The St. Mary system will be below reservoir winter target levels so keep in mind as we move into fall that you are now using next year's water. Good water use efficiency is particularly important in dry years. Some late irrigation is needed to finish some crops, maintain soil workability, structure and microbial health, and to manage weeds. Avoid practices that cause excess runoff/loss (surface/subsurface), loss of nutrient/pesticide inputs, compact the soil, cause or worsen lodging, or set up for pests/disease. If you fall irrigate:

1. Understand both your soil moisture content for the full rooting depth, and your soil moisture holding capacity (e.g. texture, organic matter).
2. Run low and slow (drop tube sprinklers and slow pivot) to maximize application efficiency and minimize evaporation.
3. Use your power and maintenance bills to help you decide if it makes sense for you.

Check with your ditchrider on your available allocation and ideas to help us better manage this valuable resource.

Shutdown will be **October 5th**. This is the Friday before Thanksgiving as per usual. This is the earliest date using this guideline and will help SMRID who will be completing Main Canal repairs from Spring overland flooding damage.

Crop Debris and Driving Bank Reminders

As you start harvest remember that you are responsible for any costs to TID associated with cleaning crop debris from our canals the following Spring. Please keep both your soil and crop residue from blowing into our works.

Canal driving banks are TID property and are available for irrigators to access your turnout. Please remember to use your M.D. of Taber approach and avoid hauling on our driving banks. Any damages will be repaired at your cost.

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, the 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.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE TID BOARD

We would like to express our appreciation to our ratepayers for your cooperation and the excellent working relationship with our terrific staff. We are the centre of the most intensive agriculture in Alberta, if not the country and without the enabling support and cooperation of the folks we represent and serve, we couldn't do what we do as growers, making this area what it is.

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.

The due date to receive a 5% discount for early payment is **November 15**

The due date to avoid penalties for late payment is **December 31**

If you have more than one account, or you are paying for a parcel that is either in another name or has multiple names on the account, please let us know when you send or bring in your payment so that we can apply the payments to the correct account. Partially paid accounts will not receive the discount unless the whole balance is paid by November 15th.

TID Gabion Wall Infiltration System Program

TID is planning to install more gabion wall infiltration systems for some of our pipelines in the upcoming construction season and is offering to include private systems in the tender. If you have a turnout directly off a TID canal and are experiencing downtime and excess maintenance in cleaning your pressure filter or sprinkler heads, a gabion wall infiltration system installed within the TID canal may be an effective low-maintenance solution. You would cover the cost and TID will administer the project. Contact District Engineer Tony Wikkerink at our office (403-223-2148) ASAP, to set up an assessment.



Filling Gabion Baskets for Infiltration System in TID

TID Vision: *Our vision is a progressive and cohesive team, supporting the diverse needs of our water users through a heritage of efficient operations, a drive for continuous improvement, and a spirit of collaboration toward responsible water management within Specialty Crop Country*

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