



Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Inc

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2008 Highlights

1. We signed a new 5 year framework agreement for irrigation-based economic development and environmental sustainability for CSIDC as a partner with Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Minister of Saskatchewan Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan and ICDC with recognition for promotional work carried out. Also board members participated in CSIDC executive meetings, strategic planning sessions.
2. Participated in CSIDC field day and that afternoon we participated in an irrigation tour with Jamshed Merchant, assistant D.M. of PFRA and Environment, Hon. Bob Bjornerud, Minister of Agriculture and Alanna Koch DM of Agriculture.
3. Entertained interviews with a number media.
4. Completion of our report "A Time To Irrigate" on the economic benefits of irrigation to Agriculture and Society with financial assistance from CSWSEP. The report along with the stakeholder summaries was hand delivered to key MLA's and others in the industry and then distributed to all Saskatchewan federal members of parliament and Saskatchewan Party MLA'S.
5. We have worked with Kevin Hursh on a media press release of the findings of the economic benefits study.
6. We have made application for funding for the promotion of the results of the study "A Time To Irrigate".
7. Held a number of meetings with Ministers including the Hon. Bob Bjornerud, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lyle Stewart, Minister of Enterprise and Innovations and Hon. Bill Hutchinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs.
8. We had numerous informal meetings and written communications with various staff of irrigation branch including D.M. of Saskatchewan Agriculture regarding issues including Sask Power, Crop Insurance, Irrigation Policies, check offs.
9. We met with the Business Risk Unit to the possibility of a check and we have had numerous communications with them. We have since received a formal application form that the new board will need to review.

10. Submitted written recommendations to Meyers Norris Penny for their review of Saskatchewan Crop Insurance. We are pleased to say that the majority of our recommendations were included in their executive summary. Board members also attended the public consultation meetings.
11. Attended a crop insurance news conference in Melville regarding changes for 2008 including an enhanced pilot project separating dry land and irrigated acres.
12. We participated in a meeting organized by Saskatchewan Environment to review all of the regulations of their department and we then prepared a written submission.
13. We signed an agreement for the development of a new irrigation Saskatchewan website that is a work in progress. The new website will allow us more flexibility and we will be able to have it updated readily.
14. SIPA board members represented our interested at ICDC meetings
15. Invited PFRA and Environment to attend our board meeting held in Swift Current to discuss the progress of the transition in the South West. Throughout the year our SW board members participated in discussions with the SW projects and with the government.
16. Attended trade shows at Crop production show, SUMA, CSIDC field day, AIPA conference
17. The board and committees of the board held numerous meetings and conference calls throughout the year.
18. Accepted an invitation from the Minister of Agriculture to attend the pre-budget briefing address.

Table of Acronyms

AAFC – Agriculture and Ag Food Canada
AIPA – Albert Irrigation Projects Association
CSIDC – Canada Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre
CSWSEP – Canada Saskatchewan Water Supply Expansion Program
ICDC - Irrigation Crop Development Corporation
SAF – Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food