

Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Inc.



A Review of SIPA's 2018 Activities



SIPA was established in 1996 with four goals/objectives:

1. Advocate for irrigation concerns to governments
- II. Promote the benefits of Irrigation
- III. Provide direct input to develop irrigation strategies in setting policies that impact Saskatchewan agriculture and economy
- IV. Assist in the expansion of irrigable acres.

I. Advocate for irrigation concerns to governments

- Chairman participated in a joint meeting to discuss the expansion of irrigation as potential water projects in Saskatchewan with the Hon. Ralph Goodale
- The board meet with the Hon. Ralph Goodale and followed up with a letter on the potential of irrigation as a component of a major water project in Saskatchewan.
- Accepted an invitation to attend a briefing with the Saskatchewan Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture regarding the provincial budget and afterwards attended the budget address
- Participated in the task force organized by Ministry of Environment and Saskatchewan Associations of Watersheds on invasive species focusing on mussels
- Had a joint meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment.
- Our Chairman participated in a workshop on Living Labs organized by Agriculture and Agri Food Canada promoting the importance of CSIDC and the role that the centre could play on the prairies. The concept is designed to improve the transfer of information between the farmers and researchers.



II. Promote the benefits of Irrigation

- Hosted a reception to welcome irrigators from 40 countries to our province.
- Irrigators were hosts at stops in the tours that were hosted with the ICID conference
- Produced a short and a longer version of a video on the potential of irrigation in Saskatchewan and the success stories we have in Saskatchewan that was aired at the 2018 international conference
- Board members participated in organizing committees for the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) conference to be held in Saskatoon August, 2018.
- Display booth at
 - Crop production show
 - CSIDC field day
 - Ag in Motion
 - International Conference on Irrigation



III. Provide direct input to develop irrigation strategies in setting policies that impact Saskatchewan agriculture and economy

- Continued to participate in meetings to modernize Saskatchewan's Irrigation Act and submitted a letter outlining our concerns with the changes being proposed by the Act.
- We continue to emphasize that an irrigation strategy should be based on the 5 principles of :

1. Universal - all programs available equally to all irrigators and potential irrigators across the province
2. Long term
3. Sustained funding
4. Co-operation amongst Government Ministries, Agencies and Crown Corporations.
5. One stop for programs and new development



- SIPA continues to enter into discussions pursuing the formation of one organization for research and for the promotion of the irrigation industry in Saskatchewan as directed at our 2017 annual meeting with the goal of what we want to look like in 10 years. There have been several meetings that ICDC representatives have join in with our board over the year.
- SIPA board participated in meetings with the Saskatchewan Ministry and Irrigation Districts on Asset Transfer and organized a joint meeting of the 5 districts being focused on at this time.
- We continue to support the collaborative research that is carried out by ICDC and CSIDC
- In discussions with the Minister and WSA we learned that a new Water Act was not be proposed at this time but SIPA received assurances that we would be consulted.
- Throughout the year we have had numerous formal and informal meetings with Ministry staff.



IV. Assist in the expansion of irrigable acres.

- In 2016 we participated in a lean exercise with the objective to simplify the process for new irrigators including one door stop. We continue to promote the concept and have had discussions on the access to information and forms on the Ministry website. Will be participating in a follow up meeting in the new year.
- SIPA continues to support the work of the board of the Qu'Appelle South Irrigation District #31.
- At trade shows SIPA meet the public and gave out information on the programs available for the development of irrigation projects.
- We continue to direct inquiries from dryland farmers on the process to develop irrigation.
- We continue to respond to enquiries from out of country and out of province on irrigation development. Also we responded to enquiries on irrigation projects and on drainage issues.



V. Other Activities

- We continue to organize the annual irrigation conference
- We participated in meetings in the development of the Lake Diefenbaker Task Force on mussels.
- SIPA representatives participated in watershed stewardship committees
- Attended irrigation district board and annual meetings
- We appointed board members to ICDC and representatives on Executive Management Committee at CSIDC
- In the last year the board had monthly conference calls, board meetings and numerous committee meetings



