Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Inc.

A Review of SIPA's 2017 Activities

SIPA was established in 1996 with four goals/objectives:

I. 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

- Accepted an invitation to attend a briefing with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture regarding the provincial budget and afterwards attended the budget address
- Board members met with the Hon. Ralph Goodale at Gardiner Dam Anniversary
- Participated in the task force organized by Ministry of Environment and Saskatchewan Associations of Watersheds on invasive species focusing on mussels
- Encourage better communications across different Ministries including the Ministry of Environment and the Water Security Agency.

- Representatives meet with the Director General of Agriculture and Agri Food Canada promoting the importance of CSIDC, irrigation potential in Saskatchewan and the International Conference in 2018
- Numerous time during the year we had the opportunity to meet with MLA Warren Kaeding who continues to be an advocate for sustainable irrigation development in Saskatchewan

II. Promote the benefits of Irrigation

- Participated in Stakeholder meetings regarding the new Agricultural Framework agreement - Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) supporting the advancement of irrigation programming for the development of sustainable irrigation in Saskatchewan under the three areas of infill, expansion and rehabilitation.
- Continue updating materials on our website www.irrigationsaskatchewan.com
- Continue to support the committee for the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) conference to be held in Saskatoon August, 2018
- Signed a contract to produce a video on the potential of irrigation in Saskatchewan and the success stories we have in Saskatchewan to be aired at the 2018 international conference
- Display booth at
    - Crop production show
    - CSIDC field day
    - Ag in Motion

III. Provide Direct Input to Develop Irrigation Strategies in Setting Policies That Impact Saskatchewan Agriculture and Economy

- Participated in a meeting 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. There were several committee meetings over the year.
- SIPA board participated in meetings with the Ministry and Irrigation Districts on Asset Transfer
- Organized the facilitated session at our 2016 annual conference on changes to the irrigation act with the possibility of an irrigation council
- We continue to support the collaborative research that is carried out by ICDC and CSIDC
- Discussions with WSA on the new Water Act
- 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. For 2018 the Ministry is implementing one portal of entry for the irrigation development program and BMP's under the CAP program.
- SIPA directors continue to work with proponents of the Westside / Macrorie North Irrigation project to develop the first phase of their project that has the potential to irrigate 100,000 acres. This involves rehabbing the Westside canal including the reservoir north west of Conquest.

- SIPA continues to work with the Qu'Appelle South Irrigation District #31 and participated in a number of meetings arranged by Qu'Appelle SID.
- At trade shows SIPA meet the public and gave out information on the programs available until 2018 for the development of irrigation projects.
- 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

- 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
- Board members were encouraged to participate in board governance workshops
- In the last year the board had monthly conference calls, board meetings and numerous committee meetings
- Provided input at a workshop, made a written submission and participated on line for inclusion of irrigation in the next Ag Census.
- The board continued discussions with ICDC on the possibility of forming one entity with the goal of how we want to look in 10 years.
- Attended a release of information on Saskatchewan's Climate Change Strategy