



July 21, 2004

Raymond Irrigation District

Presentation to IJC "Saint Mary River"

The Raymond Irrigation District is part of the St Mary's system receiving water from the St Mary River. This system has been in place since the turn of the century. Originally the system was built under contract by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company. The reason the LDS church was involved is because they were able to access many workers complete with horses and teams. They were also a good source of people who could settle the area once the system was completed. It took two years to construct the system. The system has evolved over the past 100 years from a gravity delivery system to one of buried pipelines and modern state of the art sprinkler systems. The RID has 46,296 acres on the roll at the present time. The district has continually upgraded its system on a yearly basis. At the present time over sixteen million dollars has been spent on the works of the district. The district has 91.8 kilometers of buried PVC pipeline installed within the delivery system. The RID also has 103.4 kilometers of rehabilitated canal and 44.6 kilometers of un-rehabilitated canal. Each year we spend over \$500,000.00 on rehabilitation of our works. In the past ten years we have almost exclusively been changing the system to one served through pipelines from the old open canal design. Seepage and parcel severance are becoming a thing of the past here. Because of our close proximity to the Milk River Ridge the topography lends itself well to a closed pipeline system. The district has added acres steadily throughout its history and is now approaching its allotted cap of 46,500 acres. Due to the irrigation system in the area our communities here have had stable populations but have also seen steady growth over the past 100 years. Three communities receive water through the conveyance system of the RID. They are the communities of Raymond with 3200 residents plus 300 rural customers, the Village of Stirling with 877 residents and the Hamlet of Welling with 150 residents. The district also makes water available to the oil and gas industry on a yearly basis by providing water to assist in drilling approximately 20 wells per year within our agreed jurisdictional area. The district also makes water available through conveyance agreements to several wildlife habitat projects. The most notable project is located near Stirling and is called Michelson Marsh. Many hundreds of ducks and geese as well as upland game use this marsh. It is over 600 acres in size.

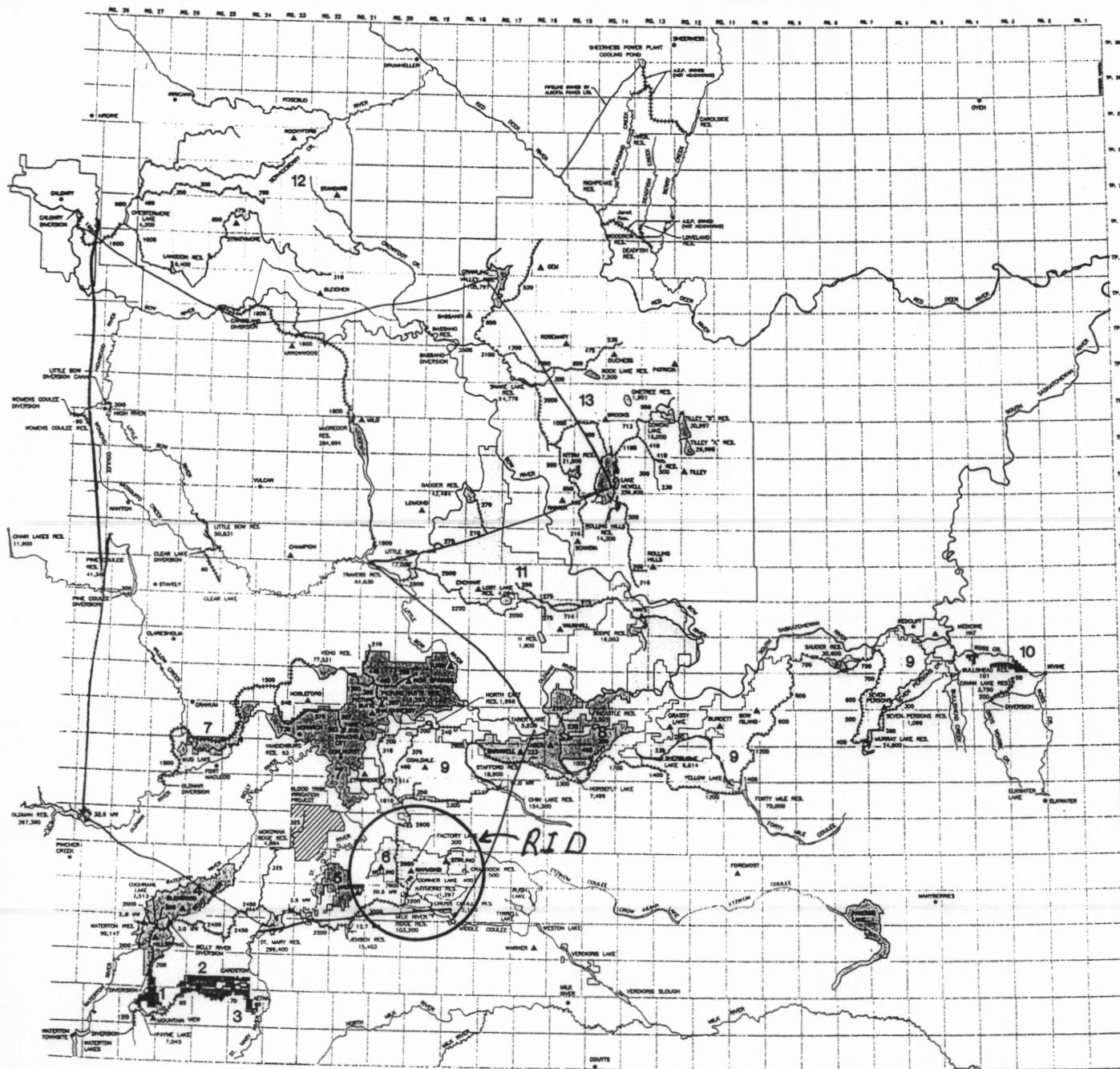
At the present time there are 299 irrigation water users in the RID. In addition to this there is 80 acreages served with individual household purposes agreements entitling them to one acre foot of water per year. The RID has water licenses totaling 81,000 acre feet of water per year. The expansion and development that has taken place within the RID over the years, with regard to increased acreage, has been done in a very responsible manner and has kept pace with the most up to date technology available. We have proceeded in a spirit of cooperation within the district. We very seldom find

ourselves having to seek legal counsel on dispute issues. The people of this area are able to settle their differences in a spirit of understanding and sharing. We always seek the cooperative approach first. Litigation is seldom used. Irrigation in southern Alberta is a massive economic engine that has brought stability and prosperity to the area. Most of the jobs within the area are provided due to the great spin-off of services needed to fuel the irrigation industry. Within the RID we grow several varieties of irrigated crops ranging from barley to canola to alfalfa with many other varieties common to irrigated agriculture also grown. We live in a semi arid desert here and we are not exempt from drought. For this purpose our irrigation system is literally the life blood of the area. Storage is also very important to us so that we can carry over water to be used in time of need. Storage is also a tool that we can use to improve our water supply and an area that we are constantly exploring new possibilities. Our efficiencies at using water have also increased dramatically due to our diligent efforts at embracing new ideas and technology. We operate within a formal regulatory process having many legislated tools at our disposal. The water users of our area are hard working honest and forward thinking people. They have built a system that has taken much hard work and effort to construct. This system is constantly being upgraded and improved both within the conveyance system of the district and on the farm. Our people here take their responsibility to pass a better system onto the next generation very seriously. The RID is also a partner in a cooperative venture called Irrigation Canal Power Cooperative Ltd. This co-op is comprised of the RID, TID and SMRID. These districts collectively represent approximately 2200 water users. Together we have built three hydro electric generating plants within our common main canal system. All of the funds required to build these plants was borrowed from the three involved irrigation districts and from private lending institutions. To date we have invested over \$57,000,000.00 into these plants. Two of these plants have been in operation since 1994 and we have just completed the third plant this summer. The combined generating capacity of these plants is 36 megawatts. The RID is a ten percent partner in this venture. We could go on, but in the sake of time will stop here. The bottom line is that water is at the center of our way of life. We have developed a large population base in southern Alberta which is dependant on our water supply to drive the economy here. We export much of what we grow and produce either directly or indirectly to the US and other countries. We have proven that we are diligent stewards of this valuable renewable resource and sincerely believe that the present agreement must continue in perpetuity.

Respectfully



Alan Heggie
RID Chairman



IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

- 1. MOUNTAIN VIEW IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 2. LEAVITT IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 3. AETNA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 4. UNITED IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 5. MAGRATH IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 6. RAYMOND IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 7. LETHBRIDGE NORTHERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 8. TABER IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 9. ST. MARY RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 10. ROSS CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 11. BOW RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 12. WESTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
- 13. EASTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

LEGEND

- CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES THAT DO NOT RECEIVE IRRIGATION WATER
- ▲ CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES THAT RECEIVE IRRIGATION WATER
- ▽ HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH WATER DISTRIBUTION WORKS
- HEADWORKS OWNED AND OPERATED BY AENV
- CANALS REHABILITATED BY I.R.P. (6 cms AND OVER) (DISTRICT OWNED AND OPERATED)
- CANALS REHABILITATED BY AENV (6 cms AND OVER) (DISTRICT OWNED AND OPERATED)
- CANALS REMAINING TO BE REHABILITATED (6 cms AND OVER) (DISTRICT OWNED AND OPERATED)

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (AENV)
IRRIGATION REHABILITATION PROGRAM (I.R.P.)

- NOTE: MAJOR WORKS ARE CLASSIFIED AS CANALS 200 CFS AND OVER
- RESERVOIR VOLUMES ARE IN (ACRE-FEET)
- CANAL CAPACITIES ARE IN (CFS)
- POWER CAPACITY OF HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS ARE IN (MEGAWATTS)

There are 13 irrigation districts in Southern Alberta providing water to 529,647 assessed hectares of farmland. The infrastructure within these irrigation districts is comprised of approximately 7,800 kilometers of conveyance system, of which 1,565 kilometers are classified as major works.

IRRIGATION DISTRICTS AND MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS WITHIN SOUTHERN ALBERTA



Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Resource Management and Irrigation Division
Irrigation Branch