

LNID  
2321 - 18th Avenue North  
Lethbridge, AB T1H 6T5



# Ninety - Fourth Annual Report 2014

[www.lnid.ca](http://www.lnid.ca)

Annual General Meeting  
April 9, 2015 at 1:30pm  
Picture Butte Community Centre

# The Board of Directors

**JOHN VANDENBERG**  
**CHAIRMAN**



Board Member since May 4, 1993:  
Chairman since 1999.  
Division 3: Includes East of Park Lake  
& Coalhurst / West Lethbridge  
to Shaughnessy & Diamond City.

**JACK PUURVEEN**  
**VICE CHAIRMAN**



Board Member since June 20, 2003:  
Division 1: Includes Iron Springs  
East to Turin.

**BRIAN NAUTA**



Board Member since May 20, 1992:  
Division 5: Includes Fort Macleod  
East to Hwy. 23 and part of  
Keho / Barons.

**MARTIN VAN DIEMEN**



Board Member since June 10, 2008:  
Division 2: Includes East of Piyami  
Coulee / Picture Butte & East  
to Iron Springs.

**KLAAS SLOMP**



Board Member since April 19, 2011:  
Division 4: Includes East of Hwy. 23  
to Park Lake & Coalhurst and  
part of Keho / Barons.

# Mission Statement

To provide the best, most efficient water delivery system at the lowest possible cost to the water users, while ensuring good stewardship for the environment and our natural resources.

# Water Quality Disclaimer

The District advises that the water in the irrigation system of the District may not be potable or may not be suitable for irrigation or other purposes, and the District makes no representation, warranty or guarantee, express or implied that the water delivered through its irrigation system is potable and fit for human consumption or suitable for irrigation purposes, livestock watering, recreational use or other purposes.

The District advises the Owners that the water delivered is in the condition in which it may be found in the irrigation system from time to time and the Owner is to provide such additional treatment or filtering as the Owner considers necessary, to ensure that the water is of usable quality.

The irrigation system of the District is an open ditch system subjecting the water therein to contamination from all manner of environmental, human and animal factors beyond the control of the District and the District does not regulate, control or monitor the quality of the water in its system.



## Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District Organization Effective January 1, 2015

### ADMINISTRATION

Alan Harrold  
Lawrence McCune, CMA  
Gary Burke  
Su-Jin Lee  
Joanne Pohl  
Jenna Sawchuk  
Maritza Suarez

General Manager  
District Accountant  
Classification / Network Technician  
Accounting Technician  
Administrative Assistant  
Payroll & Benefits  
Accountant

### ENGINEERING

Bill Laycock, P. Eng.  
Janet Beck  
Gary Cook  
Glade Roberts  
Stephen Van Essen, E.I.T.

District Engineer  
Land Administrator  
Survey Technician  
Drafting Technologist  
Project Design

### OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Brett Schafer  
Dan Kubik  
Darcy Smith  
Louie Tams  
Wes Wakelin

Construction & Maintenance Foreman  
Equipment Operator / Weed Control  
Equipment Operator / Lead Hand  
Inventory / Purchasing & Safety Coordinator  
Equipment Operator

### WATER OPERATIONS

#### WEST

William Smith	Water Master West
Josh Richardson	Assistant Water Master West
Garth Fischer	Water District Supervisor
Dustin Gillies	Water District Supervisor

#### EAST

Ryan Chogi	Water Master East
Walter Engels	Assistant Water Master East
Herb Brotherhood	Water District Supervisor
John Degenstein	Water District Supervisor
Mike McCloud	Water District Supervisor

### HOURLY SEASONAL STAFF

Rodney Ewart  
Shawn Graham  
Regan Lane  
Jim Pittman  
Bryce Schultz  
Matthew Silsbe  
Tysen Sushelnitski  
Stuart Van Essen

Tandem Driver  
Labourer  
Equipment Operator  
Tandem Driver  
Equipment Operator  
Labourer  
Labourer  
Labourer

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On Behalf of the Board of Directors:

As Board Chairman, I present our 94<sup>th</sup> annual report.

In 2014 two (2) Board Member terms ended, but both were re-elected by acclamation.

In 2015 three (3) Board Member terms will end; the Board has decided to have electoral Division #5 go for a one (1) year term thereby having at least one (1) electoral division election each year. Electoral Divisions #1 and #3 will be for three (3) year terms.

The Board met fifteen (15) times in this last year for regular Board Meetings.

Thanks to Jack Puurveen (Vice-Chairman), Brian Nauta, Klaas Slomp and Marty Van Diemen for your co-operation during the last year. We hope to continue to work for the good of the District.

Last spring we completed the Lateral B11B pipeline project by Nobleford and a small pipeline (Lateral K1F) in the Turin area. Plans are to construct the Lateral 62K pipeline drain for return flow to the Little Bow River this spring and summer, but due to landowner issues with change in ownership this project could possibly be delayed until fall 2015 construction. Phase 1 of the Lateral H3 pipeline will be completed for spring 2015 water season.

Plans are ongoing for the Lateral K1 North canal rehabilitation by the Hutterian Brethren Church of Turin which will straighten the ditch to the property line and provide some capacity for expansion acres in that area. Construction of this project is planned for summer 2015. In the fall 2015 we plan to commence construction of Phase 2 of the Lateral H3 pipeline project.

Last year we reported that an economic study was under way to prove the value of irrigation for agriculture and its importance to Alberta's economy. This study is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2015.

Also, a presentation was given about Zebra and Quagga mussels and the risk of these invasive species entering our irrigation reservoirs. Working together with Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development, all irrigation district board's approved a \$0.07/acre levy for signs and boat inspections. This past winter 2014, most irrigation districts got together to raise \$100,000 for training of four (4) sniffer dogs to detect the mussels on boats and watercraft. The Government of Alberta has draft legislation prepared for mandatory boat and watercraft inspection; hopefully this will be approved in the spring legislation 2015.

In 2014 we saw some land reclassified and, with changes in classification, more acres could be irrigable that were not previously classified as irrigable. Previous land classifications could possibly be retested, if you would like to gain some acres and add irrigation acres to incomplete quarters.

Water rates will stay the same as last year, 2014. In the past we received requests to order water on-line. Spring 2015 will see all Water District Supervisors visit their farmers and go over water order procedures as the old call centre will not be used anymore. Therefore, water orders can be placed by contacting your Water District Supervisor by cell phone, text messaging or on-line by email. Alternate numbers will be provided when the Water District Supervisor is not available.

As of March 9, 2015, the snow pack that supplies the Oldman River Dam is below average. Keho Lake is 93% full and the Oldman River Dam is 82% full. Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development is confident that the dam will be at full operating level with this year's snow melt. The District allocation of water per acre is expected to remain at 17.5 inches for the 2015 water season.

On behalf of the LNID, I would like to thank the Alberta Government for funding through IRP each year. Without this funding support we could not do the construction we do to improve our water distribution infrastructure. In addition, thank you to all Alberta Government departments and Irrigation Council for the support that they provided to our District in 2014.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Alan Harrold – General Manager, Lawrence McCune – District Accountant, Bill Laycock – District Engineer, Brett Schafer, Billy Smith and Ryan Chogi – Field Supervisors and all the staff for their hard work in 2014.

May the Lord grant His blessings on all our labours in 2015.

Respectively submitted,



John Vandenberg  
Chairman of the Board



# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

**Alan Harrold**  
**General Manager**



The 2014 irrigation season commenced with good soil moisture, however April and May had less than average precipitation. This was followed by very high precipitation in June which resulted in 2014 being the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest irrigation water diversion of the District in the past 29 years. Irrigation water deliveries to the farm turnout averaged 5.7 inches per acre compared to 6.6 inches per acre in 2013 and 9.6 inches per acre in 2012.

## **Water Conservation:**

The District's construction program continues to focus on the replacement of open water channels with buried pipelines. This emphasizes the importance that the Board of Directors, management and staff place on water conservation and improving the efficiency of the District's infrastructure.

In addition, the water users have made a considerable contribution to water conservation with their conversion of irrigation systems to low pressure drop-tube pivot systems.

As a result of the District and water user contributions to water savings since the District expansion plebiscite was approved on March 23, 2010, it is estimated that the District has conserved more additional water than what has been required for the irrigation acres that have been added to the District during this period of time.

## **Drainage:**

The LNID canals, ditches and pipelines have been constructed for irrigation and "other use purposes" and are not constructed for drainage. Although the LNID has conveniently assisted with drainage over the years by intercepting drainage with canals or ditches, the District has no obligation to continue accommodating drainage when the District rehabilitates its infrastructure and replaces the ditches and canals with a pipeline or relocates its infrastructure. The District's responsibility is to backfill the ditch or canal and return it to as close as possible to the natural lay of the land unless a county, municipality or landowners can take over responsibility for the ditch and obtain a drainage easement/utility right-of-way from the affected landowners.

It is imperative that all landowners control the runoff from their land and prevent it from entering the District's water delivery system and restrict the type of runoff that enters the drainage system. The District encourages landowners to retain water captured on their land in low lying areas, from snow melt and rainfall events and pump it back onto their land.

## **Expansion:**

During 2014, the District added 731.0 irrigation acres to the Assessment Roll bringing the total to 3,980.8 irrigation acres since the expansion plebiscite was approved. In addition, applications have been received to add 191.3 irrigation acres in 2015 and approximately 2,425 irrigation acres in 2016.

The Board approved reimbursements during 2014 totaling \$40,761 towards landowner capital costs to add new irrigation acres to the District.

## Automation:

The District continues to invest in the automation of its infrastructure by automating more structure control gates, adding flow meters to pipelines and return flow sites, and water level sensors in canals, which all communicate with District computer servers. This information is available to water delivery staff so that real-time adjustments can be made on staff computers for more efficient control of water within our delivery system. The automation of our water delivery system helps to reduce and save operating costs.

## Staffing:

During 2014, the District only incurred a few full-time staff changes. On March 1<sup>st</sup> Wesley Wakelin was hired as an Equipment Operator and on April 1<sup>st</sup> Dustin Gillies was hired as the new Water District Supervisor for the Park Lake Unit. We welcome both of these new staff members and wish them all the success in their positions and long-term employment with the LNID.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their continued commitment to improving our District and for the support they provide to management and staff. I would also like to express my gratitude and thank you to all staff for their dedication to improving the operation and efficiency of our District.

On behalf of our water users and staff, thank you to the staff of Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development and Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development for all of the help and assistance that they have provided to us throughout 2014.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Harrold  
General Manager

PARCELS ADDED TO THE DISTRICT IN 2014							
S.E.	28	-	11	-	20	-	4
N.E.	28	-	11	-	20	-	4
S.W.	13	-	12	-	20	-	4
S.W.	08	-	12	-	22	-	4
N.W.	03	-	10	-	23	-	4
N.E.	03	-	10	-	23	-	4
N.W.	15	-	10	-	25	-	4

YEAR	ACRES APPLIED	ACRES APPROVED	ACRES WITHDRAWN	ADDED TO DISTRICT
2010	2,534.5	1,729.5	1,121.0	143.5
2011	1,866.8	1,478.8	311.0	37.6
2012	4,442.5	1,771.5	2,573.9	1,553.9
2013	428.1	415.6	0.0	1,514.8
2014	731.0	731.0	0.0	731.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,002.9</b>	<b>6,126.4</b>	<b>4,005.9</b>	<b>3,980.8</b>

# DISTRICT ENGINEER'S REPORT



**Bill Laycock, P. Eng.  
District Engineer**

The Alberta Government continued to provide funding for infrastructure rehabilitation in 2014 through the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program (IRP). Under this program 75% of the cost of approved projects is funded by the Provincial Government, with the remaining 25% contributed from the District. The 2014 contribution from the province was \$2,299,009. The District's contribution of \$766,336 brought the 2014 total contribution to the IRP Cost-Sharing account to \$3,065,345.

The LNID also maintains an Irrigation Works Reserve (IWR) account, which can be used to fund construction projects in addition to IRP funded projects. This is funded primarily from District capital assessments and budget allocations.

In addition to the rehabilitation construction projects, the Engineering Department has been involved in future planning for the District, evaluating water right applications, investigating various farmer requests, attending meetings and assisting with operation and maintenance issues.

Thank you to all who have been involved in the implementation of District projects. Each project helps in improving the delivery of water to District water users and increasing the efficiency of the District as a whole. The District appreciates the assistance of the Provincial Government in cost sharing this work. The landowner construction contribution to the pipeline projects is also appreciated, helping to extend the work that can be accomplished.

