

Water Wise Newsletter

Volume 26 ∞ Issue 2 ∞ June 2016



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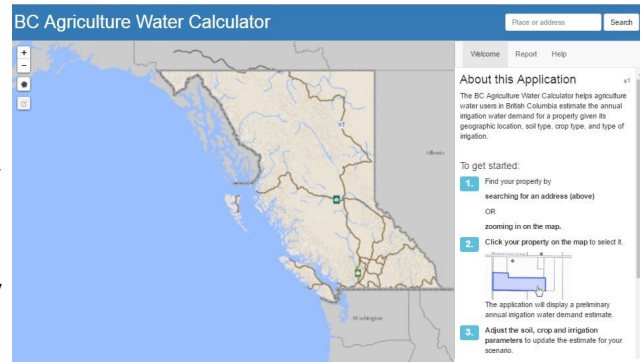
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New Groundwater Regulation Active as of February 29th, 2016

This past February the Province of BC enacted the Groundwater Legislation. Non – domestic groundwater users now have three years to apply for a licence to be in compliance. Legally a person would have to stop using a well if they have not applied for and received a licence by this time. Members of the IIABC should be asking all clients that are not domestic users if they have a licence for the well or are applying for a licence. In fact IIABC members should also be checking that clients have a surface water licence. For new wells the driller or owner should be registering the well with the province and the owner is required to apply for a licence before using the well. An IIABC Certified Professional must ask if the client has the authority to use water from the source in question. Preparing a design or installing an irrigation system for a client that is illegally taking water would not be following the code of ethics that have been established by the IIABC.

New Tool - Agriculture Water Licence Calculator

As mentioned in the article above, groundwater licencing is now a requirement. The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC has led the development of a calculator that can be used to determine how much water an agricultural producer should be applying for. The tool can also be used for surface water users. The tool is very simple to use and information can be accessed by entering an address or by simply just clicking on the map and zooming in on a property. Clicking on the property will provide the information immediately. The tool also allows the user to change crops, soil types and irrigation systems to adjust the values for their conditions.



The calculator can be found at: www.bcagriculturewatercalculator.ca

IIABC 37th Annual Convention & Tradeshow Has Been Booked for Kelowna BC!

It's official! This year's IIABC 37th Annual Convention and Tradeshow will be in beautiful Kelowna, BC the week of **November 28th - December 2nd, 2016**. This year we have a full schedule ranging from Certified Irrigation Technician courses to Advanced Design and Electrical Troubleshooting. So be sure to register this fall because some of these courses only come once a year!

This year we have also joined efforts with *The Partnership for Water Sustainability (PWSBC)* to bring you "Grow and Flow" a workshop on HOW to respect ecosystem and cultural values, ensure food security and build water-resilient communities. We will also have our annual Irrigation tradeshow showcasing the latest and greatest in irrigation products. So be sure to mark your calendars!

Upcoming Industry Events



Abbotsford Agrifair
July 29th - July 31st, 2016
Abbotsford Exhibition Park
(Abbotsford, BC)
For more info please visit:
www.agrifair.ca

CanWest Hort Expo 2016
September 28th & 29th, 2016
Tradex(Abbotsford, BC)
For more info please visit:
www.canwesthortshow.com

IIABC 37th Annual Convention & Tradeshow
November 28th - December 2, 2016
The Coast Capri Hotel (Kelowna, BC)
For more info please visit:
www.irrigationbc.com

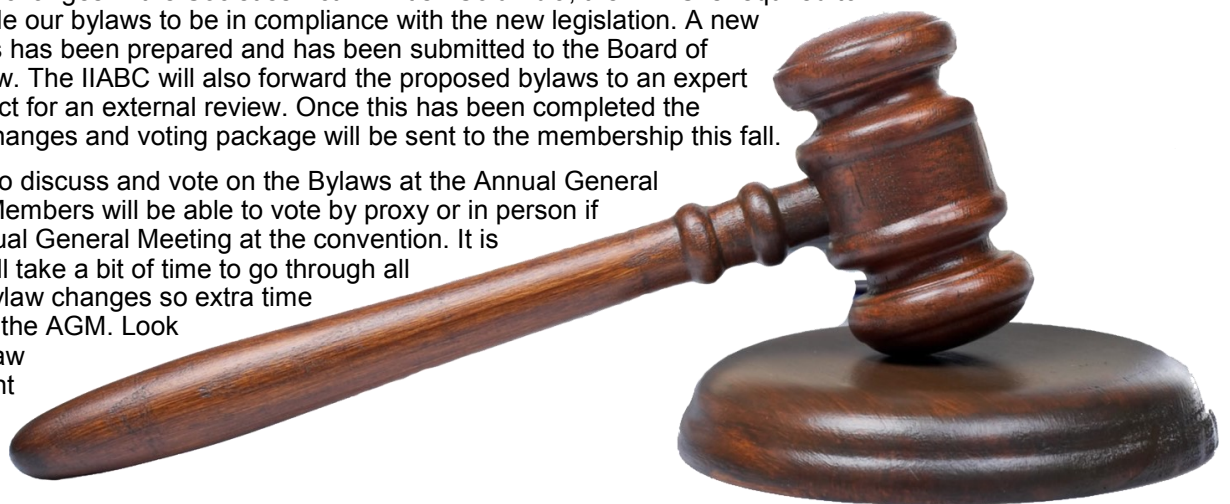
IIABC CID Exam
December 2, 2016
The Coast Capri Hotel (Kelowna, BC)
For more info please visit:
www.irrigationbc.com

IA 2016 Irrigation Show & Education Conference
December 5th– 9th, 2016
Las Vegas Convention Center
(Las Vegas, Nevada)
For more info please visit:
www.irrigation.org

IIABC Updating Bylaws

In response to the changes in the Societies Act in British Columbia, the IIABC is required to review and upgrade our bylaws to be in compliance with the new legislation. A new draft of the Bylaws has been prepared and has been submitted to the Board of Directors for review. The IIABC will also forward the proposed bylaws to an expert on the Societies Act for an external review. Once this has been completed the proposed bylaw changes and voting package will be sent to the membership this fall.

The intent will be to discuss and vote on the Bylaws at the Annual General Meeting this fall. Members will be able to vote by proxy or in person if attending the Annual General Meeting at the convention. It is expected that it will take a bit of time to go through all of the proposed bylaw changes so extra time has been given at the AGM. Look forward to the Bylaw package being sent out in the latter part of October.



High Efficiency Irrigation Standard Specifications

The Irrigation Industry Association of BC recognizes the need to improve water use efficiency in the landscape irrigation sector. It is a cornerstone on which the society has built the many tools, developed its training programs and offers a variety of certifications. Yet many irrigation systems continue to underperform, often due to poor design and installation, but more often due to the lack of knowledge or follow through from initial conception to implementation to ongoing maintenance.

In an effort to improve overall system performance the IIABC has developed the High Efficiency Irrigation Standard (HEIS). The standard is more than just following some basic principles, although these are included, but it takes into consideration, water budgets, system performance and design, product, scheduling and maintenance. The standard also requires using professionals certified by the IIABC. The premise of the standard is that if all of the correct steps are taken, from design to installation to operation, there is a better chance that the irrigation system will be more efficient and save water.

The High Efficiency Irrigation Standard has been developed to improve the water efficiency of irrigation systems in British Columbia. The HEIS is an online tool that must be filled in by an IIABC Certified Irrigation Technician 2, a Certified Irrigation Scheduler or a Certified Irrigation Designer. It is the responsibility of these irrigation professionals to ensure that all of the steps have been filled in and a passing score obtained. A rating of 80 or higher must be achieved on average for the 7 steps in order for the HEIS standard to be achieved.



IIABC HEIS
High Efficiency Irrigation Standard

HEIS Project
Point Accumulation Tracker

■ Mandatory
 ■ Minimum 1 of 2 required
 ■ Optional
 ■ To achieve project rating

Steps	Score	Description	Info
1	162	IIABC Base Standards (Minimum of 100 required)	Info
2	100	Water Use Allocation Budget	Info
3	80	Design Capacity Worksheet	Info
4	84	Product Component Rating	Info
5	80	Irrigation Management - Scheduling Worksheet	Info
6	25	IIABC Certified Professionals	Info
7	10	Complete Irrigation System Proficiency Assessment	Info
98.5		Irrigation System Efficiency Rating	
8	100	Soils Condition Assessment / Recommendation	Info
9	0	Conservation Enhancements / Water Collection - Reuse	Info
50		High Efficiency Water Use for Project	

Save Project

Including HEIS in Specifications

While landscape architects and others are encouraged to include HEIS in their specifications for irrigation systems, it is important to know what the requirements of an HEIS are. Adding an HEIS specification to a bid document will require a Certified Professional to design, install and monitor the system; require the system to be able to operate within a specified water budget; ensure that the system will operate to accepted performance criteria; require the area to be irrigated with higher efficiency products; and most likely require the development of an irrigation schedule and a post installation irrigation system proficiency assessment. The system will likely cost more and will require a report to be printed out and provided to the client.

Certification Program Changes - Continuing Education Units and Fees Are Coming

The IIABC certification program has been operating since 1986, that is 30 years. The program started with a handful of members obtaining their agriculture irrigation certification, mainly to assist in getting plans approved through a government loan program. It was easy to track and did not take much time for the IIABC to manage. However times change and the IIABC Certification Program now encompasses many types of design certifications (CID) as well as technician certification (CIT). We are now approaching 1000 certified individuals. How we managed the Certification Program in the past does not work well moving forward.

Many local governments, landscape architects and other clients now put the IIABC standards into their specifications. The HEIS system is another tool that is starting to be used. (See related article in this newsletter). The Certification Board is concerned that while we have many individuals seeking certification, many are not doing much to maintain their credentials once certification has been achieved. This is not sustainable and does not foster credibility when the program is looked at from outsiders. Every other certifying organization has implemented Continuing Education Units (CEU's). It is the only way to verify that certified individuals make an attempt to keep up with changes in their industry.

Currently a paper file is kept for all members that are certified by the IIABC. These files are important and they provide the current status and history of the individual's exams and certifications. To make this system more manageable, all of these files will be scanned and converted into an electronic version as well. This is being done mainly for security reasons as should the files be damaged or lost there is no backup. It will take quite an effort to scan the existing files. Moving forward it will also take more effort to scan all new certifications. However, an electronic system is the right way to go.

Tracking certifications has become cumbersome, mainly because we put the onus on the company to provide us with the names of their employees that are certified. Quite often an employee will have left and moved to another company, or leave the industry entirely and the office will not have been able to update the files. The Certification Board would like to put the onus on the individual to maintain their certification status. This will require every certified individual to have an email registered with the IIABC. They will then be able to log into their own account, enter their CEU's and conduct any other business as required. Further information will be provided in future newsletters on how CEU's can be earned. There will also be opportunity to discuss the direction and process at the AGM this fall.

Taking on these new initiatives is not possible in the long term with the current funding obtained from membership dues, course and certification application fees. The Certification Board has therefore asked the Board of Directors to implement an annual certification fee. The Board of Directors has accepted this request and the new fee will be implemented in the fall of 2017 (one year from this fall.)

The certification fee invoice will be sent to each certified individual by email. Only one fee will need to be paid. For a CIT it will be \$25.00 annually. For a CID it will be \$50.00 annually. A person holding more than one certification will only pay one fee, for example if a person holds a CIT and a CID the fee would be \$50.00. A company may wish to pay the certification fee for their employees but it will be the employee's responsibility to make sure that the IIABC office has received the payment.

The Certification Fee will help to offset the following costs being absorbed by the IIABC.

- Scanning all certification files
- Developing and maintaining an online CEU system
- Hiring a temporary staff person to ensure CEU's have been entered and the Certification Fee has been paid.

The Certification Board hopes that the membership will understand the need to move the program forward and take these steps to ensure the integrity, compliance and professionalism of our program. We have 18 months to get the system implemented and process figured out.

Members can certainly contact members of the Certification Board or the Board of Directors on the direction being taken.

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Fall Course Schedule

Certified Irrigation Scheduler (CIS) Course (2 day course)

Date - September 27th and 28th, 2016
Location—Mission Leisure Centre
7650 Grand Street, Mission BC

Whether an irrigation schedule is developed using detailed analysis and calculations, technology, as in SMART controllers, or just using one's intuitive knowledge and experience, it will still require to be monitored and adjusted.

A Certified Irrigation Scheduler will use the best tools, technology and knowledge to produce a watering schedule in the simplest, most efficient, and cost effective manner to the benefit of the customer and/or end user.

Please Note - There is **NO** pre-requisite to take this course but to register for the exam you must be Certified in CIT-1 or CID or CLIA.

Exam Pre-Requisite - Must be Certified in CIT-1 or CID or CLIA

Certified Irrigation Technician - Agriculture Course - (2 day course)

Date: October 25th and 26th, 2016
Location: Specific site TBA but will be held in the Abbotsford/Mission area.

This two day course will provide information on:

- Agricultural Systems and Soils, Crops & Climate
- Principles of Hydraulics
- Back flow Prevention
- System Maintenance on both sprinkler & drip systems
- Agriculture irrigation system operational troubleshooting
- Electrical and controller troubleshooting

Learn how to schedule these systems based on soils, crops and climate data.

To register for these or upcoming convention courses please visit: www.irrigationbc.com



Partnered with



** The Abbotsford Mission Water & Sewer Commission is offering a \$100 course subsidy for BOTH of these courses to all companies and individuals working on irrigation systems connected to the municipal water supply (this does not include the Clearbrook Waterworks District or properties on wells) in Abbotsford and Mission. Consideration will also be given to professionals outside of the region that work on irrigation systems in Abbotsford and Mission, if space allows.*



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Irrigation Questions ...Asked and *Answered*

How can we as irrigators use less water?

- More precise scheduling
- Rain sensors
- Weather station based controllers
- Drip irrigation
- Check valves
- Pressure regulating valves and water meters
- Create a contractor - client information package on water conservation procedures
- Correct zoning of various irrigated areas

How can I keep my yard looking lush and healthy and still comply with my city's water restrictions?

Choose your plants and soils wisely. Consider planting some of these...

- Aromatic leaves. These plants produce oils to protect the plant from drying out. Such as: **Lavender**
- Thick fleshy root structures. These enable the plants to store extra moisture in their roots making them able to withstand periods of drought. Such as: **Bulbs and Irises**
- Low growing or mounding forms. These plants stay close to the ground to protect their roots from the elements and to stay out of drying winds. Such as: **Creeping Phlox**
- One of the most effective ways to reduce a gardens water needs and weeds is adding **mulch** to your landscape design

Are day-of-the-week restrictions actually effective at reducing water use?

YES...

- **Although, they may encourage over-watering on the allowed day.** Just because potable water demands decrease under restrictions, it doesn't mean that irrigation is being applied at the right time and in the right amount—in other words, it's possible that water is still being wasted, even though it may be a smaller amount.

What's the best way to reduce my landscape water use this summer?

- **Know your yard.** By educating yourself on your landscapes plants, soils and sunlight conditions, you can plan your property's most efficient:

- Design
- Maintenance
- Irrigation
- Planting

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www.irrigationbc.com



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Install Foreman

To apply please send resumes to:

projects@kore.ca



Experienced Irrigation Technician
(Lower Mainland/Vancouver)

To apply please send resumes to:

payroll@glelandscape.com



Experienced Irrigation Technician
(Vancouver /Comox Valley)

To apply please send resumes to:

mrm@shaw.ca



Irrigation Technician/Assistant
(Lower Mainland)

To apply please send resumes to:

careers@ilandscapes.ca



www.UniversitySprinklers.com

Service Technician/ Installation Foreman
Installation Labour Crew

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www.universitysprinklers.com



Irrigation Installers
(Lower Mainland)

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- 🚰 Titanium Hammer Contracting
- 🚰 T. Moscone & Bros. Irrigation Contractors
- 🚰 Wes-Tech Irrigation Supply Ltd

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

NEW COMPANY MEMBERS

3E Excavating & Irrigation Ltd.
Campbell River, BC
Contact: Mike Russell

AvanGardens Landscape Design
Penticton, BC
Contact: Jordan Spychalski

Busy Bee Gardening & Irrigation
Surrey, BC
Contact: David Hill

Canada Landscape
Kelowna, BC
Contact: Bill Maxwell

Coast Irrigation Services
Sooke, BC
Contact: Ken Dash

Craig's Irrigation
Milner, BC
Contact: Craig Cooper

Greenworld Landscapes
Ladysmith, BC
Contact: Patrick Gow

Houston Landscapes Ltd.
North Vancouver, BC
Contact: Kirsty Miller

Ishai Horticultural Knowledge Inc.
Cobble Hill, BC
Contact: Ishai Sharabi

Long Lake Lawn & Garden Maintenance Ltd.
Lantzville, BC
Contact: Wayne Flather

Look Out Landscaping Ltd.
Kamloops, BC
Contact: Stacey Gagnon

Nicholas Alexander Landscaping
Vernon, BC
Contact: Nick Moffat

NK'MIP Canyon Desert Golf Course
Oliver, BC
Contact: Ken Bruniski

Okanagan Yard Works
Lake Country, BC
Contact: Jeremy Stark

Quadra Landscape Ltd.
Quathiaski, BC
Contact: Don Doolittle

Shangri-la Landscaping
North Vancouver, BC
Contact: Tim Rust

NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Steven Bailey
Abbotsford, BC

Luis Barroqueiro
Penticton, BC

Richard Beaverstock
Langley, BC

Dwayne Boulet
Surrey, BC

Mathew Cooper
Mission, BC

Thomas Douglas
Merritt, BC

Phil Joergensen
Saanichton, BC

David Labossiere
100 Mile House, BC

Larry Prazma
Prince George, BC

Derrick Thompson
Maple Ridge, BC

Corey Wallis
Enderby, BC

John Wince
Duncan, BC

Trevor Wince
Duncan, BC

We Moved! Please Update Your Contact Info



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