



**August 24, 2021 Regular Directors Meeting**

The Directors of the Eastern Irrigation District held a regular meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Jason Hale	Chair	[Division 1]	Mr. Ivan Friesen	General Manager
Mr. David Peltzer	Director	[Division 2]	Mr. Marvin Koochin	Assist. GM – Legal & Corporate Services
Mr. Ross Owen	Director	[Division 3]	Mrs. Wendy Enns	Executive Assistant
Mr. Brian Schmidt	Director	[Division 4]		
Mr. Don Jacobson	Director	[Division 5]		
Mr. Brent Schroeder	Director	[Division 6]		
Mr. Tracy Hemsing	Vice-Chair	[Division 7]		

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

**1.0 Approval of Agenda**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 4.01 Subsurface Drip Irrigation Field Day
- 4.02 Soil Erosion/Degradation Advisory Committee
- 4.03 Alberta Irrigation Districts Association (AIDA)
- 12.0 Request for Donation/Funding – CPR Engineer’s House & Gardens

**2021-08-224 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board adopt the revised Agenda as amended. Seconded by B. Schmidt. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2.0 Approval of Minutes**

**2.01 July 27, 2021 Regular Directors Meeting**

The minutes of the July 27, 2021 Regular Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

**2021-08-225 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Minutes of the July 27, 2021 Regular Directors Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2.02 August 5, 2021 Special Directors Meeting**

The minutes of the August 5, 2021 Special Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

**2021-08-226 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Minutes of the August 5, 2021 Special Directors Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2.03 August 6, 2021 Special Directors Meeting**

The minutes of the August 6, 2021 Special Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

**2021-08-227 Moved by T. Hemsing that the Minutes of the August 6, 2021 Special Directors Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 3.0 Business Arising

There were no matters raised.

### 4.0 Reports on Meetings / Events

#### 4.01 Subsurface Drip Irrigation Field Day

On August 4<sup>th</sup> D. Peltzer attended the Subsurface Drip Irrigation Field Day, hosted by Southern Irrigation. Displaying photos, Mr. Peltzer advised that the large scale newly implemented system, northwest of Lethbridge, serves a 623 acre field, currently seeded to winter wheat. Irrigation intake is off a canal, fitted with a rotary screen, with a concrete pump house built to automatically backflush, and including a fertigation option. Two 100 HP pumps provide 3,200 gal/min of irrigation water, entering the filtration system at 62 psi, leaving at 55 psi, down approximately 2 dozen 800 m lengths of PVC, with an end pressure of 15 psi. The mainline is 16" or 18", down to 10" and smaller, with laterals spaced 36" apart, emitters 27" apart, and the whole system placed approximately 10" – 11" below surface. 36 zones each have concrete boxes with pressure regulators, electronic valves, and solar powered controllers. The field may be irrigated all at once, individually by zones, can go over 2"/week, and can be run from a phone. Winter pump outs are installed for delivery pipes; however, the drip lines are self-draining. Some of the advantages from this type of system include approximately 30% water savings (no evaporation), options for configuration, no fungicide requirements, ability to fertigate, and increased yields. Investment/acre (this system was \$2,500 - \$2,800/acre), no deep root crops (potatoes, sugar beets), and maintenance are some of the limitations. The best soil for this type of irrigation system is sandy clay loam.

#### 4.02 Soil Erosion/Degradation Advisory Committee

T. Hemsing advised that the Soil Erosion/Degradation Advisory Committee has met a couple more times and that the Committee is in the final stages of policy development. It is anticipated to bring a definitive draft to the EID Board and County Council in September or October.

#### 4.03 Alberta Irrigation Districts Association (AIDA)

T. Hemsing advised that the AIDA Board Meeting has been set for Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. A location and date for this twice-yearly meeting are yet to be determined. Irrigation District Directors and General Managers are all invited to take part.

[9:19 a.m. J. Latrace, MNP entered the meeting.]

### 5.0 Financial Report

J. Latrace presented the following Financial Report.

#### 5.01 Financial Statements to July 31, 2021

The financial statements to July 31, 2021 were reviewed, noting the following overall:

- YTD revenues total about \$36.98 million and are tracking slightly over YTD budget. Community pasture and water conveyance are under budget, while basically all other significant revenue accounts are ahead of budget.
- YTD net operating expenses total about \$25.41 million and are tracking under YTD budget due to all net departments expenses and special project expenses being under YTD budget.
- YTD potential transfer to the Irrigation Works Fund is about \$11.57 million.



**2021-08-228 Moved by R. Owen that the Board approve the Financial Statements to July 31, 2021 as presented. Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

[9:38 a.m. J. Latrace exited the meeting; R. Gagley and D. Syvret entered.]

**6.0 Operations**

I. Friesen presented the following Operations report.

**6.01 Reservoir Status and Water Use to Date**

The hot, dry and breezy weather of the past month has seen persistently higher than average irrigation demands. Essentially since July 21 – August 17<sup>th</sup> the District has been passing 600 cfs past the Bassano dam (400 cfs licensed minimum) and diverting the remainder of the river supply. Diversions were around 3,000 cfs on July 20<sup>th</sup> (3,390 licensed maximum) to as low as 810 cfs on August 10<sup>th</sup> as that is all that could be diverted from the river supply and meet our licensed conditions. Reservoirs have been utilized to supply the remaining irrigation demands that river supplies didn't and are approximately 30,000 ac-ft less than in 2020. Water levels however are in relatively good shape considering the demand and conditions. The rainfall event on August 17<sup>th</sup> has seen demand fall off significantly and will likely see this declining or low demand trend continue into September as harvest resumes.

<b>WATER USE TO DATE</b>		
	<b>August 2021</b>	<b>August 2020</b>
Water Diverted to Date	465,252 ac ft (18.12")	289,527 ac ft (11.32")
Water Applied to Land to Date	12.6"	6.48"
Range of Parcels Irrigating	342 – 1,189	368 – 869
Parcels Using Over 12"	1,940	240
Parcels Using Over 16"	731	43
Parcels Using Over 20"	147	6
Total Firm Live Storage*	233,579 ac ft	262,050 ac ft

\* Only includes main reservoirs

As per the provisions approved through Bylaw #953 (2021), there have been no requests received for additional inches of water.

[9:51 a.m. J. Kabut and R. Summach entered the meeting.]

**6.02 Set Water Shut Down Date**

Mr. Friesen recommended to set the water shut down date to water users no later than Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, which is typical and near the long-term average. Depending on the water levels of the reservoirs in October, and to bring them to levels that are adequate for winter/into next spring, diversions to fill reservoirs only may continue after October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**2021-08-229 Moved by R. Owen that the Board set the Water Shut Down date for irrigation water to be Thursday, October 7, 2021. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

[9:57 a.m. – 10:01 a.m. Short break.]

## 7.0 Engineering

### 7.01 12 Springhill Pipeline

J. Kabut presented the 12 Springhill pipeline rehab project, located approximately 7 km southeast of Rosemary, supplying 5,118 acres, and slated for the 2021/2022 construction year. Mr. Kabut advised that at a starting point close to the north corner of Rock Lake Reservoir, this project will convert a portion of canal exiting the Springhill Canal, to a closed gravity pipeline and allow any spill to remain in the reservoir. There will be twin 54" pvc lines, 1.2 km in length. It is also being proposed for the stretch of the Springhill Canal which runs parallel to the northwest bank of the reservoir, to lift and rehab the banks and to modify an existing check structure to raise the water level in the canal half a meter. The estimated cost of the project is \$4,674,000; to be funded under the Capital Works program. A number of questions were responded to by Staff and Admin.

**2021-08-230 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Board approve the 12 Springhill rehabilitation project by modifying an existing check structure, raising and rehabbing canal banks, and installing 2.4 km of pipeline, at an estimated cost of \$4,674,000; to be funded under the Capital Works program. Seconded by D. Jacobson. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 7.02 Bow Slope Canal

R. Summach presented the Bow Slope Canal synopsis, beginning at the Lake Newell spillway and ending at Hwy #873, 4 km east of Rainier; the canal supplies 27,800 acres downstream. Mr. Summach advised that this 3.2 km of canal is unlined and has experienced significant erosion from water and cattle. It is being proposed to regrade, armour, and fence the canal to repair and prevent any future damage. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,010,000; to be funded under the IRP program. Through discussion it was directed that the rehab be completed to bring this portion of the main delivery canal up to standards, but to also examine the possibilities of installing single or multiple pipelines in the future as reliable materials become available and feasible.

**2021-08-231 Moved by D. Jacobson that, as an interim measure, the Board approve the Bow Slope Canal rehabilitation project by regrading, armouring, and fencing the canal at an estimated cost of \$1,010,000; to be funded under the IRP program. Seconded by B. Schmidt. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2021-08-232 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 7.03 02 Bow Slope

**2021-08-233 Moved by R. Owen that the meeting be reconvened. Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## *DIRECTION ARISING FROM THE IN CAMERA PORTION OF THE MEETING*

### 7.03 02 Bow Slope

Ongoing delivery issues and attempts to resolve were discussed for 02 Bow Slope, a 4 km canal coming off the main Bow Slope Canal and feeding 4 pipeline laterals. Estimates to permanently correct the issue will be brought back to the next meeting, comparing pipeline rehabbing costs to canal rehabbing costs. The affected landowners who have submitted letters will be contacted and



notified that the District is investigating its options. Additionally, if consent is received from all the water users on this system, after harvest Operations will conduct a supply test of the system with all users on.

[11:37 a.m. D. Syvret, J. Kabut, R. Summach exited the meeting; R. Moen entered.]

CONTINUATION OF THE AGENDA

**8.0 EIDNet**

R. Moen presented the following EIDNet report.

**8.01 Monthly Report**

There have been no major issues since the last report. A moratorium on installs and upgrades in Duchess and Rosemary remains; 35 names are on the waiting list for Duchess and 55 for Rosemary. District staff have begun fibre conduit installation for Phase 1 of the fibre path. The Cat D7 dozer is taking an initial run to cut the path and then a second deeper run to pull the conduit approximately 4' below surface. An experienced third party will inspect the course to the first junction box and advise if any changes in installation are needed. Subject to finalizing commercial terms, the same third party will blow in the fibre once all the conduit has been placed for Phase 1. Completion date for the project is anticipated for end of October or early November. As an additional update, it was advised that no word yet has been received on the announced \$150 M government funding for rural broadband projects. A number of questions were responded to by Mr. Moen and Mr. Gagley.

[11:47 a.m. – 12:17 p.m. Lunch break; R. Gagley and R. Moen exited the meeting; S. Connauton entered.]

**9.0 Lands**

**9.01 Assessment, Water & Lands**

S. Connauton presented the following Assessment, Water & Lands report.

**9.01.1 Farm Improvement Grant Applications and Increases in Irrigation Acres Applications**

**9.01.1.1 Budget Report**

<b>FARM IMPROVEMENT GRANT BUDGET – MONTHLY REPORT</b>	
<b>2021 Farm Improvement Grant Budget as of October 1, 2020</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>50/50 Cost-Shares</b>	
Paid	< \$ 36,000 >
To be Completed	< \$ 47,450 >
Require Approval	< \$ 21,500 >
<b>Farm Improvement Grants</b>	
October through July ( <i>approved and paid</i> )	< \$ 678,063 >
August ( <i>require approval</i> )	< \$ 37,670 >
<b>Total Budget Remaining (<i>less \$125,000</i>)</b>	<b>\$ 54,317</b>



\*Total grants paid to date within the 2021 fiscal year is \$649,663.

\*\*Total purchase of acres from landowners within the 2021 fiscal year is 165 acres or \$577,500.

**Farm Improvement Grants**

For payment of irrigation acres purchased from the District, reimbursement for irrigation acres sold to the District, Farm Improvement grant categories, grant eligibility requirements, and other grant constraints, landowners may reference the current Capital Assets Charges Bylaw and Farm Improvement Policy, which are posted on the District’s website.

**Cost-Shares** (*turnouts, crossings, drain relocations, tree removal, machine leveling, gated pipe, etc.*)

**9.01.1.2 Field Drain Infill – Daniel & Marg Loewen – NW 28-20-15 W4M**

The landowners are applying for a 50/50 cost-share to infill a drain in NW 28-20-15 W4M to accommodate a pivot. Consent from the adjacent landowner to the east will be required for the drain infill to proceed. By policy, the EID will pay 50% up to \$12,000 per parcel; this project is estimated to cost \$19,000.

**2021-08-234 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Daniel & Marg Loewen for the infill of a drain to accommodate a pivot in NW 28-20-15 W4M, to be funded on a 50/50 cost-share basis, up to \$12,000. The project is estimated to cost \$19,000; of which the EID will pay \$9,500 and the Landowner’s share is \$9,500 + GST. Seconded by R. Owen. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.01.1.3 Tree Removal – Gregory Tamura – N ½ 11-21-15 W4M**

The landowner is applying for a 50/50 cost-share for tree removal in N ½ 11-21-15 W4M to accommodate a pivot. By policy, the EID will pay 50% up to \$12,000 per parcel; this project is estimated to cost \$36,000.

**2021-08-235 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Gregory Tamura for tree removal to accommodate a pivot in N ½ 11-21-15 W4M, to be funded on a 50/50 cost-share basis, up to \$12,000. The project is estimated to cost \$36,000; of which the EID will pay \$12,000 and the Landowner’s share is \$24,000 + GST. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Converting to a More Efficient Method of Irrigation** (*wheels, pivot, sub-surface*)

**9.01.1.4 Flood & Wheels to Pivot – Carl Scheibner – S ½ 07-23-16 W4M**

- Previous Assessment: 193 acres flood and wheels
- Previous Grant: \$2,500 (motion 2008-04-094)
- Current Assessment: 255 acres (irrigation development motion 2020-04-128)
- Converting: 193 acres flood and wheels to wiper pivot
- Assessment remains the same at 255 acres, all under wiper pivot
- Parcel has reached its maximum grant funding
- Notes: irrigation development approved in April 2020;  
36 acres of 5R soils are subject to retesting and meeting soils requirements in 5 years/10 years, and if not passable must be removed from the assessment roll, with pivot modified to equal assessment

**2021-08-236 Moved by B. Schroeder that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Carl Scheibner for the conversion of 193 acres flood and wheels to wiper pivot in S ½ 07-23-16 W4M. The Farm Improvement Grant available and payable to the Landowners is \$19,300 (193 acres x \$100/acre) less \$2,500 (previous grant) = \$16,800. Seconded by B. Schmidt. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

As the half section wiper pivot will cover both the SW and SE quarters an irrigable unit is required to be registered.

**2021-08-237 Moved by B. Schroeder that the Board approve the registration of an Irrigable Unit on SW & SE 07-23-16 W4M, all lands being owned by Carl Scheibner. Seconded by B. Schmidt. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9.01.1.5 Flood to Wheels – Ian & Jo Ann Zoerb – NW 05-19-13 W4M**

- Current Assessment: 113 acres flood
- Converting: 113 acres flood to wheels
- Assessment remains the same at 113 acres, all under wheels

**2021-08-238 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Ian & Jo Ann Zoerb for the conversion of 113 acres flood to wheels in NW 05-19-13 W4M. The Farm Improvement Grant available to the Landowners is \$11,300 (113 acres x \$100/acre); with the payable amount being \$5,650 (113 acres x \$50/acre). Seconded by R. Owen. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Upgrades (panels, nozzles, drag hoses, replacement pivots, pumps)

**9.01.1.6 Panel – Jackson Cattle Company Ltd (William & Anne Jackson) – SW 06-19-14 W4M**

- Previous Assessment: 99 acres
- Current Assessment: 119 acres wiper pivot (20 acres added through irrigation development)
- Installing: panel
- Assessment remains the same at 119 acres, all under wiper pivot
- Parcel has reached its maximum grant funding

**2021-08-239 Moved by R. Owen that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Jackson Cattle Company Ltd for the panel upgrade in SW 06-19-14 W4M purchased for \$11,027. The Farm Improvement Grant available and payable to the landowner is \$9,900 (99 acres x \$100/acre). Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

[12:28 p.m. D. Peltzer declared a pecuniary interest and exited the meeting.]

**9.01.1.7 Nozzles – Rudolph & Jean Peltzer – SE 15-21-15 W4M**

- Current Assessment: 133 acres pivot
- Installing: nozzles; keeping 2 acres outside the pivot area
- Assessment remains the same at 133 acres (131 pivot, 2 outside)

**2021-08-240 Moved by R. Owen that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Rudolph & Jean Peltzer for the nozzles upgrade in SE 15-21-15 W4M purchased for \$6,320. The Farm**



**Improvement Grant available to the landowner is \$13,300 (133 acres x \$100/acre); with the payable amount being \$6,320 less \$1,000 (2 acres x \$500/acre) deduction for keeping acres outside the pivot area = \$5,320. Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

[12:29 p.m. D. Peltzer rejoined the meeting.]

**Increase in Irrigation Acres**

For payment of irrigation acres purchased from the District and full disclosure of the parameters in applying for irrigation acres, landowners may reference the current Capital Assets Charges Bylaw and Irrigation Acres Bylaw, which are posted on the District’s website.

**9.01.1.8 GL Graham Farms Ltd (Gordon Graham) – SE 24-16-16 W4M**

- Previous Assessment: 117 acres
- Current Assessment: 133 acres (16 acres added through irrigation development)
- Proposal: add corner arm; 14 additional acres needed (infill)
- Efficiency Acres Gained: 0
- New Assessment: 147 acres (133 pivot, 14 corner arm)
- Note: project must be complete by August 31, 2022

**2021-08-241 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Board approve the Increase in Irrigation Acres application for GL Graham Farms Ltd for 14 infill acres in SE 24-16-16 W4M. The capital assets charge is \$13,300 (14 acres x \$950/acre). Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

[12:30 p.m. S. Connauton exited the meeting; R. Volek entered.]

**9.02 Grazing**

R. Volek presented the following Grazing report.

**9.02.1 Set Round-Up Date**

Although the summer of 2021 has been extremely hot and dry, excellent reserve grass and adequate livestock water has allowed 16,848 head to graze community pastures so far this season. Consensus from Grazing Associations supports keeping cattle out until October 16<sup>th</sup> without negatively affecting pastures for next year. After round-up, pasture conditions will be re-evaluated to determine a preliminary maximum head for next year, then reviewed again in spring along with the 2022 listings.

**2021-08-242 Moved by R. Owen that for the 2021 grazing season, all cattle are to be out of community leases by end of day on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

A number of questions were responded to by Staff and Admin. The District may allow diversion to some DU projects at this point in time, and overall dugouts/water supply for grazing will continue to be assessed.

[12:40 p.m. R. Volek exited the meeting; R. Gagley entered.]



**2021-08-243 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10.0 JBS / City of Brooks**

[1:03 p.m. R. Gagley exited the meeting; S. Connauton entered.]

[1:21 p.m. S. Connauton exited the meeting.]

**11.0 Legal & Corporate Services**

**11.01 Audio Recording Policy – Discussion**

**11.02 Financing Agreements**

**11.03 CIB Financing Update**

**12.0 Request for Donation/Funding – CPR Engineer’s House & Gardens**

**13.0 Pathway**

**2021-08-244 Moved by R. Owen that the meeting be reconvened. Seconded by B. Schmidt. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*DIRECTION ARISING FROM THE IN CAMERA PORTION OF THE MEETING*

**10.0 JBS Foods Canada / City of Brooks**

Engineering representatives from both JBS Foods Canada and the City of Brooks will be invited to answer questions during separate sessions at September’s Board Meeting.

**11.0 Legal & Corporate Services**

**11.01 Audio Recording Policy – Discussion**

The draft Audio Recording Policy will be brought to the September Meeting for discussion.

**11.02 Financing Agreements**

For further Board discussion, a revised Capital Assets Bylaw will be presented at a fall meeting proposing no future financing through commercial term loans be available to water users.

**11.03 CIB Financing Update**

The EID has secured a second round of funding from the Government of Alberta and the Canada Infrastructure Bank for additional modernization projects.

**12.0 Request for Donation/Funding – CPR Engineer’s House & Gardens**

An email was received by the Chairman from Kathy Ramer, Project Manager – CPR Engineers House & Gardens requesting funding support for presentations to local school classes and a donation towards an Alberta Culture Days event. The Board was supportive of promoting awareness, appreciation and understanding of irrigated agriculture and its history within the Eastern Irrigation



District and approved the request for irrigation based educational field trips to the CPR Engineer’s House.

**2021-08-245 Moved by D. Jacobson that the District pay to the CPR Engineer’s House & Gardens Project Manager:**

- **\$150 per local school class up to a maximum amount of \$10,000 for presentations on irrigation and history of the Eastern Irrigation District. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**13.0 Pathway**

Board consensus was gained to allow the Pathway Project to move forward as per the proposed route utilizing a portion of District lands, contingent upon private landowners being in agreement. Depending on the portion of the pathway, EID lands will either be leased or consolidated into County ROW’s. Other matters such as insurance, etc. will be addressed as project details evolve. I. Friesen will respond to the County.

CONTINUATION OF THE AGENDA

**14.0 Upcoming Events**

- |       |                        |  |
|-------|------------------------|--|
| 14.01 | Regular Board Meeting  | - Tuesday, September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 9:00 a.m.            |
| 14.02 | AIDA Board Meeting     | - Thursday, September 30 <sup>th</sup> [location & time TBD] |
| 14.03 | Special Budget Meeting | - Thursday, October 7 <sup>th</sup> , 9:00 a.m.              |
| 14.04 | Regular Board Meeting  | - Tuesday, October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 9:00 a.m.              |

**R. Owen moved adjournment of the meeting at 2:14 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager