



July 27, 2021 Regular Directors Meeting

The Directors of the Eastern Irrigation District held a regular meeting on the 27th day of July 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 9:00 a.m.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 4.01 Joint Shared Services Committee
- 4.02 Soil Erosion/Degradation Advisory Committee
- 4.03 Ag Ministers Reception
- 9.01.1 Report on Grass Fire – Patricia Grazing Lease
- 12.0 Commercial Update

2021-07-192 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Board adopt the Agenda as revised. Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 June 22, 2021 Regular Directors Meeting

The minutes of the June 22, 2021 Regular Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

2021-07-193 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Minutes of the June 22, 2021 Regular 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 Joint Shared Services Committee

B. Schroeder attended a Joint Shared Services Committee meeting last month. A number of items disclosed in the spring newsletter to water users were relayed to the Committee by Mr. Schroeder.

4.02 Soil Erosion/Degradation Advisory Committee

T. Hemsing informed that the Soil Erosion/Degradation Advisory Committee has met several times to work on a draft policy to present to County Council. As proposed in the draft policy, cover crops or stubble will be encouraged, high risk areas and fields are to be inspected by County staff, and discussions held with landowners to ensure a plan is in place to deal with high wind situations. It is also being proposed to forward an information letter from the County to producers.

4.03 Ag Ministers Reception

On July 13th, J. Hale attended the Minister of Agriculture & Forestry’s reception in Calgary. The Hon. Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta and The Hon. Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture & Forestry addressed attendees, citing how agriculture and in particular, irrigated agriculture, is key to economic recovery in Alberta.

[9:13 a.m. J. Latrace, MNP entered the room.]

5.0 Financial Report

J. Latrace presented the following Financial Report.

5.01 Financial Statements to June 30, 2021

The financial statements to June 30, 2021 were reviewed, noting the following overall:

- YTD revenues total about \$31.89 million and are tracking slightly over (within 1% of) YTD budget. Community pasture, campground, capital asset charges, water, and land sale revenues are under budget, while EIDNet, investment income and Oil/Gas are over budget.
- YTD net operating expenses total about \$23.09 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 \$8.86 million.

Mr. Latrace advised that procedures and reports will be developed to record Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) loan transactions.

2021-07-194 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Board approve the Financial Statements to June 30, 2021 as presented. Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.02 3rd Quarter Investment Report to June 30, 2021

The book value of the District’s investments plus bank account balances at June 30, 2021 was \$7,599,733 or 7.7% less than the book value at September 30, 2020. The decrease in cash is due mainly to significant irrigation works capital expenditures in the first 9 months of the fiscal year.

3rd QUARTER INVESTMENT REPORT		
Investment	Matured	Purchased
EID – Short Term	\$6,900,000	-
IRP – Short Term	-	-
Emergency Spillway – Short Term	-	-
EID – Long Term	-	-
Partners in Habitat Development	-	\$115,000



Due to low interest rates in larger term securities, cash flows have been retained in the chequing account.

2021-07-195 Moved by R. Owen that the Board approve the 3rd Quarter Investment Report to June 30, 2021 as presented. Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.03 3rd Quarter Accounts Receivable Report to June 30, 2021

A variety of accounts were detailed, and questions answered by Admin, with the June 10, 2021, Sanling Energy Ltd bankruptcy being noted.

2021-07-196 Moved by T. Hensing that the Board approve the 3rd Quarter Accounts Receivable Report to June 30, 2021 as presented. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

6.0 Operations

I. Friesen presented the following Operations report.

6.01 Reservoir Status and Water Use to Date

This year District Operations have diverted twice as much water YTD as the year prior YTD and have essentially diverted the same amount of water to date as all last year. Without precipitation in the upper Bow Basin, river flows will decline rapidly and significantly in August. To date, reservoir levels have been maintained as best as possible, even with the high irrigation demands, and will be utilized to supplement flows as river supply declines and irrigation demand remain high.

WATER USE TO DATE		
	July 2021	July 2020
Water Diverted to Date	376,125 ac ft (14.62")	186,600 ac ft (7.32")
Water Applied to Land to Date	9.12"	3.12"
Range of Parcels Irrigating	660 – 1,189	7 – 760
Parcels Using Over 12"	668	12
Parcels Using Over 16"	139	2
Parcels Using Over 20"	23	-
Total Firm Live Storage*	269,273 ac ft	279,379 ac ft

* Only includes main reservoirs

Reservoir status will be re-evaluated at the August meeting and discussed whether any extra measures will need to be made at that time (ex. no fall irrigating, earlier shut down date, etc.); and in which ways to communicate this with the water users. In addition, letters will be mailed to water users on pressure systems, notifying of upcoming power bills which will be considerably higher than last year.

6.02 Screening / Algae

R. Gagley presented information on screen cleaners currently being used in the District to filter aquatic weeds:

- Side Sweep – estimated cost of \$55,000 per; 10 installed in the North, 16 in the South

- Up/Down Sweep – estimated cost of \$55,000 per; 8 installed in the North, 8 in the South
- Travelling Screen – estimated cost of \$60,000 per; 6 installed in the North, 0 in the South
- Gabion Wall – estimated cost of \$80,000 (depending on size); 17 installed in the North, 14 in the South

Approximately \$5 million has been spent to date installing the cleaners. Sweeps and travelling screens have operational, power, and maintenance requirements. Gabion walls are relatively maintenance free but require additional space for a stilling pond. Although varying degrees of success in filtering aquatic weeds, none of the cleaners being used have appeared to be effective in filtering algae. Engineering is currently looking for land to construct a gabion wall for a scheduled capital project off the Tilley Canal. In addition to screening aquatic weeds, this wall would be monitored for its effectiveness with screening algae in this problematic area of the District. A number of questions were responded to by Mr. Gagley. Additional Board discussion may be held around policy factors relating to District installations of screen cleaners and gabion walls, and consideration of grant incentives for private installations.

[10:35 a.m. – 10:41 a.m. Short break; B. Kroschel exited the meeting, R. Summach and J. Kabut entered.]

7.0 Engineering

7.01 Scott Pipeline

R. Summach presented the Scott Pipeline synopsis, advising that this project will convert the Scott Canal to closed gravity pipelines. The inlet of the main pipeline will be moved from the Main Bantry Canal, 3.5 km south, to Lake Newell Reservoir. The pipeline, including laterals, will be 17 km long and will cross Hwy #873, extend east, northeast, and south. The canal currently serves 3,809 acres. The canal tails out into the Summit Drain and will have the capacity to supply the Summit Drain with enough water for all 7 pivots (889 acres) north of the South Bantry Drain. The project is estimated to cost \$16,324,000; to be funded under the Capital Works program.

The Scott pipelines have capacity for expansion:

- The north pipeline has capacity to serve an extra 250 acres east of the highway.
- The first section of the main pipeline has the capacity to serve an additional 3,400 acres. 400 of these acres would be supplied off the Main Scott Pipeline that is to be installed this winter.
- Soil tests were completed on 32 quarters. A total of 4,945 acres were tested, of which 3,353 acres met irrigation requirements. The maximum amount of land tested that would be reasonable to develop is 3,000 acres.

Previously studied, a number of questions were responded to on this final review and approval of the project.

2021-07-197 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Board approve the Scott Pipeline project by installing 17 km of pipeline, at an estimated cost of \$16,324,000; to be funded under the Capital Works program. Seconded by D. Jacobson. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[10:55 a.m. D. Syvret exited the meeting.]

7.02 08-B Springhill Infrastructure Cost-Savings Grant – Matt Janzen – SE 21-21-16 W4M

J. Kabut advised that Matt & Marianne Janzen will be converting from flood to pivot in SE 21-21-16 W4M at the time of the 08-B Springhill project. Upon pivot installation this quarter section conversion qualifies for a grant under the Infrastructure Cost-Savings Grant Policy. Upon approval, the project cost for the 08-A and 08-B Springhill pipeline extension will need to be amended from \$904,000 to \$924,000.

2021-07-198 Moved by D. Pelter that the Board approve the Infrastructure Cost-Savings Grant for Matt & Marianne Janzen for converting from flood to pivot in SE 21-21-16 W4M at the time of the 08-B Springhill pipeline extension project. The grant payable to the landowner is \$20,000. Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021-07-199 Moved by D. Peltzer that the estimated project cost of the 08-A and 08-B Springhill pipeline extension project be increased from \$904,000 to \$924,000. Seconded by T. Hemsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[10:57 a.m. R. Summach and J. Kabut exited the meeting; R. Moen entered.]

8.0 EIDNet**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; 34 names are on the waiting list for Duchess and 53 for Rosemary. Phase 1 of the fibre path has been approved and surveying is currently underway. Fibre conduit installation will begin once the poly waterlines are completed for the grazing projects. A number of questions were responded to by Mr. Moen.

EIDNET QUARTERLY REPORT to June 30, 2021	
EIDNet Accounts	Current Customers
Legacy Residential Accounts	46
Residential Accounts	1,739
Business Accounts	27
EID Automation	53
Total	1,865

[11:09 a.m. R. Moen exited the meeting; N. Fontaine entered.]

9.0 Lands**9.01 Lands, Oil & Gas**

On behalf of R. Volek, N. Fontaine presented the following report.

9.01.1 Report on Grass Fire – Patricia Grazing Lease

A grass fire started in NW 10-20-11 W4M, approximately 5 km south of Dinosaur Provincial Park, on Thursday July 22nd, with flare ups continuing through the weekend. Approximately 5,000 acres of pasture, 5 rolls of grazing waterline poly pipe, and 5.5 km of fence were lost to the fire. Land



and air firefighting units in and outside the District were deployed, with the District grader and private operators also helping out. At meeting time, the affected area was still being monitored and Rural Fire & Emergency Services were continuing their investigation. It is likely that the fire started from a mower tractor on an oil/gas lease and had insufficient water to contain the blaze. EID expenses associated with the fire will be tracked and submitted to the insurance company of the responsible party. The District has temporarily prohibited other mowing operators from accessing EID lands. Policy development may be required for added direction in extreme hot/dry/windy weather conditions. 80 late entry cow/calf pairs scheduled for this area of the Patricia grazing lease will be shifted to the Rosemary grazing lease this season.

[11:27 a.m. N. Fontaine exited the meeting; S. Connauton entered.]

9.02 Assessment, Water & Lands

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

9.02.1 Assessment Report to June 30, 2021

The Assessment Report for the period of April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021 was presented, summarized as follows.

EID WATER ROLL to June 30, 2021					
Acres on the Water Roll	Irrigation Acres	Terminable Acres	Annual Agreement	5R Soils Acres	Total
April 1, 2021	304,143	3,553	0	28	307,724
June 30, 2021	304,592	3,553	0	73	308,218
Net increase	449	< 0 >	< 0 >	45	494
Irrigation Acres Removed from the Water Roll (acres sold back for new subdivisions or part of Farm Improvement)					< 22 >
Irrigation Acres Added to the Water Roll (acres purchased through Irrigation Dev. App. or Farm Improvement efficiencies)					471
Terminable Acres Converted to Irrigation Acres					0
Terminable Acres Canceled					0

3rd QUARTER CAPITAL ASSETS REVENUE REPORT	
Irrigation Acre Purchases	\$693,900
Terminable Acre Conversions	\$ 0
Annual Agreements	\$ 0
5R Soil Agreements	\$ 33,750
Total this quarter	\$727,650

9.02.2 Farm Improvement Grant Applications and Increases in Irrigation Acres Applications

9.02.2.1 Budget Report

FARM IMPROVEMENT GRANT BUDGET – MONTHLY REPORT	
2021 Farm Improvement Grant Budget as of October 1, 2020	\$1,000,000
50/50 Cost-Shares	
Paid	< \$ 36,000 >
To be Completed	< \$ 47,450 >
Require Approval	< \$ 0 >
Farm Improvement Grants	
October through June (<i>approved and paid</i>)	< \$ 627,655 >
July (<i>require approval</i>)	< \$ 50,408 >
Total Budget Remaining (<i>less \$125,000</i>)	\$ 113,487

*Total grants paid to date within the 2021 fiscal year is \$599,255.

**Total purchase of acres from landowners within the 2021 fiscal year is 20 acres or \$70,000.

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.

Upgrades (*panels, nozzles, drag hoses, replacement pivots, pumps*) and **Corner Irrigation** (*corner arm, subsurface*)

Upgrades & Corner Irrigation

9.02.2.2 Pump & Nozzles – 1717868 AB Inc (Greg Johnson) & 1717875 AB Inc (Rod Johnson) – SE 29-20-17 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 125 acres
- Current Assessment: 129 acres pivot (4 acres added for general assessment)
- Installing: pump & nozzles
- Assessment remains the same at 129 acres, all under pivot

2021-07-200 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for 1717868 Alberta Inc and 1717875 Alberta Inc for the pump and nozzles upgrade in SE 29-20-17 W4M purchased for \$12,136. The Farm Improvement Grant available to the landowner is \$12,500 (125 acres x \$100/acre); with the payable amount being \$12,136. Seconded by D. Jacobson. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.02.2.3 Panel – Deborah Dovichak – SW 36-19-14 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 146 acres
- Current Assessment: 153 acres corner arm pivot (7 acres added for general assessment)
- Installing: panel
- Assessment remains the same at 153 acres, all under corner arm pivot



2021-07-201 Moved by R. Owen that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Deborah Dovichak for the panel upgrade in SW 36-19-14 W4M purchased for \$2,295. The Farm Improvement Grant available to the landowner is \$14,600 (146 acres x \$100/acre); with the payable amount being \$2,295. Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.02.2.4 Pump & Nozzles – J & K Acres Ltd (James Blandford & Kendal Van Hall) – SW 30-16-15

- Current Assessment: 141 acres
- Installing: pump & nozzles; keeping 4 acres outside the pivot area
- Assessment remains the same at 141 acres (137 pivot, 4 outside)
- Pivot area has reached its maximum grant funding

2021-07-202 Moved by T. Helsing that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for J & K Acres Ltd for the pump and nozzles upgrade in SW 30-16-15 W4M purchased for \$22,959. The Farm Improvement Grant available and payable to the landowner is \$13,700 (137 acres x \$100/acre) less \$2,000 (4 acres x \$500/acre) deduction for keeping acres outside the pivot area = \$11,700. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.02.2.5 Panel – Mike Hauck – NW 05-17-13 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 135 acres
- Previous Grant: \$9,450 (motion 2014-06-123)
- Current Assessment: 141 acres (6 acres added through Farm Improvement Grant)
- Installing: panel
- Assessment remains the same at 141 acres, all under corner arm pivot

2021-07-203 Moved by B. Schroeder that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Mike Hauck for the panel upgrade in NW 05-17-13 W4M purchased for \$4,376. The Farm Improvement Grant available and payable to the landowner is \$13,500 (135 acres x \$100/acre) less \$9,450 (previous grant) = \$4,050. Seconded by R. Owen. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.01.2.6 Panels – Travis & April Lyzenga – W ½ 17-20-15 W4M

- Current Assessment: 218 acres (128 north pivot, 89 south wiper pivot, 1 outside)
- Installing: 2 panels; keeping 1 acre outside the pivot area
- Assessment remains the same at 218 acres (128 north pivot, 89 south wiper pivot, 1 outside)
- South wiper pivot area has reached its maximum grant funding

2021-07-204 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Travis & April Lyzenga for the 2 panel upgrade in W ½ 17-20-15 W4M purchased for \$11,827 each. The Farm Improvement Grant available is \$21,800 (218 acres x \$100/acre); with the payable amount being \$11,827 (north pivot) + \$8,900 (south pivot) less \$500 (1 acre x \$500/acre) deduction for keeping acres outside the pivot area = \$20,227. Seconded by B. Schmidt. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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.

9.02.2.7 Increase – 2125538 AB Ltd (Erich Van Der Linde) – NE 23-18-15 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 134 acres
- Current Assessment: 140 acres (6 acres granted through efficiencies in 2018)
- Proposal: 8 acre corner wiper pivot; 8 additional acres needed (infill)
- Efficiency Acres Gained: 0
- New Assessment: 148 acres (140 corner arm pivot, 8 corner wiper pivot)
- Note: subject to meeting soils requirements

2021-07-205 Moved by T. Hemsing that the Board approve the Increase in Irrigation Acres application for 2125538 Alberta Ltd for 8 infill acres in NE 23-18-15 W4M; subject to meeting soils requirements. The capital assets charge is \$7,600 (8 acres x \$950/acre). Seconded by R. Owen. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sell Back of Irrigation Acres (*landowners choosing to sell irrigation acres back to the District*)

9.02.2.8 764002 AB Ltd (Tony & Petra Brummelhuis) – NW 18-16-15 W4M

- Current Assessment: 152 acres (124 acre portion of section pivot, 26 acre corner)
- Selling: 26 acres in the NW corner
- Relinquishing: 2 acres for a Rural Water Use Purposes Agreement
- New Assessment: 124 acres all under section pivot
- Note: corner will need to remain dry

2021-07-206 Moved by R. Owen that the Board approve the purchase of 764002 Alberta Ltd's 26 irrigation acres in NW 18-16-15 W4M; 26 acres x \$3,500/acre = \$91,000. Seconded by B. Schmidt. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.02.2.9 1633400 Alberta Ltd (Estate of Amy Hutch) – NW 34-18-14 W4M

- Current Assessment: 22 acres
- Selling: 22 acres
- New Assessment: 0 acres
- Note: parcel has been annexed into the City of Brooks, does not have access to water and will not be eligible to obtain irrigation acres in the future

2021-07-207 Moved by T. Hemsing that the Board approve the purchase of 1633400 Alberta Ltd's 22 irrigation acres in NW 34-18-14 W4M; 22 acres x \$3,500/acre = \$77,000. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.02.2.10 Brooks Solar II GP Inc (James Houssain) – SE 03-19-14 W4M

- Current Assessment: 96 acres
- Selling: 94 acres
- Relinquishing: 2 acres for a Rural Water Use Purposes Agreement
- New Assessment: 0 acres
- Note: irrigation acres must be removed from the parcel as part of the request of change in use; water can be delivered for the RWUP and will be used for tree watering



2021-07-208 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Board approve the purchase of Brooks Solar II GP Inc’s 94 irrigation acres in SE 03-19-14 W4M; 94 acres x \$3,500/acre = \$329,000. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.02.2.11 Lepp Hay Farms Inc (Irvin Lepp) – SW 14-21-16 W4M

- Current Assessment: 145 acres (pivot and corners)
- Selling: 3 acres over the yard site
- New Assessment: 143 acres (pivot and corners)
- Note: parcel has an existing RWUP Agreement

2021-07-209 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the purchase of Lepp Hay Farms Inc’ 3 irrigation acres in SW 14-21-16 W4M; 3 acres x \$3,500/acre = \$10,500. Seconded by T. Helsing. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021-07-210 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.0 County of Newell Rural Water Project 2

[11:54 a.m. – 12:23 p.m. Lunch break; S. Connauton exited the meeting.]

11.0 Irrigation Districts Act – Regulations

12.0 Commercial Update

13.0 Snake Lake Update

2021-07-211 Moved by R. Owen that the meeting be reconvened. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DIRECTION ARISING FROM THE IN CAMERA PORTION OF THE MEETING

10.0 County of Newell Rural Water Project 2

Direction for Admin was confirmed if the County’s second phase of the rural water project proceeds.

11.0 Irrigation Districts Act – Regulations

In follow up to the July meeting, Mr. Friesen advised of some final suggested revisions to the IDA Regulations. The suggested amendments were discussed, and Director support was given to forward the document to AIDA.

12.0 Commercial Update

Direction was confirmed for I. Friesen.

13.0 Snake Lake Update

An update was given on the status of the proposed Snake Lake Reservoir Project.



CONTINUATION OF THE AGENDA

14.0 Upcoming Events

- 14.01 Alberta Open Farm Days - Bassano Dam Tours - Saturday, August 14th, 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
- 14.02 Regular Board Meeting - Tuesday, August 24th, 9:00 a.m.
- 14.03 Regular Board Meeting - Tuesday, September 28th, 9:00 a.m.
- 14.04 Special Budget Meeting - Thursday, October 7th

R. Owen moved adjournment of the meeting at 1:15 p.m.



Chairman



General Manager