



July 25, 2023, Regular Directors Meeting

The Directors of the Eastern Irrigation District held a regular meeting on the 25th day of July 2023. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Richard Hiebert	Director	[Division 1]	Mr. Ivan Friesen	General Manager
Mr. David Peltzer	Vice-Chair	[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. John Ketchmark	Director	[Division 5]		
Mr. Brent Schroeder	Director	[Division 6]		
Mr. Tracy Hemsing	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:

- 5.0 Kinbrook Island Provincial Park
- 9.0 Joint Drainage Program

2023-07-159 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board adopt the Agenda as revised. Seconded by B. Schmidt. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 June 28, 2023, Regular Directors Meeting

The minutes were corrected through the following:

- 4.01, page 69, AIDA Executive Committee Meeting: replace "\$20,000 profit was gained from the last conference and donated to the "Know Your Food" educational trailer." with "\$20,000 profit was gained from the last conference of which \$5,000 was donated to the "Know Your Food" educational trailer."

2023-07-160 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Minutes of the June 28, 2023, Regular Directors Meeting be approved as corrected. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.02 July 7, 2023, Special Directors Meeting

The minutes of the July 7, 2023, Special Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

2023-07-161 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Minutes of the July 7, 2023, Special Directors Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.03 July 19, 2023, Special Directors Meeting

The minutes of the July 19, 2023, Special Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

2023-07-162 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Minutes of the July 19, 2023, Special Directors Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.0 Business Arising

There were no matters raised.

4.0 Reports on Meetings / Events

4.01 International Federation of Ag Journalists Congress

EID representatives T. Hemsing and I. Friesen joined reps from the Newell region and other areas for the IFAJ Congress banquet held in Olds on June 28th. The evening, which proceeded 2 days of southeastern Alberta tours including parts of the EID, launched the showcase on agriculture event. An excellent presentation was given on the Newell region by the City of Brooks promoting the Newell area and irrigation. Topics in the following days for IFAJ participants related to agricultural innovation and sustainability, and indigenous agriculture and reconciliation. 200 – 300 ag journalists from around the globe participated in the event and opportunities were given to reps for one-on-one discussions with the participants.

4.02 Alberta Irrigation Districts Association Inter-District Tour – Bow River Irrigation District

T. Hemsing, R. Owen, B. Schroeder, J. Ketchmark, I. Friesen, R. Gagley, and B. Kroschel attended this year's AIDA Inter-District Tour on July 6th in the BRID. Site visits featured a weed removal system, pipeline project, pump site, and several structure and dam sites. An optional proposed Eyremore dam site concluded the tour.

5.0 Kinbrook Island Provincial Park

Through discussion of an enquiry into using the group camping area at Kinbrook Island Provincial Park, it was advised by Admin that a license agreement previously provided by the EID for use of the land which is owned by the EID has yet to be finalized and signed.

6.0 Kinbrook Connection Pathway Update

M. Koochin advised that the easement agreement for the Kinbrook pathway on District land has been signed. Construction of a portion of the pathway from Kinbrook Island Provincial Park to Bantry Bay is anticipated by the County to begin in August.

[9:22 a.m. S. Barlow entered the meeting.]

7.0 Financial Report

S. Barlow presented the following Financial Report.

7.01 3rd Quarter Investment Report to June 30, 2023

The book value of the District's investments plus bank account balances at June 30, 2023, was \$1.5 M or 1.4% less than the book value at September 30, 2022.



3 rd QUARTER INVESTMENT REPORT		
Investment	Matured	Purchased
EID – Short Term	\$11,900,000	-
EID – Long Term	-	\$4,000,000
Irrigation Rehabilitation Program – Short Term	-	-
Partners in Habitat Development – Short Term	-	-
Alberta Irrigation Modernization – Short Term	-	-
Alberta Irrigation Modernization – Long Term	-	\$10,000,000

2023-07-163 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the 3rd Quarter Investment Report to June 30, 2023, as presented. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.02 3rd Quarter Accounts Receivable Report to June 30, 2023

A variety of accounts were detailed, and questions answered by Admin.

2023-07-164 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the 3rd Quarter Accounts Receivable Report to June 30, 2023, as presented. Seconded by R. Owen. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.03 Financial Statements to June 30, 2023

The financial statements to June 30, 2023, were reviewed, noting the following overall:

- YTD revenues total about \$36.28 million and are tracking over YTD budget.
- YTD net operating expenses total about \$24.5 million and are tracking under YTD budget.
- YTD potential transfer to the Irrigation Works Fund is about \$11.77 million.

A number of questions were responded to by Mrs. Barlow and Admin.

2023-07-165 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the Financial Statements to June 30, 2023, as presented. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[9:38 a.m. S. Barlow exited the meeting; B. Kroschel entered.]

8.0 Operations

B. Kroschel presented the following Operations Report.

8.01 Reservoir Status and Water Use to Date

Diversion has averaged around 1,500 cfs with most reservoirs dropping due to diversion not meeting demand on most days. There is a supply of approximately 42,000 less acre feet in storage compared to last year, with both Lake Newell Reservoir and Crawling Valley Reservoir already having receded to winter levels. This equates to 8.34"/acre remaining in storage, but this amount would also see losses from reservoir and canal evaporation, operational and farmer spill, and supplying municipalities, farmyards, and acreages. Most of the smaller reservoirs have not been used heavily, but likely will be soon. Irrigators have applied 9.12"/acre across the District, with higher usage in the south compared to the north.



WATER USE TO DATE		
	July 2023	July 2022
Water Diverted to Date	307,745 ac-ft (11.8")	300,479 ac-ft (11.62")
Water Applied to Land to Date	8.04"	6"
Range of Parcels Irrigating	690 – 998	108 - 971
Parcels Using Over 12"	210	121
Parcels Using Over 16"	25	8
Parcels Using Over 20"	2	1
Total Firm Live Storage*	237,694 ac-ft	278,989 ac-ft

* Only includes main reservoirs

8.02 Drought Plan Stage 3 – Update

Although demand has begun to drop it is still anticipated that usage may reach an average of 16"/acre across the District. Approximately 8.5"/acre remains in Lake Newell Reservoir without factoring other losses and conveyance. If usage reaches 16"/acre approximately 21,000 ac-ft more water would be needed in Newell. River supported areas, including those supplemented by Snake Lake Reservoir, could see approximately 7.5"/acre supplied by September 1st, or possibly 11"/acre supplied by October 1st, if river flows are available.

Through Stage 3 of the Drought Plan, requests from 7 irrigators have been facilitated to transfer water between parcels on their lands and it is anticipated that more will be received. The water shut down date will be set at the August Board Meeting at which point ending the irrigation season earlier than normal in order to replenish water storage for next season may be considered. Whether to allow fall irrigating will be discussed as well. Admin also recommended revisiting the Maximum Water Delivery Bylaw at a later date.

[10:20 a.m. – 10:28 a.m. Short break; B. Kroschel exited the meeting.]

9.0 Joint Drainage Program

The matter of fence line placement for the Joint Drainage Program will be a requested agenda item at the next Joint County/EID Meeting.

[10:44 a.m. S. Connauton entered the meeting.]

10.0 Lands

10.01 Assessment, Water & Lands

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

10.01.1 Assessment Report to June 30, 2023

The Assessment Report for the period of April 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023, was presented, summarized as follows.



EID WATER ROLL to June 30, 2023					
Acres on the Water Roll	Irrigation Acres	Terminable Acres	Annual Agreement	5R Soils Acres	Total
April 1, 2023	309,632	3,087	0	122	312,841
June 30, 2023	310,600	3,043	0	125	313,768
Net increase	968	< 44 >	0	3	927
Irrigation Acres Removed from the Water Roll (acres sold back for new subdivisions or part of Farm Improvement)					< 17 >
Irrigation Acres Added to the Water Roll (acres purchased through Irrigation Dev. App. or Farm Improvement efficiencies)					941
Terminable Acres Converted to Irrigation Acres					44
Terminable Acres Canceled					< 0 >

CAPITAL ASSETS REVENUE REPORT to June 30, 2023		
	3 rd Quarter [Apr-May-Jun]	Cumulative [2021 to present]
Irrigation Acre Purchases	\$1,384,301	\$8,903,597
Terminable Acre Conversions	\$15,400	\$73,150
Annual Agreements	\$0	0
5R Soil Agreements	\$6,900	\$59,900
Totals	\$1,406,601	\$9,036,647

10.01.2 Farm Improvement Grant Applications and Increases in Irrigation Acres Applications

10.01.2.1 Budget Report

FARM IMPROVEMENT GRANT BUDGET – MONTHLY REPORT	
2023 Farm Improvement Grant Budget as of October 1, 2022	\$1,000,000
50/50 Cost-Shares	
Paid	< \$20,612 >
To be Completed	< \$64,207 >
Require Approval	< \$21,072 >
Farm Improvement Grants	
October through June (<i>approved and paid</i>)	< \$254,191 >
July (<i>approval required</i>)	< \$40,256 >
Total Budget Remaining	\$599,662

*Total of grants paid to date within the 2023 fiscal year is \$296,749.

Upgrades (*panels, nozzles, drag hoses, replacement pivots, pumps*), and **Corner Irrigation** (*corner arm, subsurface*) – *receipts submitted prior to October 1, 2022*

10.01.2.2 Pivot Replacement with C/A – Albert & Joanne Dovichak – SE 18-17-12 W4M

- Previous Grant: \$9,520 (motion 2014-12-261)
- Previous Assessment: 138 acres
- Current Assessment: 152 acres (14 acres added for general assessment in 1982)

- Installing: pivot replacement with corner arm
- Assessment remains the same at 152 acres, all under corner arm pivot
- Parcel has reached its maximum grant funding
- Note: proof of purchase was submitted prior to October 1, 2022

2023-07-166 Moved by R. Owen that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Albert & Joanne Dovichak for the pivot replacement with corner arm upgrade in SE 18-17-12 W4M purchased for \$239,199. The Farm Improvement Grant available and payable to the Landowner is \$13,600 (136 acres x \$100/acre) + \$11,200 (16 acres x \$700/acre) corner arm acres – \$9,520 (previous grant) = \$15,280. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A grant deduction for a flood to pivot conversion was previously applied in February 2022 for 11 acres. All 11 acres are eligible for a return of deduction.

2023-07-167 Moved by R. Owen that the deduction of \$300/acre applied in December 2014 to 16 acres in SE 18-17-12 W4M be returned to Albert & Joanne Dovichak for flood to corner arm efficiencies; 16 acres x \$300/acre = \$15,280. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.01.2.3 Nozzles & Corner Arm – Earl & Colleen Skriver – NE 07-16-13 W4M

- Previous Grant: \$11,424 (motion 2015-05-120)
- Previous Assessment: 153 acres
- Current Assessment: 151 acres (2 acres removed for general assessment in 1995)
- Installing: nozzles and corner arm; 3 acres needed
- New Assessment: 154 acres corner arm pivot
- Parcel has reached its maximum grant funding
- Note: proof of purchase was submitted prior to October 1, 2022

2023-07-168 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Earl & Colleen Skriver for the nozzles upgrade and corner arm in NE 07-16-13 W4M purchased for \$42,000. The Farm Improvement Grant available and payable to the Landowner is \$13,600 (136 acres x \$100/acre) nozzles + \$10,500 (15 acres x \$700/acre) corner arm acres – \$11,424 (previous grant) = \$12,676. The capital assets charge is \$2,964. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A grant deduction for a flood to pivot conversion was previously applied in May 2015 for 15 acres. All 15 acres are eligible for a return of deduction.

2023-07-169 Moved by D. Peltzer that the deduction of \$500/acre applied in May 2015 to 15 acres in NE 07-16-13 W4M be returned to Earl & Colleen Skriver for flood to corner arm efficiencies; 15 acres x \$500/acre = \$7,500. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.01.2.4 Increase – Dustin Wiens – NE 11-21-16 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 137 acres
- Current Assessment: 133 acres (4 acres returned for rural water use agreement)
- Proposal: add drop span & corner arm; 3 additional acres needed (infill)
- Efficiency Acres Gained: 0
- New Assessment: 136 acres, all under corner arm wiper pivot

- Notes: soils meet requirements; project must be completed by July 31, 2024

2023-07-170 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Increase in Irrigation Acres application for Dustin Wiens for 3 infill acres in NE 11-21-16 W4M. The capital assets charge is \$2,964 (3 acres x \$988/acre). Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[10:48 a.m. S. Connauton exited the meeting; Craig Lester entered.]

11:00 a.m. Craig Lester – Nuffield Agricultural Study

Craig Lester, a 2023 recipient of a Nuffield Canada Scholarship, was invited to give a mid-tour presentation to the Board of his program experiences and findings to date. Mr. Lester's original study "Media's Role in Agriculture and the Effect it has on Consumer's Perception of the Industry" evolved into "Raising Agriculture and Food's Prominence in an Urban Social Ecosystem". The study began with a contemporary scholar's conference and encompassed 3 months of travel, visiting the United Arab Emirates, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, New Zealand, and Australia. In looking at media and agricultural trends in general, different regions of the countries were explored, along with micro and large operations, rural and urban farms, products and shops, newspaper and radio media, and agri-tourism. One key finding which was echoed in his travels was the widening gap of consumer knowledge of where their food comes from. A number of Director questions were responded to. Mr. Lester will be available to present again at the end of his study which finishes in a year's time.

[11:44 a.m. – 12:19 p.m. Lunch break; Craig Lester exited the meeting; R. Volek and N. Fontaine entered.]

10.0 Lands cont'd

10.02 Grazing

R. Volek presented the following Grazing Report.

10.02.1 Pasture Condition Update

This season, the District has not received significant rainfall except for a few scattered showers. Pasture conditions have held up quite well although reserve grass is being utilized earlier this year and conditions in the south have deteriorated more than in the north. As the summer progresses, conditions will need to be monitored closely. Information from individual grazing associations will be presented at the August Board Meeting to help advise setting the round-up date.

2023-07-171 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by B. Schmidt. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.2 JBS Update

10.02.3 Irrigated Pasture Development

10.03 Lands, Oil & Gas

N. Fontaine presented the following Lands, Oil & Gas Report.

10.03.1 Irrigation Development – Lease Agreements

[1:22 p.m. R. Volek and N. Fontaine exited the meeting; R. Moen entered.]

11.0 EIDNet Report

R. Moen presented the following EIDNet Report.

11.01 Monthly Report

[1:29 p.m. – 1:35 p.m. Short break; R. Moen exited the meeting.]

12.0 Commercial Update**13.0 Rolling Hills Reservoir Irrigation Development Parcels**

[2:28 p.m. B. Kroschel re-entered the meeting.]

14.0 Reservoir Pumping

2023-07-172 Moved by R. Owen that the meeting be reconvened. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DIRECTION ARISING FROM THE IN CAMERA PORTION OF THE MEETING

10.02.2 JBS Update**10.02.3 Irrigated Pasture Development**

No additional irrigated pasture development will be pursued at this time, but the matter is to be revisited in fall.

10.03 Lands, Oil & Gas**10.03.1 Irrigation Development – Lease Agreements**

A draft irrigated lease agreement will be brought back to the Board for review, as per the following preliminary requirements:

- 5 year term
- no automatic renewal
- no residency requirement
- must own 100 acres of land within the EID of which at least 60 are irrigated or at least 80 are terminable
- crop management plan for specialty crops (seed canola, sugar beets, potatoes)
- land stewardship clause
- pivot maintenance clause
- consideration of limiting the number of parcel(s) per lessee

A motion was carried once reconvened regarding the ordering of pivots and pipe.



11.0 EIDNet Report

11.01 Monthly Report

There have been no major issues since the last report. Conduit has been installed to Bantry, Tilley, and Cassils towers. Fibre installation is to begin this month, with conduit construction in the region of Snake Lake Reservoir to begin in August.

EIDNET QUARTERLY REPORT to June 30, 2023	
EIDNet Accounts	Current Customers
Legacy Residential Accounts	33
Residential Accounts	1,575
Business Accounts	205
EID Automation	54
Total	1,867

12.0 Commercial Update

13.0 Rolling Hills Reservoir Irrigation Development Parcels

The sale agreement for the parcels developed off the Rolling Hills Reservoir pressure system will be examined and this matter brought back to the Board in August for a decision. Also, a related operational matter will be looked into which was brought forward by a Director.

14.0 Reservoir Pumping

Engineering is to bring the associated part of the 5 year plan and soils back to the Board for discussion, as well as all the suggestions previously presented to the landowner.

CONTINUATION OF THE AGENDA

10.0 Lands cont'd

10.03.1 Irrigation Development – Lease Agreements

In anticipation of sufficient carry forward acres being available and the 3 parcels of EID land receiving approval for development as irrigated farm leases, direction for staff was confirmed through the following motion.

2023-07-173 Moved by J. Ketchmark that 3 pivots with corner arms and the required mainlines be purchased for the irrigation development parcels that are to be proposed this fall. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discretion was granted to staff regarding equipment brand preference.

[3:10 p.m. B. Kroschel exited the meeting.]



15.0 Upcoming Events

- 15.01 Regular Board Meeting - Tuesday, August 22nd, 8:00 a.m.
- 15.02 Regular Board Meeting - Tuesday, September 26th, 9:00 a.m.
- 15.03 Special Budget Meeting - Thursday, October 5th, 9:00 a.m.

R. Hiebert moved adjournment of the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Chairman

General Manager