



June 13, 2023, Special Directors Meeting

The Directors of the Eastern Irrigation District held a special meeting on the 13th day of June 2023. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Richard Hiebert	Director	[Division 1]	Mr. Ivan Friesen	General Manager
Mr. David Peltzer	Vice-Chair	[Division 2]	Mr. Ryan Gagley	Engineering Manager
Mr. Ross Owen	Director	[Division 3]	Mr. Brent Kroschel	Operations Manager
Mr. Brian Schmidt	Director	[Division 4]	Mr. Mark Porter	Information Services Supervisor
Mr. John Ketchmark	Director	[Division 5]	Mrs. Wendy Enns	Executive Assistant
Mr. Brent Schroeder	Director	[Division 6]		
Mr. Tracy Hemsing	Chair	[Division 7]		

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

1.0 Reservoir Status and Water Use to Date – Update

2023-06-136 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[2:29 p.m. – 2:34 p.m. Short break.]

2023-06-137 Moved by R. Owen that the meeting be reconvened. Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DIRECTION ARISING FROM THE IN CAMERA PORTION OF THE MEETING

During the in camera portion of the meeting, a review of the data to date concerning the District’s current and projected water supply for this year’s irrigation season confirms:

- a below average snowpack which feeds the Bow Basin;
- the snowmelt concluding 1 month earlier than average;
- nearly no precipitation in the upper Bow Basin from the end of May to mid-June;
- river levels for the District having dropped approximately 6-8 weeks earlier than average, to the point of only supplying river acres, while passing the required minimum flows for downstream; and
- weather conditions being unusually hot and dry which have increased irrigation demand and evaporation.

Operationally, this has resulted in the river flow only supporting off-river acres and reservoirs only supporting under-reservoir acres. Reservoir levels are dropping and at this point, there is no diversion water available to refill or maintain reservoir levels. Management confirmed, given current and projected conditions, that only about 8 – 9 more inches could be supplied to irrigation acres overall. As may be authorized through Maximum Water Delivery Bylaw #959 (2022), it was recommended to set a total of 12” per acre for irrigators for the entire 2023 irrigation season.

Through discussion, it was supported to promptly mail out a notice to all irrigators and acreage owners outlining the water supply situation and the immediate restriction. Additional information

would be provided regarding the Bylaw's Drought Plan and moving to Stage 3, which includes the ability for irrigators to transfer any amount of unused irrigation water between parcels, as permitted within the Bylaw. Transfer application forms will be posted on the District's website. As well in the notice, irrigators will be encouraged to sign up for IRMA (*Irrigation Recording and Management App*) to enable them to view their real time water usage, to contact their Water Operator or Divisional Superintendent if they have any concerns on their systems' flow rates so that they may be checked, and to be sure to accurately communicate water order start-ups and shut-downs with their Water Operator. Rotational use and coordinating their water orders with neighbouring landowners, when possible, will also be advised to increase delivery system efficiencies.

Irrigators who pump from drains, whether for irrigation acres, terminable acres, or annual agreement acres, will continue to be held to the same limits and requirements as other irrigators; as will irrigators who pump from reservoirs, in which case they will also have to adjust their pumping locations as reservoir levels decrease.

Pursuant to the Irrigation Districts Act, terminable agreement acres and annual agreement acres, are not guaranteed a water supply and will not be intentionally supplied water to their delivery points by the District, resulting in some drains going dry. However, if water is available in the drain, irrigators will be permitted to use it, under the same limitations and requirements as other irrigators. Furthermore, it was requested that information regarding terminable acres that could be converted to irrigation acres be examined at a future meeting.

Mr. Friesen will be advising municipalities and other license holders of the immediate water use limitations. These users and acreage owners will be encouraged to evaluate areas where water use can be conserved or eliminated and to carry out these measures directly. It was also noted that Ducks Unlimited projects are no longer being supplied.

CONTINUATION OF THE AGENDA

1.0 Reservoir Status and Water Use to Date – Update cont'd.

Upon reconvening, the following motion was carried.

- 2023-06-138 Moved by R. Owen that Stage 3 of the Drought Plan as prescribed by the Maximum Water Delivery Bylaw #959 (2022) be imposed effective Tuesday, June 13, 2023, and that the total amount of water available to irrigators for the entire 2023 irrigation season be limited to 12" per acre. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Through additional discussion considering the capacity of Crawling Valley Reservoir in relation to the number of acres it supports, a concession was made to the overall 12" limitation via the following motion. It was also clarified that because of the same factors, this reservoir is the last to be filled in the District, and the first to be shorted.

- 2023-06-139 Moved by R. Hiebert that an exception to motion 2023-06-138 be made for any acres supported by Crawling Valley Reservoir:**
- **limiting irrigation to 16" per acre for the entire 2023 irrigation season,**



- **subject to no volumes of water being available for transfer from acres which have already reached 12" of use.**

Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Irrigators and the public will be kept informed of the status of the ongoing situation.

R. Hiebert moved adjournment of the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

A blue ink signature, appearing to be 'R. Hiebert', written over a horizontal line.

Chairman

A blue ink signature, appearing to be 'J. Ketchmark', written over a horizontal line.

General Manager