



June 28, 2023, Regular Directors Meeting

The Directors of the Eastern Irrigation District held a regular meeting on the 28th 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. 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 8:05 a.m.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

2023-06-141 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board adopt the Agenda as presented. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 May 24, 2023, Regular Directors Meeting

The minutes of the May 24, 2023, Regular Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

2023-06-142 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Minutes of the May 24, 2023, Regular Directors Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by R. Owen. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.02 June 13, 2023, Special Directors Meeting

The minutes of the June 13, 2023, Special Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

2023-06-143 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Minutes of the June 13, 2023, Special Directors Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.03 June 21, 2023, Special Directors Meeting

The minutes of the June 21, 2023, Special Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

2023-06-144 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Minutes of the June 21, 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 AIDA Executive Committee Meeting

T. Hemsing attended a recent Alberta Irrigation Districts Association Executive Meeting, advising that all districts can now send representatives, regardless of district size. Matters discussed included possible Fisheries & Oceans Canada funding for AIS detection, Magnacide H application standards, water quality sampling, IRP funding, and the AIDA budget (\$20,000 profit was gained from the last conference and donated to the "Know Your Food" educational trailer). The South Saskatchewan River Operation Model (SSROM) is about 50% complete, with preliminary working groups having met to discuss preferred models; I. Friesen will continue to attend. Upcoming events include the Inter-District tour in the BRID July 6th, MLA Meeting November 6th, and the conference slated for February 2024.

4.02 LNID 100th Anniversary

T. Hemsing, B. Schmidt, J. Ketchmark, and I. Friesen attended Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District's 100th anniversary celebration on June 16th near Picture Butte. The milestone was celebrated, and information was also shared of their present state of operations.

4.03 International Federation of Ag Journalists Congress – Brooks Newell Region Tour

T. Hemsing and D. Peltzer attended the IFAG Congress banquet in Brooks on June 26th. A two-day southern Alberta tour kicked off the start of the congress for 200 – 300 international delegates, with day 2 showcasing irrigation and agriculture in the Brooks & Newell region. The congress will continue until July 3rd in the Olds area. T. Hemsing and I. Friesen will attend the Olds banquet after today's meeting as sponsor reps. It was suggested that Craig Lester be invited to give a post-presentation to the Board at a later date.

[8:32 a.m. S. Barlow entered the meeting.]

5.0 Financial Report

S. Barlow presented the following Financial Report.

5.01 Financial Statements to May 31, 2023

The financial statements to May 31, 2023, were reviewed, noting the following overall:

- YTD revenues total about \$31.78 million and are tracking over YTD budget.
- YTD net operating expenses total about \$21.47 million and are tracking under YTD budget.
- YTD potential transfer to the Irrigation Works Fund is approximately \$10.3 million.

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

2023-06-145 Moved by R. Owen that the Board approve the Financial Statements to May 31, 2023, as presented. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[8:44 a.m. S. Barlow exited the meeting; R. Gagley, R. Summach, and B. Kroschel entered.]

6.0 Engineering

R. Gagley presented the following Engineering Report.



6.01 01 & 02 One Tree Pipelines and G North Bantry Pipeline Extension

R. Summach presented an updated cost estimate for the 01 & 02 One Tree Pipelines and G North Bantry Pipeline Extension project. First approved in May 2022, the project was then delayed a year and has since incurred increased costs in materials and construction. In review, these systems are located north of the One Tree Reservoir and the extension and rehab projects will tie into 10 existing pipelines, are designed to convert open canals to closed gravity pipelines, and will eliminate 7 screen cleaners, 7 check structures, and the need to treat the canal for aquatic weeds. The new pipelines, including drain-outs, will total 24.5 km; with the rehab pipelines consisting of 60" and 54" pipe, and the extension pipeline being 24" pipe. Most parcels in the service area are irrigated, leaving limited room for expansion. However, of the 9,021 irrigation acres, about 1/4 are still flood and would be eligible for grants. The project is now estimated to cost \$22,679,000. In response to questions, Engineering confirmed that approximately half of the pipe has been received and they are confident in this project being completed within its estimated timeframe.

2023-06-146 Moved by R. Owen that motion 2022-05-170 be rescinded and that the Board approve the 01 One Tree, 02 One Tree, and G North Bantry rehabilitation project under the updated estimated cost of \$22,679,000; the west pipeline to be funded under the IRP program and the east pipeline and G North Bantry extension to be funded under the AIM program. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A number of questions were also responded to concerning the Springhill Canal, with Mr. Gagley giving a review of the matter and advising that the mitigation work will be brought to the Board for approval.

7.0 Operations

B. Kroschel presented the following Operations Report.

7.01 Reservoir Status and Water Use to Date

As of June 27th, recent river flows have allowed the District to rebuild most of the reservoirs, with several at or near FSL. However, in the last couple of days river flows are starting to decrease, diversion is dropping and is likely to keep trending down based on upstream levels. Water users have applied 4.9" of water so far, the areas below Lake Newell Reservoir are at 5", the river supported areas are at 4.9", and the areas below Crawling Valley Reservoir are at 4.4".

At this time, Lake Newell Reservoir, Rolling Hills Reservoir, and Tilley B Reservoir have approximately 11" of water per acre available, taking into consideration reservoir evaporation loss. River supported areas, including those under Snake Lake Reservoir, are estimated to have approximately 10" of water per acre available based on a September 1st target, reservoir supplementation, and diversion projection. However, neither estimations include drawdown from municipalities, evaporation in the canals, operational and farmer spills, farmyards, and acreages.

WATER USE TO DATE		
	June 2023	June 2022
Water Diverted to Date	217,834 ac-ft (8.35")	215,121 ac-ft (8.32")
Water Applied to Land to Date	4.1"	3.48"
Range of Parcels Irrigating	346 – 896	10 – 834
Parcels Using Over 12"	14	30



Parcels Using Over 16"	6	2
Parcels Using Over 20"	1	0
Total Firm Live Storage*	277,212 ac-ft	272,656 ac-ft

* Only includes main reservoirs

7.02 Drought Plan Stage 3 – Update

I. Friesen displayed graphs of river flows and diversions as compared to a similar hot dry irrigation season in 2001. Due to this year’s below average snowpack, early snowmelt, and dry upper basin, graphs showed large volumes of water that were unavailable this spring, yet captured in 2001 and typically accessible. This has resulted in weaker flows to refill reservoirs and meet ongoing irrigation demand, while still meeting downstream requirements. Supply and demand trajectories estimated severe deficits if drought conditions continued. However, because of recent rainfall on the west end of the Bow River system the District was now able to increase reservoir storage levels. A thorough discussion was held, with Mr. Friesen and Mr. Kroschel answering a number of questions.

2023-06-147 Moved by R. Hiebert that due to reservoir storage levels being increased the total amount of water available to irrigators for the entire 2023 irrigation season be amended to:

- a maximum of 15” per acre for all acres not supported by Crawling Valley Reservoir; and
- a maximum of 18” per acre for all acres supported by Crawling Valley Reservoir;

effective June 28, 2023; and that this restriction be reviewed with the Board within the next 2 weeks. Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Directors were appreciative of the daily updates received by Mr. Friesen and requested that this decision be reviewed by the Board in the next week or two. Admin reminded that, as of yesterday, reservoirs are dropping and river supplied areas, including those under Snake Lake Reservoir, could see shortages and rotations if river flows continue to drop.

[9:36 a.m. – 9:42 a.m. R. Gagley, R. Summach, and B. Kroschel exited the meeting; R. Moen entered.]

8.0 EIDNet Report

R. Moen presented the following EIDNet Report.

8.01 Monthly Report

There have been no major issues since the last report. Conduit has been installed to Bantry, Tilley, and Cassils. Fibre installation is to start in July, with the Snake Lake Reservoir leg scheduled to begin in August. This year’s fibre project remains under budget as a result of crossing more EID land than first planned and using in-house construction crews.

[9:54 a.m. R. Moen exited the meeting.]

9.0 Funding Information – County of Newell Fire Services

This matter was tabled until additional information can be received.

[10:06 a.m. R. Volek entered the meeting.]

10.0 Lands

10.01 Grazing

R. Volek presented the following Grazing Report.

10.01.1 Request for Sponsorship – Foothills Grazing and Forage Association Field Day

The Foothills Forage and Grazing Association will be hosting a field day in Gem on August 16th to showcase the Gem cross-fencing project and bring in Mike Roberts as guest speaker. As grazing associations may be eligible for recently announced provincial government grants for improvements to cross fence pastures, it was advised that all EID grazing associations will be encouraged to send representatives to this field day. It was recommended that some sponsorship of the event be considered.

2023-06-148 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board provide \$500 in event lunch sponsorship to the Foothills Grazing and Forage Association for the Field Day in Gem on August 16, 2023. Seconded by R. Owen. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In response to questions, it was reviewed that associations are responsible for labour costs to install new fences, as well as maintenance. The District covers the cost of materials and then recoups this cost through the AUM grazing rate. All fences installed on EID pasture lands become the property of the EID.

10.01.2 Grazing Season Update

Pastures had good average growth earlier throughout the District; however, this has been slowed by the below normal precipitation. Presently, pastures are in general good condition, with an adequate supply of old grass. In August, conditions will be reviewed and a round-up date set. Timely rains may enable a normal grazing season. Cattle placements totaled 17,434 head, which is up 1,007 from 2022, and is mainly due to increasing the maximum listing to 75 head. 375 cow/calf pairs are utilizing the Kitsim Pivots irrigated pasture and 367 pairs will be rotated on 3 of the 4 JBS watered pastures east of Hwy #36. JBS has also under seeded the wiper pivot in NW 02-20-15 W4M, just west of Hwy #36, to permanent pasture.

Spring runoff filled most of the dugouts in the south but did not top off dugouts in the north, yet overall, the water supply was significantly improved. Due to some of the water systems being over 20 years old, maintenance has increased in the number of hydrants, valves, and pumps needing to be replaced. The Rosemary waterline project (4.8 km) has been completed and construction of the south Tilley Swing Field / Rolling Hills waterline project has begun.

The first pass of spraying fireguards has been completed. Some areas have seen significant reductions in Downy Brome since the control program was initiated. One grass fire occurred in Bassano from a malfunctioning flare stack, which resulted in 100 acres being burned.

Approximately 15 km (9.5 miles) of new barbed wire fence has been constructed and it is estimated that another 8-16 km (5-10 miles) will be installed this summer/fall. Costs for materials (\$5,750/mile) and labour (\$2,750/mile) have increased significantly over the past few years.

A number of questions were responded to by Mr. Volek.



[10:44 a.m. R. Volek exited the meeting; S. Connauton entered.]

10.02 Assessment, Water & Lands

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

10.02.1 Farm Improvement Grant Applications and Increases in Irrigation Acres Applications

10.02.1.1 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 May (<i>approved and paid</i>)	< \$178,816 >
June (<i>approval required</i>)	< \$75,375 >
Total Budget Remaining	\$639,918

*Total of grants paid to date within the 2023 fiscal year is \$259,119.

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

10.02.1.2 Flood to Pivot – Loren Calpas – NW 12-17-13 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 158 acres
- Current Assessment: 156 acres (2 acres removed for general assessment in 1995)
- Converting: 141 acres flood to pivot (135 main pivot, 6 corner pivot); keeping 15 acres outside
- Assessment remains the same at 156 acres (135 main pivot, 6 corner pivot, 15 acres outside)

2023-06-149 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Loren Calpas for the conversion of 141 acres flood to pivot in NW 12-17-13 W4M. The Farm Improvement Grant payable to the Landowner is \$14,100 (141 acres x \$100/acre) - \$7,500 (15 acres x \$500/acre) deduction for keeping acres outside the pivot area = \$6,600. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.1.3 Flood to Pivot – Marie Gazdarica – NE 29 & SE 32-16-12 W4M

- Current Assessment: 269 acres flood
- Converting: 236 acres flood to wiper pivot; 26 acre separate flood field; keeping 7 acres outside
- Assessment remains the same at 269 acres (269 wiper pivot, 26 flood field, 7 acres outside)

2023-06-150 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Marie Gazdarica for the conversion of 236 acres flood to wiper pivot in NE 29 & SE 32-16-12 W4M. The Farm Improvement Grant payable to the Landowner is \$23,600 (236 acres x \$100/acre) - \$3,500 (7

acres x \$500/acre) deduction for keeping acres outside the pivot area = \$20,100. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.1.4 Flood to Pivot – Will & Shauna Henrickson – SE 11-20-13 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 75 acres flood
- Current Assessment: 79 acres (4 acres added for general assessment prior to 1999)
- Converting: 79 acres flood to wiper pivot; 4 additional acres needed
- New Assessment: 83 acres wiper pivot
- Parcel has reached its maximum grant funding

2023-06-151 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Will & Shauna Henrickson for the conversion of 79 acres flood to wiper pivot in SE 11-20-13 W4M. The Farm Improvement Grant available and payable to the Landowner is \$7,900 (79 acres x \$100/acre). The capital assets charge is \$3,952 (4 acres x \$988/acre). Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

10.02.1.5 Pivot Replacement – 459 Ranches Ltd (Inge Ellefson) – SW 17-20-13 W4M

- Previous Grant: \$12,700 (motion 2008-02-023)
- Previous Assessment: 117 acres
- Current Assessment: 127 acres (10 acres transferred in from NW 30-19-13 W4M)
- Installing: pivot replacement; 3 additional acres needed
- New Assessment: 130 acres, all under wiper pivot
- Parcel has reached its maximum grant funding
- Note: proof of purchase was submitted prior to October 1, 2022

2023-06-152 Moved by R. Owen that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for 459 Ranches Ltd for the pivot replacement upgrade in SW 17-20-13 W4M purchased for \$103,795. The Farm Improvement Grant available and payable to the Landowner is \$12,700 (127 acres x \$100/acre) - \$2,925 (previous grant) = \$9,775. The capital assets charge is \$2,964 (3 acres x \$988/acre). Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.1.6 Flood to Pivot, Pivot Replacement, Corner Arm – Alan & Laura Dyck – N ½ 32-20-15 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 256 acres
- Current Assessment: 271 acres (15 acres added for general assessment)
- Conversion: 96 acres flood to pivot
- Installing: replacement pivot with corner arm; 15 acre separate field; keeping 3 acres outside
- Assessment remains the same at 271 acres (175 corner arm pivot, 78 wiper pivot, 15 acre separate field; 3 acres outside)
- Note: proof of purchase was submitted prior to October 1, 2022

2023-06-153 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Alan & Laura Dyck for the conversion of 96 acres flood to pivot, and pivot replacement upgrade purchased for \$212,835; in N ½ 32-20-15 W4M. The Farm Improvement Grant payable to the Landowner is \$9,600 (96 acres x \$100/acre) flood to pivot + \$5,400 (54 acres x \$100/acre) pivot



replacement + \$17,500 (25 acres x \$700/acre) corner arm acres – \$1,500 (3 acres x \$500/acre) deduction for keeping acres outside the pivot area = \$31,000. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.1.7 Transfer – Marvin & Loretta Berg and Marvin Berg to Abe & Mary Berg

The landowners are requesting the transfer of 3 irrigation acres from SW 30-22-16 W4M and 5 irrigation acres from SE 31-22-16 W4M to SW 29-22-16 W4M to continue wheel irrigation outside the pivot. Previously approved as an alternate transfer, the landowners are now requesting a permanent transfer. Operations has no concerns with the transfer.

2023-06-154 Moved by B. Schmidt that the Board approve the transfer of:

- **3 irrigation acres from SW 30-22-16 W4M, and**
- **6 irrigation acres from SE 29-22-16 W4M, lands being owned by Marvin & Loretta Berg; to SW 29-22-16 W4M, lands being owned by Abe & Mary Berg. Seconded by R. Owen. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

10.02.1.8 Transfer – Tateson Ranching Ltd (Scott Tateson) to Tateson Ranching Ltd

The landowner is requesting the transfer of 18 irrigation acres from NW 20-16-12 W4M to NW 18-16-12 W4M to accommodate a corner arm in place. The landowner will continue to be responsible for accessing water from the Bantry Reservoir and is aware of the fluctuating levels. Some background was given to Directors.

[11:01 a.m. R. Gagley and B. Kroschel re-entered the meeting.]

The request to transfer irrigation acres from a parcel with no delivery issues to a parcel where the landowner has not resolved delivery issues, was questioned. Further review of the matter and the reservoir was given.

2023-06-155 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the transfer of 18 irrigation acres from NW 20-16-12 W4M to NW 18-16-12 W4M; all lands being owned by Tateson Ranching Ltd. Seconded by B. Schmidt. [no vote]

2023-06-156 Moved by R. Hiebert that this matter be tabled to the August Board of Directors Meeting. Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Full information on this matter will be provided to Directors for discussion at the August Board Meeting.

10.02.2 Terminable Acres

In follow up to the June 13, 2023, Special Directors Meeting, maps of parcels containing 40 or more terminable acres, or a mix of 40 or more irrigation and terminable acres were presented for review. Individual parcels were examined and staff gave background to water supply and terminable to irrigation acre conversion potential. One of the parcels in the mixed irrigation and terminable category will also be discussed at the August Board Meeting, due to its similar nature.

[12:04 p.m. S. Connauton, R. Gagley, and B. Kroschel exited the meeting.]



11.0 Upcoming Events

- 11.01 Interna. Fed. of Ag Journalists Congress - Wednesday, June 28th, 4:00 p.m., Olds
- Welcome Reception *[attending: T. Hemsing, I. Friesen]*
- 11.02 2023 AIDA Inter-District Tour - Thursday, July 6th, hosted by Bow River Irrigation District
[attending: T. Hemsing, R. Owen, B. Schroeder, J. Ketchmark, I. Friesen, R. Gagley, B. Kroschel]
- 11.03 Regular Board Meeting - Tuesday, July 25th, 9:00 a.m.
- 11.04 Regular Board Meeting - Tuesday, August 22nd, 9:00 a.m.

B. Schmidt moved adjournment of the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Chairman

General Manager