

August 26, 2025, Regular Directors Meeting

The Directors of the Eastern Irrigation District held a regular meeting on the 26th day of August 2025. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Richard Hiebert	Director	[Division 1]	Mr. Ivan Friesen	General Manager
Mr. David Peltzer	Director	[Division 2]	Mr. Marvin Koochin	Assist. GM – Legal & Corp Serv <i>[apologies]</i>
Mr. Brad Deschamps	Director	[Division 3]	Mr. Ryan Gagley	Assist. GM – Engineering & Operations
Mr. Jeff Alberts	Director	[Division 4]	Mrs. Wendy Enns	Executive Assistant
Mr. John Ketchmark	Director	[Division 5]		
Mr. Brent Schroeder	Director	[Division 6]		
Mr. Tracy Hemsing	Director	[Division 7]		

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:

- 7.06 Lower North Branch – Hutterian Brethren of Spring View

2025-08-151 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Board adopt the Agenda as revised. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 July 22, 2025, Regular Directors Meeting

The minutes of the July 22, 2025, Regular Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

2025-08-152 Moved by B. Deschamps that the Minutes of the July 22, 2025, Regular Directors Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.0 Business Arising

There were no matters arising from the July 22nd Regular Directors Meeting.

4.0 Reports on Meetings / Events

4.01 Alberta Irrigation Districts Association – Executive Committee Meeting

T. Hemsing attended an AIDA Executive Committee meeting on July 24th in Vauxhall. Fisheries & Oceans Canada, a meeting with Hon. RJ Sigurdson – Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation, Snake Lake Reservoir expansion project, water sharing agreements, districts' 7-year infrastructure plans, AIS prevention strategies, and the deadline for projects under the AIM program were among the discussion topics. Directors were also advised that the 2026 AIDA Conference will be held February 2 – 4, 2026, in Lethbridge.

4.02 Tour for University of Calgary Students

On August 12th, I. Friesen presented an overview of the EID to a class of Environmental Sciences students from the U of C. Following the presentation, staff toured the group at the Snake Lake Reservoir expansion project site and the Bassano Dam & Emergency Spillway.

4.03 Tour for Provincial Government Representatives

I. Friesen also hosted tours on August 22nd for Jason Hale – Deputy Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation and David James – Deputy Minister of Affordability & Utilities, at the Bassano Dam & Emergency Spillway and at the Snake Lake Reservoir expansion project site.

4.04 Canadian Foodgrains Bank

D. Peltzer informed the Board that a Canadian Foodgrains Bank project is being grown this year south of Gem and requested that the 2025 water rate be waived for these acres. The funds raised from this project will assist overseas with emergency food needs.

2025-08-153 Moved by D. Peltzer that in consideration of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank project for 152 acres in NE 24-22-17 W4M, the 2025 water rate be waived; lands being owned by Russel & Dorie Pickett. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.0 Upcoming Events

5.01 Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, September 23rd, 9:00 a.m.

5.02 Special Budget Meeting – Thursday, October 2nd, 9:00 a.m.

5.03 Ag for Life Harvest Gala – Friday, October 24th, 5:30 p.m., Heritage Park, Calgary

5.04 Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 28th, 9:00 a.m.

[8:20 a.m. S. Barlow entered the meeting.]

6.0 Financial Report

S. Barlow presented the following Financial Report.

6.01 Financial Statements to July 31, 2025

The financial statements to July 31, 2025, were reviewed, noting the following overall:

- YTD revenues total about \$45.8 million and are tracking over YTD budget.
- YTD net operating expenses total about \$30.9 million and are tracking under YTD budget.
- YTD potential transfer to the Irrigation Works Fund is approximately \$14.9 million.

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

2025-08-154 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the Financial Statements to July 31, 2025, as presented. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[8:32 a.m. S. Barlow exited the meeting; J. Kabut, R. Summach, and B. Kroschel entered.]

7.0 Engineering

R. Gagley presented the following Engineering Report.

7.01 S Tilley & T Tilley – Update

Directors were provided with an update on landowner concerns for the S Tilley & T Tilley rehab project. Although approved at the June 24, 2025, Board Meeting this project will be brought back to the September meeting for an additional update, discussion on landowner consents, and project go-ahead.

7.02 U Tilley Pipeline (03-U, 04-U North, 04-U South Canals)

Prior to excusing himself from the discussion, B. Schroeder gave comment to opportunities specific to his farm operation that could be included in the scope of the proposed rehab project.

[8:54 a.m. B. Schroeder declared a pecuniary interest and exited the meeting.]

R. Summach presented the U Tilley (03-U, 04-U North and 04-U South Canals) Pipeline project synopsis, advising that this rehabilitation project begins 5.5 km south of Tilley at the intersection of Hwy #876 and #535. The total area served is 240 irrigation acres, of which 87 are currently flood. Information provided was the road borrow being used as a head ditch, the canal condition restricting flow, and canals overflowing when checked up to adequate levels. The proposed rehab would consist of a single 4 km long closed gravity pipeline sized for pivots to receive 3.0 cfs. It is recommended that this project be funded under the AIM program at an estimated cost of \$1,180,000. Admin and staff responded to a number of questions regarding the project and the suggested alternatives. It was the consensus of the Board that any requested modifications to the project would have to be borne by the landowner as the parcel in question is currently being served by another pipeline.

2025-08-155 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the U Tilley rehabilitation project as presented to convert 3 canals to a single closed gravity pipeline for an estimated cost of \$1,180,000; to be funded under the AIM program. Seconded by J. Alberts. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[9:17 a.m. – 9:27 a.m. Short break; B. Schroeder rejoined the meeting.]

Both a Farm Improvement Grant and an Infrastructure Cost-Savings Grant are applicable to this rehab project; however, it was requested by Admin that revisions be made at this time to add clarity to both policies. A short discussion was held on each policy.

7.03 Farm Improvement Policy

The following revisions were presented regarding the Farm Improvement Policy, which reinforces current practices:

- adding: "2.1 (b) Hauling of fill material is the landowner's responsibility."; and
- removing from 4.0: "and which improvement is on the landowner's timeline and is not part of the District project".

2025-08-156 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the Farm Improvement Policy as revised. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.04 Infrastructure Cost-Savings Grant Policy

One revision for clarity was presented regarding the Infrastructure Cost-Savings Grant Policy, and another point was opened for discussion. It was requested that the draft policy be further revised and brought back to a later meeting.

[9:45 a.m. B. Schroeder declared a pecuniary interest and exited the meeting.]

7.02 U Tilley Pipeline (03-U, 04-U North, 04-U South Canals) cont'd

The landowner in NW 36-16-13 W4M – 768976 Alberta Ltd (Brent & Rhian Schroeder) currently has the pivot pump site situated at the center of the north boundary of the quarter. With an open ditch feeding this location there is spill past the pump. The landowner is requesting that the District's pipeline be extended to his pump site to eliminate spill. Through the Farm Improvement Policy, the landowner is eligible for a 50/50 cost-share, up to a \$15,000 District contribution. The cost to install 365 m of 16" pipe is \$49,900; of which the landowner would pay \$34,900 + GST.

2025-08-157 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the Farm Improvement Grant for 768976 Alberta Ltd for eliminating spill past a pump in NW 36-16-13 W4M at the time of the U Tilley rehabilitation project. The grant payable to the landowner is \$15,000. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The same landowner is choosing to eliminate a delivery in the SE corner of NW 36-16-13 W4M, which will result in a savings of \$29,900 for the District. Under the Infrastructure Cost-Savings Grant, the landowner is eligible for 50% of the realized construction cost savings, to a maximum EID contribution of \$20,000 per quarter section.

2025-08-158 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the Infrastructure Cost-Savings Grant for 768976 Alberta Ltd for eliminating a delivery in the SE corner of NW 36-16-13 W4M at the time of the U Tilley rehabilitation project. The grant payable to the landowner is \$14,950. Seconded by J. Alberts. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The acreage owner affected by the project will be contacted regarding his terminable acres and the options available to him after cancelation.

[9:52 a.m. B. Schroeder rejoined the meeting.]

7.05 X Tilley

J. Kabut presented the X Tilley Pipeline project synopsis, advising that this rehabilitation project is located 9 km south of Tilley and is slated for the 2025/2026 construction year. The proposed rehab would consist of 2 closed gravity pipelines which would replace 2 separate canals. The west pipeline would have a stilling pond and gabion wall installed; the east line would not. The combined systems would supply 630 irrigation acres. The proposed pipeline could improve the ability to meet the needs of the downstream irrigators early in the season, if/when Bantry 1 and Bantry 2 reservoirs are low. It is recommended that this project be funded under the AIM program at an estimated cost of \$3,889,000.

Tateson Ranching Ltd (Scott & Julie Tateson) has requested that the proposed EID pipeline supply 5 existing pivots, currently being supplied by Bantry 1 Reservoir. The cost to extend the pipeline to

the landowner's property is \$125,000 and the cost to upsize the EID pipeline for additional capacity is \$234,000. A lengthy discussion followed.

~~2025-08-159 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the X Tilley rehabilitation project to convert 2 separate canals to 2 closed gravity pipelines, and upsize a portion of the west pipeline and extend the pipeline into the SW corner of NW 19-16-12 W4M to serve an additional 5 existing pivots, for an estimated total cost of \$4,248,000; to be funded under the AIM program. Seconded by B. Deschamps. CARRIED~~
IN FAVOUR—R. Hiebert, D. Peltzer, B. Deschamps, J. Alberts, T. Hemsing
OPPOSED—J. Ketchmark, B. Schroeder [rescinded by motion 2025-09-173]

The X Tilley rehab project was approved; however, staff were subsequently given direction to investigate a couple options to more feasibly mitigate issues on the east canal. This project will be brought back to the September meeting. A single Irrigable Unit will be required for the 5 existing pivots once they are added to the pipeline.

7.06 Lower North Branch – Hutterian Brethren of Spring View

Admin has been contacted by a landowner concerning suspected seepage along the lower end of the North Branch Canal, NE of Gem. The Lower North Branch rehab project has been toured and given preliminary discussion; however, the project was not given Board approval. It was advised by Admin that budgeting for geotechnical survey work to investigate the groundwater movement and source in Sec 13-24-16 W4M should be undertaken as prior analysis has shown the groundwater could be naturally occurring. Any future engineering of the project, or any portion thereof, will be delayed until the information is received.

8.0 Operations

B. Kroschel presented the following Operations Report.

8.01 Reservoir Status and Water Use to Date

The District remains in Stage 1 of the Drought Plan: maximum 24"/acre and up to 4"/acre of additional water deliveries that may be purchased. So far, no landowners have applied to purchase additional deliveries of water.

WATER USE TO DATE – as of August 15, 2025		
	August 2025	August 2024
Water Diverted to Date	323,871 ac-ft (12")	374,528 ac-ft (14.12")
Water Applied to Land to Date	6.12"	8.52"
Range of Parcels Irrigating	30 – 194	270 – 1,086
Parcels Using Over 12"	176	436
Parcels Using Over 16"	11	82
Parcels Using Over 20"	1	15
Total Firm Live Storage*	277,034 ac-ft	279,524 ac-ft

* Only includes main reservoirs

8.02 Set Water Shut-Down Date

A water shut down date of Thursday, October 9th was recommended to allow 3-4 weeks needed for all areas to be drained, fully pumped out, and winterized by the end of October/early November and to meet labour needs for construction and maintenance project timelines.

2025-08-160 Moved by B. Deschamps that the Board set the Water Shut Down date for irrigation water to be Thursday, October 9, 2025. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[11:09 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Short break; J. Kabut, R. Summach, B. Kroschel exited the meeting; R. Elliott entered.]

9.0 Equipment

R. Elliot presented the following Equipment Report.

9.01 Sale of Used Equipment

Invitations for bids on the purchase of 3 used excavators and a used quadtrac and scraper as listed below were sent to auction houses and advertised locally:

2025-08-161 Moved by B. Schroeder that as highest bid, the District sell the:

- **2016 John Deere 350GLC Excavator for \$63,377 + GST to Ritchie Brothers Auctioneers Ltd,**
- **2019 Hitachi ZX250LC-5N Excavator for \$145,500 + GST to BYZ Enterprises Inc,**
- **2021 Hitachi ZX350LC-6N Excavator to Second Chance Excavating for \$220,000 + GST, and**
- **2012 Case 5505 Quadtrac & 2012 Humdinger H619 Scraper to Smith Trucking Service 1976 Ltd for \$232,000 + GST.**

Seconded by J. Alberts. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[11:18 a.m. R. Elliott exited the meeting; R. Moen entered.]

10.0 EIDNet

R. Moen presented the following EIDNet Report.

10.01 Monthly Report

It was expected that all customers affected by the severe wind and hailstorm on August 20th would be up and running by the end of day on the 26th. The last fibre phase is running behind schedule and may need to be completed in the spring of 2026. In response to a Director's question concerning internet service at Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground, it was advised that due to the height and volume of trees, providing individual hotspots to each campsite is cost prohibitive, as it also would be at Crawling Valley Campground.

[11:26 a.m. R. Moen exited the meeting; B. Doerksen entered.]

11.0 Requests for Funding

B. Doerksen presented the following Request for Funding.

11.01 Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

A request was received from the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) for sponsorship of the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference to be held in Saskatoon, SK, May 5 – 7, 2026. The conference is held once every 3 years, rotating between Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, and target audience includes environmental NGOs, consultants, educators, landowners, government, and research institutes. The chosen support category includes advertising and 2 conference registrations.

2025-08-162 Moved by D. Peltzer that the District donates \$2,500 to the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference to be hosted in Saskatoon, SK, May 5 – 7, 2026. Seconded by B. Deschamps. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[11:29 a.m. B. Doerksen exited the meeting; S. Connauton entered.]

12.0 Lands**12.01 Assessment, Water & Lands**

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

12.01.1 Farm Improvement Grant Applications and Increases in Irrigation Acres Applications**12.01.1.1 Increase – 764002 AB Ltd (Tony & Petra Brummelhuis) – NW 16-16-16 W4M**

- Current Assessment: 82 acres pivot
- Proposal: add wiper pivot; 27 acres needed (infill)
- Efficiency Acres Gained: 0
- New Assessment: 109 acres, all under pivot
- Notes: soils meet requirements; project must be completed by August 31, 2026

2025-08-163 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Board approve the Increase in Irrigation Acres application for 764002 AB Ltd for 27 infill acres in NW 16-16-16 W4M. The capital assets charge is \$41,310 (27 acres x \$1,530/acre). Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12.01.1.2 Increase – S & K Farms Ltd (Stephen & Kim Anderson) – NE 33-15-15 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 133 acres pivot
- Current Assessment: 135 acres pivot (2 acres added for 2016 General Assessment)
- Proposal: add corner arm; 18 acres needed (infill)
- Efficiency Acres Gained: 0
- New Assessment: 153 acres, all under corner arm pivot
- Notes: subject to landowners entering into a 2.12 cfs maximum instantaneous flow agreement; soils meet requirements; project must be completed by August 31, 2026

2025-08-164 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Board approve the Increase in Irrigation Acres application for S & K Farms Ltd for 18 infill acres in NE 33-15-15 W4M; subject to entering into a 2.12 cfs maximum instantaneous flow agreement. The capital assets charge is \$27,540 (18 acres x \$1,530/acre). Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12.01.1.3 Increase – S & K Farms Ltd (Stephen & Kim Anderson) – NW 34-15-15 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 133 acres pivot
- Current Assessment: 136 acres pivot (3 acres added for 2016 General Assessment)
- Proposal: add corner arm; 18 acres needed (infill)
- Efficiency Acres Gained: 0
- New Assessment: 154 acres, all under corner arm pivot
- Notes: subject to landowners entering into a 2.25 cfs maximum instantaneous flow agreement; soils meet requirements; project must be completed by August 31, 2026

2025-08-165 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Board approve the Increase in Irrigation Acres application for S & K Farms Ltd for 18 infill acres in NE 33-15-15 W4M; subject to entering into a 2.25 cfs maximum instantaneous flow agreement. The capital assets charge is \$27,540 (18 acres x \$1,530/acre). Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12.01.1.4 Increase – Jelmer Tilma & Engelen Tilma-Timmermans – NW 08-14-13 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 153 acres
- Current Assessment: 146 acres pivot (7 acres sold back to the EID in 2012 as part of a Farm Improvement Grant)
- Proposal: add corner arm; 5 acres needed (infill)
- Efficiency Acres Gained: 0
- New Assessment: 151 acres, all under corner arm pivot
- Notes: soils meet requirements; project must be completed by August 31, 2026

2025-08-166 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Board approve the Increase in Irrigation Acres application for Jelmer Tilma & Engelen Tilma-Timmermans for 5 infill acres in NW 08-14-13 W4M. The capital assets charge is \$7,650 (5 acres x \$1,530/acre). Seconded by B. Deschamps. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[11:32 a.m. S. Connauton exited the meeting; N. Fontaine entered.]

12.02 Lands, Oil & Gas

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

12.02.1 Irrigated Lease Auction – Results of Bids

The Irrigated Lease Auction held August 14th for 8 existing and 4 new irrigated leases resulted in an average of just over \$413/acre. 33 irrigators preregistered and 29 were present for the auction. Auction results were discussed by the Board and preliminary discussion on adding more District irrigated leases was positive. Results are as follows:

IRRIGATED LEASE AUCTION – August 14, 2025				
IL #	Location	Irrigated Acres	Winning Bid	Successful Bidder
8250	NE 28-14-13 W4M	130	\$250/acre	Meeuwsen Farms Ltd (Martin Meeuwsen)
8251	SE 29-14-13 W4M	137	\$470/acre	Davidson Family Farm Ltd (Kyle Davidson)
8254	SE 22-14-13 W4M	135	\$330/acre	Halsema Farms (Eise Halsema)
8255	SE 21-14-13 W4M	135	\$360/acre	Ralph Nannt
8256	SE 15-14-13 W4M	115	\$400/acre	Ralph Nannt
8266	NE 32-15-15 W4M	134	\$520/acre	S-Scan Farms Ltrd (Stuart Kanegawa)
8267	SE 32-15-15 W4M	134	\$600/acre	S-Scan Farms Ltd (Stuart Kanegawa)
8271	SE 11 & S 12-15-13	320	\$320/acre	Jozef Versteegan
8481	NE 27-14-13 W4M	153	\$510/acre	Eastwood Farms Ltd (Tjark Stikker)
8482	SE 34-14-13 W4M	124	\$430/acre	Meyer Farms Ltd (Ben Meyer)
8483	NW 14-14-14 W4M	148	\$460/acre	Drost Seed Potatoes (Yorian Drost)
8484	NW 06-24-15 W4M	153	\$310/acre	Charmark Charolais Inc (Leigh Marquess)

[11:47 a.m. – 12:24 p.m. Lunch break; N. Fontaine exited the meeting; R. Volek entered.]

12.03 Grazing

R. Volek presented the following Grazing Report.

12.03.1 Set Round-Up Date

The 2025 grazing season began with good spring moisture, cooler temperatures, and normal pasture development. In general, rains then held off until significant moisture was received in late June to mid-August, with the north and west parts of the District being in very good shape and the south and east parts being fair. The exception being 2 of the Rock Lake pivots and many private parcels being devastated by the recent hailstorm. Consensus from Grazing Associations supports extending the normal grazing season past October 15th and a tentative increase in next year's maximum listing from 65 head to 70. A number of questions were responded to by Mr. Volek.

2025-08-167 Moved by J. Ketchmark that for the 2025 grazing season:

- **cattle turned out on community leases June 1st are to be out of leases by the end of day on Saturday, October 25, 2025; and**
- **cattle turned out on community leases prior to or after May 15th are to be out of leases by the same number of days prior to or after the end of day on Saturday, October 25, or October 31st, 2025, whichever is earliest.**

Seconded by B. Deschamps. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was agreed that the maximum listing for 2026 be tentatively raised to 70 head, from 65 head. This number will be set by motion in December and revisited in the spring.

2025-08-168 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.0 JBS Update

[12:39 p.m. R. Volek exited the meeting.]

**14.0 Commercial Update****15.0 Legal Update****11.0 Requests for Funding cont'd****11.02 Grasslands Soccer Association**

2025-08-169 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the meeting be reconvened. Seconded by B. Deschamps. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DIRECTION ARISING FROM THE IN CAMERA PORTION OF THE MEETING**13.0 JBS Update**

The Board was updated as to this matter. Admin will follow up by requesting soils data on pivots leased by JBS west of Hwy #36.

14.0 Commercial Update

The Board was updated as to this matter and direction was given to Admin.

15.0 Legal Update

I. Friesen reiterated that EID employees are to continue telling the public that they are not to swim in EID canals, ditches, ponds, and dugouts. The primary purpose of EID works is for irrigation purposes and there are various known and unknown hazards that could arise from time to time from factors such as unexpected water fluctuations, currents, objects under water, and surface run-off. Additional signage and other educational strategies may be utilized, consistent with messaging used by other irrigation districts. A number of questions were responded to by Mr. Friesen.

11.0 Requests for Funding cont'd**11.02 Grasslands Soccer Association**

A motion was carried once reconvened.

CONTINUATION OF THE AGENDA**11.0 Requests for Funding cont'd****11.02 Grasslands Soccer Association cont'd**

A letter was received from the Grasslands Soccer Association requesting the District's assistance with parking lot development at their new soccer pitch area. A number of fields of varying size and age uses are proposed to be developed directly south of the Brooks quad ballpark, with a parking area to be constructed on the east boundary. As this is a new community development, and not maintenance of an existing facility, the request for 1 ½" gravel to be provided and hauled to the site was approved.



2025-08-170 Moved by D. Peltzer that the District supplies and hauls gravel for the Grasslands Soccer Association's parking lot at the new soccer pitch area to be developed directly south of the Brooks quad ballpark. Seconded by B. Deschamps. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Schroeder moved adjournment of the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

A black ink signature, appearing to be 'B. Schroeder', written over a horizontal line.

Chairman

A blue ink signature, appearing to be 'D. Peltzer', written over a horizontal line.

General Manager