

**May 27, 2025, Regular Directors Meeting**

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

1.0 Approval of Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:

- 7.05 Secondary C North Branch

The following item was deferred to the July 22, 2025, Meeting:

- 11:00 a.m. MLA Heather Sweet, Edmonton – Manning

2025-05-091 Moved by B. Schroeder that the Board adopt the Agenda as revised. Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.0 Approval of Minutes**2.01 April 22, 2025, Organizational & Regular Directors Meetings**

The minutes of the April 22, 2025, Organizational & Regular Directors Meetings were accepted as presented.

2025-05-092 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Minutes of the April 22, 2025, Organizational & Regular Directors Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.0 Business Arising

There were no matters arising from the April 22nd Organizational and Regular Directors Meetings.

4.0 Reports on Meetings / Events**4.01 Crawling Valley Recreation Society – Annual General Meeting – April 28th**

D. Peltzer attended the AGM of the CVRS on April 28th. A number of matters were discussed at the meeting and applicable items had been conveyed to I. Friesen. It was noted that the CVRS financial statements are in good shape.

4.02 Provincial Water Availability Engagement – Phase 2 – May 21st, Brooks

R. Hiebert, D. Peltzer, B. Deschamps, J. Alberts, J. Ketchmark, B. Schroeder, and I. Friesen attended a Provincial Water Availability Engagement – Phase 2 session on May 21st in Brooks. This town hall was held as one of the updates to the initial engagement in late 2024/early 2025. As proved in the online information, the government's proposed *Water Act* amendments are: 1) streamline decision making for water licensing and transfers, 2) enhance water use information to support effective and transparent management by all users, 3) enable lower risk inter-basin transfers, and 4) enable use of alternative water sources. The government's objectives are to: 1) support continued water conservation, efficiency, and productivity, 2) free up and optimize use of available water, and 3) improve access to existing water sources, including timely decision-making. Mr. Friesen conveyed that at this point AIDA's discussion points have been heard concerning the irrigation industry; Directors were also comfortable with the government's response. It is anticipated that follow up sessions will be held this fall.

4.03 Provincial Water Availability Engagement – Phase 2 – May 26th, Online

T. Hemsing attended an online Provincial Water Availability Engagement – Phase 2 session on May 26th. He concurred with the views expressed regarding the May 21st meeting and noted that most of the comments online trended towards environmental concerns vs industry.

5.0 Upcoming Events**5.01 Newell Pro Rodeo – June 6th & 7th, Silver Sage Agribition Grounds**

Attending: R. Hiebert, D. Peltzer, B. Deschamps, J. Alberts, B. Schroeder, T. Hemsing, and N. Fontaine.

5.02 2025 AIDA Inter-District Tour – Friday, June 20th, Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District

Attending: R. Hiebert, D. Peltzer, J. Alberts, J. Ketchmark, B. Schroeder, I. Friesen, R. Gagley, B. Kroschel, R. Summach, J. Kabut.

5.03 Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, June 24th, 9:00 a.m.

All attending.

5.04 Northwest Irrigation Operators (NWIO) Tour – June 25th in EID

Attending: D. Peltzer, T. Hemsing, I. Friesen; B. Schroeder if tour availability. EID Staff will be touring conference attendees at the Eyremore dam site and RHR Campground.

5.05 Alberta NDP Agriculture Stampede Roundtable – July 8th, Calgary

Attending: R. Hiebert, T. Hemsing.

5.06 Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, July 22nd, 9:00 a.m.

All attending.

[9:20 a.m. S. Barlow entered the meeting.]

6.0 Financial Report

S. Barlow presented the following Financial Report.

6.01 Financial Statements to April 30, 2025

The financial statements to April 30, 2025, were reviewed, noting the following overall:

- YTD revenues total about \$26.1 million and are tracking under YTD budget.
- YTD net operating expenses total about \$20.1 million and are tracking under YTD budget.
- YTD potential transfer to the Irrigation Works Fund is approximately \$6 million.

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

2025-05-093 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Financial Statements to April 30, 2025, as presented. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.02 Appointment of Auditor

Mrs. Barlow advised of fees and presented an engagement letter from Bevan and Partners, Chartered Accountants, which engages Bevan and Partners for purposes of conducting the upcoming annual audit of the District's 2025 financial statements.

2025-05-094 Moved by R. Hiebert that the engagement letter, dated May 13, 2025, from Bevan and Partners, Chartered Professional Accountants, for the audit of the Eastern Irrigation District's 2025 financial statements be approved and execution authorized. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[9:38 a.m. S. Barlow exited; R. Summach, J. Kabut, and B. Kroschel entered.]

7.0 Engineering

R. Gagle presented the following Engineering Report.

7.01 Drain Relo – Loren & Geneva Weaver – SW 30-16-13 W4M

R. Summach advised that Loren & Geneva Weaver are requesting a drain relocation in SW 30-16-13 W4M to allow the pivot to complete a full circle without crossing the drain. The drain currently runs diagonally through the quarter from the NE to the SW. Previously, the landowner bought culverts, and the EID installed them as pivot crossings, contributing \$2,150 to the Farm Improvement project. It is now being requested that the drain be relocated to run south along the east boundary. By policy, the EID pays 50% up to \$50,000 on approved drain and canal relocations; the estimated eligible project costs are \$81,200. The previous drain relocation was discussed with Directors and the following motion was carried.

2025-05-095 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Board approved the Farm Improvement Drain Relocation for Loren & Geneva Weaver in SW 30-16-13 W4M, to be funded on a 50/50 cost-share basis up to a maximum District contribution of \$50,000; less the previous EID contribution. The estimated eligible project costs are \$81,200; of which the landowners will pay \$42,750 + GST. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.02 17-G Springhill

R. Summach presented the 17-G Springhill Pipeline project synopsis. This project would begin approximately 10 km NW of Patricia, ending approximately 14.5 km directly north of Patricia where the canal ties into an existing pipeline; currently irrigating 3,780 acres, of which 450 are flood. Due to this project being in the 5 year plan, maintenance has been deferred and many of the structures and crossings are due for replacement. The canal has significant silt and weed growth and is treated

regularly for algae. The proposed pipeline would be 7.7 km long, tie into 2 existing pipelines, and be sized for an additional 900 acres of irrigation. The project would save water by eliminating seepage and evaporation and would reduce spill. The project is slated for the 2025/2026 construction year at an estimated cost of \$11,730,000; to be funded under the AIM program. Through discussion of the project, it was requested that a tour be arranged for Directors.

[10:16 a.m. – 10:23 a.m. Short break; R. Summach exited the meeting.]

7.03 Preliminary Project Discussion – Lower North Branch

Justin Kabut presented the Lower North Branch project synopsis for preliminary discussion. This project is located approximately 11 km NE of Gem and currently supplies 4,065 irrigation acres. This stretch of canal has significant algae concerns. The proposed pipeline would be sized to supply 5,924 acres for existing irrigation and future development, would reduce chemical treatment, reduce spill, and eliminate evaporation. The preliminary estimated cost of the project is \$13,000,000. Discussion of this item was continued during the In Camera portion of the meeting.

7.04 Irrigating in Excess of Assessment

Every 3 years the EID cost-shares with the County of Newell aerial photography of the District. The EID uses this information in conjunction with underground utilities, property lines, contours, and soils testing, etc. for such things as aligning infrastructure rehabs, drain relocations, and fibre projects, creating pivot drawings and Farm Improvement maps, assisting in 1st calls and line locates, managing surface leases, monitoring eroding reservoir shorelines, adding grazing pipelines and identifying fence lines, rights-of-way, and road allowances, etc., moreover supporting all the day-to-day work of both the office and field staff. The aerial photos are also used in-house to identify actual areas of irrigation, infrastructure encroachments, and fence lines so that any inconsistencies may be dealt with as they arise.

In 2017, in order to determine the amount of remaining irrigation acres within the 311,000 expansion limit and to maintain an accurate assessment roll under Part 5 of the *Irrigation Districts Act*, a full review of all parcels containing irrigation or terminable acres was undertaken that had staff working with landowners to reconcile assessment and encroachment discrepancies over the following years.

R. Gagley advised that the 2024 aerial photos are now active and requested direction from the Board following presentation to the Board of a generic form of draft letter that could be sent to irrigators, to remind irrigators of requirements and offences under the *Irrigation Districts Act* and the general assessment audit penalty provision under the Capital Assets Charges Bylaw. With some instances of potential unauthorized irrigation having come to light, it was considered prudent to once again conduct a full review this summer. As discrepancies are found, landowners will be forwarded individualized letters and maps outlining any unauthorized irrigation or encroachments that have been identified and advising of action required by the landowner. A number of questions were responded to by Admin. Directors supported the draft letter and were in agreement for it to be sent to applicable irrigators.

7.05 Secondary C North Branch

Through discussion with the Board, staff were directed to bring to the June meeting a project proposal and cost estimate to install an isolation valve on the Secondary C North Branch pipeline.

8.0 Operations

B. Kroschel presented the following Operations Report.

8.01 Snowpack Report

The snowpack is now on a downward trend, with most ranges below average and tracking below last year.

8.02 Reservoir Status and Water Use to Date

The system was largely up and running the week of May 5th, with the usual leaks being fixed on the systems as they arose. As of May 20th, all reservoirs are near their upper end of operating levels (FSL). So far, irrigation demand has been relatively low. A number of questions were responded to by Mr. Kroschel and Mr. Friesen.

WATER USE TO DATE – as of May 20, 2025		
	May 2025	May 2024
Water Diverted to Date	98,856 ac-ft (3.72")	70,284 ac-ft (2.66")
Water Applied to Land to Date	.6"	0
Range of Parcels Irrigating	0 – 327	0 – 50
Parcels Using Over 12"	0	0
Parcels Using Over 16"	0	0
Parcels Using Over 20"	0	0
Total Firm Live Storage*	283,406 ac-ft	294,808 ac-ft

* Only includes main reservoirs

8.03 Review Current Operating Stage

It was confirmed with the Board that the District's Operating Stage will remain at Stage 2 (max 18" with up to 6" of transfers).

[11:22 a.m. R. Moen entered the meeting.]

9.0 EIDNet

R. Moen presented the following EIDNet Report.

9.01 Monthly Report

No major operational issues occurred in the reporting month. Work continues on the last phase of fibre project funded by the Universal Broadband Fund which includes the Gem, Patricia, and Rolling Hills towers. R. Moen and J. Kabut responded to comments concerning the placement of above ground fibre connection boxes.

[11:28 a.m. R. Moen exited the meeting.]

2025-05-096 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.0 Engineering cont'd

7.06 16 Springhill**7.03 Preliminary Project Discussion – Lower North Branch cont’d**

[12:00 p.m. – 12:35 p.m. Lunch break; J. Kabut and B. Kroschel exited the meeting; N. Fontaine entered.]

10.0 Lands**10.01 Lands, Oil & Gas****10.01.1 Private Boat Docks****10.01.2 Request to Lease Land – Universal Kraft**

[1:04 p.m. S. Connauton entered the meeting; B. Kroschel re-entered.]

10.01.3 Encroachment Review of Landowner in Division 7 (Rolling Hills)

[1:32 p.m. N. Fontaine and B. Kroschel exited the meeting.]

2025-05-097 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the meeting be reconvened. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DIRECTION ARISING FROM THE IN CAMERA PORTION OF THE MEETING**7.0 Engineering cont’d****7.06 16 Springhill**

It was requested of Admin to enquire if the 16 Springhill project can be canceled from the AIM program. The project may be revisited by the Board at a later date.

7.03 Preliminary Project Discussion – Lower North Branch cont’d

A tour of 17-G Springhill and Lower North Branch proposed rehab projects was arranged for Friday, May 30th, 8:00 a.m., for Directors and applicable Staff and landowners.

10.0 Lands**10.01 Lands, Oil & Gas****10.01.1 Private Boat Docks**

Directors were in support of each of the 57 residential lots at Kinbrook Island Provincial Park as referenced in the Lake Newell Reservoir Land Use Policy remain eligible for 1 boat dock and up to 2 boat lifts in Lake Newell Reservoir, if meeting all additional requirements as disclosed in the Lake Newell Reservoir Land Use Policy. As an aside, it was noted that staff have not been notified of any functioning Lake Newell Reservoir Land Use Policy Committees representing Lake Newell Resort, Kinbrook Island, Bantry Bay, North Headgates, Greenwald Inlet, or Bantry Bay Estates.

10.01.2 Request to Lease Land – Universal Kraft

Direction was given to Admin to continue discussions with the applicant.

10.01.3 Encroachment Review of Landowner in Division 7 (Rolling Hills)

Staff have become aware of a landowner's unauthorized pivot infrastructure located on a parcel within Division 7 (Rolling Hills). Staff are to complete a full assessment and encroachment review of the landowner's lands and provide a letter with supporting documentation to the landowner requiring him to remove the unauthorized pivot infrastructure, reseed the cultivated land to grass, and comply with any further requirements on other lands where discrepancies are identified. Furthermore, the landowner will not be considered to be in good standing with the EID and not eligible to bid on any upcoming leases, until all matters have been reconciled.

CONTINUATION OF THE AGENDA

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 Dugout and Drain Infill – Gordon Musgrove – NW 25-20-13 W4M**

Gordon Musgrove is requesting a dugout and old drain be infilled in the north half of NW 25-20-13 W4M to extend the pivot to run full circle. By policy, the EID will pay 50% up to \$15,000 per parcel; this project is estimated to cost \$60,000.

2025-05-098 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Gordon Musgrove for the infill of a dugout and drain in NW 25-20-13 W4M, to be funded on a 50/50 cost-share basis up to a maximum District contribution of \$15,000. The project is estimated to cost \$60,000; of which the landowner's share is \$45,000 + GST. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.1.2 Flood to Pivot – Gordon Musgrove – NW 25-20-13 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 108 acres
- Current Assessment: 114 acres wiper pivot and flood (6 acres added for 1995 general assessment)
- Converting: 29 acres flood to pivot and infilling pivot; 19 additional acres required
- New Assessment: 133 acres, all under pivot

2025-05-099 Moved by B. Deschamps that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Gordon Musgrove for the conversion of 29 acres flood to pivot in NW 25-20-13 W4M. The Farm Improvement Grant payable to the Landowner is \$2,900 (29 acres x \$100/acre). The capital assets charge is \$29,070. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.1.3 Wheels to Pivot – Joel & Charity Kropf – Pt SE 13-16-14 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 39 acres
- Current Assessment: 26 acres wheels and 9 acres pivot (4 acres removed for subdivision consent in 2016)

- Converting: 26 acres wheels to wiper pivot; 10 additional acres required (increase in acres approved by motion 2024-07-182)
- New Assessment: 45 acres, all under pivot (9 acres wiper pivot extending from south, 36 acres new wiper pivot)
- Note: subject to landowners entering into a 3.5 cfs maximum instantaneous flow agreement

2025-05-100 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Joel & Charity Kropf for the conversion of 26 acres wheels to wiper pivot in Pt SE 13-16-14 W4M; subject to entering into a 3.5 cfs maximum instantaneous flow agreement. The Farm Improvement Grant payable to the Landowner is \$2,600 (26 acres x \$100/acre). Seconded by B. Deschamps. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.1.4 Flood to Pivot – Adam Wolfer – NW 26-17-13 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 55 acres flood
- Current Assessment: 60 acres flood (5 acres transferred in)
- Converting: 57 acres flood to corner arm pivot; keeping 3 acres
- Assessment remains the same at 60 acres (57 corner arm pivot, 3 outside pivot area)
- Note: 55 acres eligible for grant

2025-05-101 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the Farm Improvement for Adam Wolfer for the conversion of 55 acres flood to corner arm pivot in NW 26-17-13 W4M. The Farm Improvement Grant payable to the Landowner is \$5,500 (55 acres x \$100/acre) – \$1,500 (3 acres x \$500/acre deduction for keeping acres outside the pivot area) = \$4,000. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.1.5 Increase – Cinsan Enterprises Ltd (Sandy Bartman) – Sec 10-20-14 W4M

- Previous Assessment: 136 acres
- Current Assessment: 124 acres (13 acres removed for general assessment in 1995, 2 acres removed for subdivision approval, and 3 acres added to increase pivot area)
- Proposal: increase large wiper pivot area; 17 acres needed (infill)
- Efficiency Acres Gained: 0
- New Assessment: 141 acres, all under pivot (1 large wiper, 1 small wiper, 1 small pivot)
- Notes: soils meet requirements; project must be completed by May 30, 2026

2025-05-102 Moved by B. Deschamps that the Board approve the Increase in Irrigation Acres application for Cinsan Enterprises Ltd for 17 infill acres in Sec 10-20-14 W4M. The capital assets charge is \$26,010 (17 acres x \$1,530/acre). Seconded by J. Alberts. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.1.6 Increase – Johan & Margaretha Fehr – NE 20-14-13 W4M

- Current Assessment: 45 acres wheels
- Proposal: increase wheel area; 6 acres needed (infill)
- Efficiency Acres Gained: 0
- New Assessment: 51 acres wheels
- Notes: soils meet requirements; project must be completed by May 30'26

2025-05-103 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the Increase in Irrigation Acres application for Johan & Margaretha Fehr for 6 infill acres in NE 20-14-13 W4M. The capital assets charge is \$9,180 (6 acres x \$1,530/acre). Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.1.7 Increase – Jacob & Agatha Penner – NW 23-17-13 W4M

- Current Assessment: 134 acres pivot
- Proposal: add corner arm; 13 acres needed (infill)
- Efficiency Acres Gained: 0
- New Assessment: 147 acres corner arm pivot
- Notes: soils meet requirements; project must be completed by May 30, 2026

2025-05-104 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Increase in Irrigation Acres application for Jacob & Agatha Penner for 13 infill acres in NW 23-17-13 W4M. The capital assets charge is \$19,890 (13 acres x \$1,530/acre). Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.2 Alternate Parcel Transfers

10.02.2.1 John Graham and William Graham to Darryl Graham – NE 02-21-17 to SE 11-22-17 W4M

For the 2025 irrigation season, John Graham and William Graham are requesting an alternate parcel transfer of 22 irrigation acres from NE 02-21-17 W4M to Darryl Graham in SE 11-22-17 W4M to further extend an existing wiper pivot. Soils meet requirements, and Operations has no concerns with the transfer.

2025-05-105 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Board approve the 2025 alternate parcel transfer of:

- 22 irrigation acres from NE 02-21-17 W4M, lands being owned by John Graham and William Graham;

to Darryl Graham in SE 11-22-17 W4M.
Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02.2.2 Terry Edge, 1717875 AB Inc (Rod Johnson), 1717866 AB Inc (Reid Johnson), and Hutterian Brethren of Lathom to Hutterian Brethren of Lathom – (various) to NW 22-19-17 W4M

For the 2025 season, Terry Edge, 1717875 AB Inc, 1717866 Alberta Inc, and the Hutterian Brethren of Lathom are requesting to transfer a total of 135 irrigation acres to the Hutterian Brethren of Lathom for a pivot project in NW 22-19-17 W4M. The Hutterian Brethren of Lathom applied for irrigation development for this parcel; however, the application rating fell below the 1,200 acres approved. Soils meet requirements and there are no operational issues identified with the alternate parcel transfer.

2025-05-106 Moved by B. Schroeder that the Board approve the 2025 alternate parcel transfer of:

- 19 irrigation acres from NW 04 & S ½ 09-20-17 W4M, lands owned by Terry Edge;
- 20 irrigation acres from SE 15 & NE 22-19-14 W4M, lands owned by 1717875 Alberta Inc;
- 35 irrigation acres from NW 10-19-14 W4M, lands owned by 1717866 Alberta Inc; and
- 61 irrigation acres from Sec 13, Sec 22, & Sec 23-20-17 W4M, all lands owned by Hutterian Brethren of Lathom;

to the Hutterian Brethren of Lathom in NW 22-19-17 W4M; subject to the removal of end guns on 4 pivots in Sec 13, Sec 22, & Sec 23-20-17 W4M. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



[1:47 p.m. S. Connauton exited the meeting; R. Volek entered.]

2025-05-107 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.0 Letter from JBS Foods Canada ULC

12.0 Legal & Corporate Services

12.01 Legal Updates

12.01.1 Financing Agreements for Community Grazing Associations

[2:19 p.m. R. Volek exited the meeting.]

12.01.2 Legal Update

[2:20 p.m. I. Friesen, R. Gagley, and W. Enns exited the meeting.]

[2:43 p.m. I. Friesen, R. Gagley, and W. Enns rejoined the meeting.]

2025-05-108 Moved by R. Hiebert that the meeting be reconvened. Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DIRECTION ARISING FROM THE IN CAMERA PORTION OF THE MEETING

11.0 Letter from JBS Foods Canada ULC

The Board was in consensus on maintaining the District's requirements as conveyed earlier to JBS.

12.0 Legal & Corporate Services

12.01 Legal Updates

12.01.1 Financing Agreements for Community Grazing Associations

The decision in 2023 to no longer entertain requests for loans from Community Grazing Associations will be maintained.

12.01.2 Legal Update

Directors were given an update on a legal matter

R. Hiebert moved adjournment of the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Chairman

General Manager