



February 24, 2026, Regular Directors Meeting

The Directors of the Eastern Irrigation District held a regular meeting on the 24th day of February 2026. 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 items were added to the agenda:

- 12.0 Sale of District Owned Lands Policy
- 15.0 Staffing Update

2026-02-044 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board adopt the Agenda as revised. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 January 27, 2026, Regular Directors Meeting

The minutes of the January 27, 2026, Regular Directors Meeting were accepted as presented.

2026-02-045 Moved by B. Deschamps that the Minutes of the January 27, 2026, Regular Directors Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.0 Business Arising

There were no matters arising from the January 27, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.

4.0 Reports on Meetings / Events

4.01 Alberta Irrigation Districts Association 2026 Conference – February 2nd – 4th

T. Hemsing, R. Hiebert, B. Deschamps, J. Alberts, J. Ketchmark, I. Friesen, R. Gagley, R. Summach, J. Kabut, and B. Kroschel attended the AIDA 2026 Conference, this year held in Lethbridge from February 2nd – 4th. B. Doerksen presented on behalf of the EID in regard to managing land, water, and shared resources. Several other presentations were heard relating to the theme of “Water Management in a Variable Climate” including amendments to the Alberta Water Act, water availability, management & quality, watershed resiliency, aquatic invasive species, sustainable management practices, and infrastructure feasibility updates.

4.02 Conversations with the Honorable MLA Danielle Smith – February 9th

The EID purchased a leadership sponsor table for \$2,500 in support of fundraising towards the Veterinarian Medical Scholarship Fund and PEP (Palliser Economic Partnership) initiatives; \$85,000 was raised overall. B. Deschamps, J. Alberts, R. Gagley, and B. Kroschel and spouses attended the event in Brooks on February 9th to hear a speech delivered by Premier Smith and additional presentations focused on economic development, agriculture, workforce sustainability, and long-term community vitality.

4.03 Intermunicipal Affairs Committee (IAC) – February 11th

Organized to essentially be an economic development strategic planning session, B. Deschamps, J. Alberts, B. Schroeder, and I. Friesen attended the first meeting of the IAC for the Brooks-Newell Region on February 11th in Brooks. Committee structure, governance, objectives, and strategic direction were the focus of the full day meeting.

4.04 Northwest Irrigation Operators Conference – February 17th – 19th

T. Hensing attended the NWIO Conference in Boise, Idaho from February 17th – 19th. Conference topics and workshops included river treaty, State, and AIDA updates, quagga mussels and aquatic weed control, cloud seeding, flow measurement, pump maintenance, pipe materials, water ordering software, district operations, and hiring challenges.

5.0 Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 5.01 | Regular Board Meeting | - Monday, March 2 nd , 9:00 a.m. |
| 5.02 | Annual General Meeting | - Tuesday, March 3 rd , 1:30 p.m., Heritage Inn |
| 5.03 | Nominations Close | - Wednesday, March 4 th , 5:00 p.m. |
| 5.04 | Organizational & Regular Board Mtgs | - Wednesday, April 1 st , 9:00 a.m. <i>[if no election]</i> |
| 5.05 | Meeting with MLA/Premier Smith | - Wednesday, April 8 th , 2:00 p.m., EID Office |
| 5.06 | Election <i>[if required]</i> | - Tuesday, April 14 th , 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| 5.07 | Aggie Days | - April 16 th , 9:15 – 2:30, Calgary Stampede Grounds
<i>[attending: D. Peltzer, J. Alberts]</i> |
| 5.08 | Organizational & Regular Board Mtgs | - Tuesday, April 28 th , 9:00 a.m. <i>[if election is held]</i> |

[10:01 a.m. – 10:08 a.m. Short break; S. Barlow entered the meeting.]

6.0 Financial Report

S. Barlow presented the following Financial Report.

6.01 Financial Statements to January 31, 2026

The financial statements to January 31, 2026, were reviewed, noting the following overall:

- YTD revenues total about \$15.7 million and are tracking under YTD budget.
- YTD net operating expenses total about \$11 million and are tracking under YTD budget.
- YTD potential transfer to the Irrigation Works Fund is about \$4.8 million.

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

2026-02-046 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Financial Statements to January 31, 2026, as presented. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[10:19 a.m. S. Barlow exited the meeting; J. Kabut entered.]

7.0 Engineering

R. Gagley presented the following Engineering Report.

7.01 Project Status

The S & T Tilley capital project is 100% complete with only spring cleanup remaining. The U Tilley project is now underway and when complete the pipeline crew will move to the development projects in Rolling Hills. 2.3 km remain for the 17-G Springhill project. A number of questions were responded to by Mr. Gagley.

EID CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS	
Project	Status
EARTHWORKS	
Main Bantry Bank Lift	- surveyed, approved, detailed design complete, ROW signed, project prepped
PIPELINE	
X Tilley	- cleanup remains
S and T Tilley	- cleanup remains
U-03, U-04 North, U-04 South Tilley	- project underway, 15% complete
17-G Springhill	- project underway, 60% complete

IRP PROJECTS	
Project	Status
PIPELINE	
Snake Lake Canal	- project underway, 35% complete

7.02 Drain Crossing – 1786088 AB Ltd (Leonard Retzlaff) – NE 36-20-16 W4M

J. Kabut advised that the landowner is requesting 12 bridges be installed in District drainage works to accommodate pivots in NE 36-20-16 W4M. As per 4.8 of the Farm Improvement Policy, the District prefers bridges to culverts and since bridges are more expensive than culverts, will pay for the difference in cost. The landowner pays for the equivalent cost of culvert materials and the District covers the cost difference and the cost of installing the bridges. It is the landowner’s ongoing responsibility to maintain and replace the bridges. This project is estimated to cost \$45,000; with the EID’s share being \$30,600 and the landowner’s share being \$14,400 + GST.

2026-02-047 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Board approve the Farm Improvement drain crossings for 1786088 AB Ltd in NE 36-20-16 W4M. The estimated cost of the project is \$45,000; of which the landowner will pay \$14,400 + GST. Seconded by J. Alberts. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.03 Structure – Cruz Lite Farm Ltd (Albino Hildebrandt) – SW 08-18-14 W4M

J. Kabut advised that the landowner is requesting the EID install a new precast turnout and CSP well in SW 08-18-14 W4M for their 2026 approved irrigation development in NE 07-18-14 W4M. As per the Capital Assets Bylaw, for new developments the District contributes 50:50 towards EID owned infrastructure necessary for the project, to a maximum contribution of 10% of the capital assets

charge. 10% of the capital assets charge for new irrigation acres on NE 07 is \$27,172.80. The total project cost is \$80,000.

2026-02-048 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board approve the Capital Assets cost-share for Cruz Lite Farm Ltd for a new precast turnout and CSP well in SW 08-18-14 W4M to serve a new irrigation development project in NE 07-18-14 W4M. The new structure is estimated to cost \$80,000 of which the District will contribute \$27,172.80 and the landowner will pay \$52,827.20 + GST. Seconded by B. Schroeder. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.04 Structure – Hutterian Brethren of Spring View – E ½ 11-24-16 W4M

J. Kabut advised that the landowner is requesting the EID install a new precast turnout and CSP well in E ½ 11-24-16 W4M for their 2026 approved irrigation development in Pt Sec 13-24-16 W4M. As per the Capital Assets Bylaw, for new developments the District contributes 50:50 towards EID owned infrastructure necessary for the project, to a maximum contribution of 10% of the capital assets charge. 10% of the capital assets charge for new irrigation acres on Pt Sec 13 is \$120,808.80. The total project cost is \$60,000.

2026-02-049 Moved by R. Hiebert that the Board approve the Capital Assets cost-share for Hutterian Brethren of Spring View for a new precast turnout and CSP well in E ½ 11-24-16 W4M to serve a new irrigation development project in Pt Sec 13-24-16 W4M. The new structure is estimated to cost \$60,000 of which the District will contribute \$30,000 and the landowner will pay \$30,000 + GST. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Canal and Pipeline Rehabilitation Policy may be reviewed at the next Corporate Planning sessions.

[10:39 a.m. J. Kabut exited the meeting; B. Doerksen entered.]

8.0 Draft Letter – Request for Enhanced Provincial AIS Prevention Activities

B. Doerksen presented a draft letter to the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas requesting enhanced provincial efforts against the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS), and in particular Zebra, Quagga, and Golden Mussels. Additional letters are being forwarded from other irrigation districts and AIDA requesting the safeguarding of Alberta waterways and irrigation infrastructure. It was confirmed that the letter be signed by the Board Chair and forwarded.

9.0 Request for Funding

B. Doerksen presented the following Request for Funding.

9.01 Genesis Environmental Sciences Ltd – Prussian Carp Removal Research project

A request for funding was received from Genesis Environmental Sciences Ltd in support of a proposed Prussian Carp removal research project. Directors were reminded of an initial presentation given in 2024 to the Board. The status of the project was reviewed to date through the information provided and a number of questions were answered by Ms. Doerksen. The request for funding was denied; however, it was confirmed that the project facilitators may access EID infrastructure upon approval.

[10:57 a.m. B. Doerksen exited the meeting; N. Fontaine and D. Buell entered.]

10.0 Lands

10.01 Lands, Oil & Gas

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

10.01.1 Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground – Set 2026 Rates and Opening/Closing

A review of the prior year's campground and marina rates was presented, along with suggested opening and closing dates. Once again, 35 campsites will be assigned for seasonal use, 18 of which will be reserved for the irrigator portion of the draw. The Irrigator Draw is set for March 31st, and the Public Draw will be April 1st.

2026-02-050 Moved by B. Schroeder that the 2026 rates at the Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground for:

- **Camping be set at:**
 - **\$45/night, including GST, on all daily sites,**
 - **plus an additional \$5 per day for 50 amp sites,**
 - **\$3,300/season, plus GST, for all seasonal sites,**
 - **35 seasonal sites available, distributed throughout the campground,**
 - **18 of the seasonal sites being reserved for Irrigators,**
 - **\$500 for the Seasonal Application Fee (payable towards the full seasonal fee); and**
- **Boat Slips be set at:**
 - **\$15/day, including GST,**
 - **\$90/week, including GST,**
 - **\$500/season, plus GST; and**
 - **\$500, plus GST, for the Seasonal Application Fee (payable as the full seasonal fee).**

Seconded by D. Peltzer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2026-02-051 Moved by D. Peltzer that the 2026 Camping Season at the Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground open Thursday, May 14th and close Thursday, September 10th. Seconded by J. Ketchmark. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.02 Habitat, Wildlife & Access

D. Buell presented the Habitat, Wildlife & Access Report.

10.02.1 2025 Access, Habitat & Wildlife Summary

A detailed 2025 Access, Habitat & Wildlife Summary was presented as follows:

- **Public Access:**
 - 887 individuals received hunting permission; this is the highest number on record and is estimated to be $\frac{3}{4}$ of all hunters utilizing EID lands; 3 individuals received permission to trap on EID lands
 - 288 hunters were local, 582 from other parts of Alberta, 12 from other provinces, and 5 from the U.S.A.
 - an online authorization system may also be used in 2026, along with local advertising
 - hunter activity was average in September and October but much lower in November; highest use areas for hunting continue to be Duchess, Rosemary and Gem (Finnegan Field) Grazing Associations, then Newell (Scandia Ranch) and Patricia (Princess) GA's

- 7 warning letters/information tickets were issued by the EID for non-AIS related activities; 5 for being off trail/designated route, and 4 for random camping (2 tickets were combined violations); and 1 formal warning was given by CPO for hunting without permission
- day use around Lake Newell, Rolling Hills, and Crawling Valley reservoirs was average to slightly above average
- random camping problems around reservoirs were minimal, as was off-highway vehicle (OHV) use
- the AIS Prevention Program resulted in 13 warnings issued by EID staff for failure to participate in the program or launching watercraft where prohibited; most occurred at Lake Newell Reservoir
- the EID pays for approximately 25 hours/month of County Peace Officers (CPO) time to patrol EID lands and enforce EID access rules; this is very beneficial to the EID as a marked enforcement presence is more effective at ensuring public compliance with access rules; they focus their patrolling for the EID:
 - at District campgrounds, around reservoirs maintaining traffic enforcement and aiding in camper and day use evictions, at locations with OHV problems, addressing access rules, vandalism, dumping, or fire ban concerns; and providing assistance and an official presence to educate, issue warnings and respond as backup with the AIS Prevention Program
 - during the hunting season in high use areas, in winter on lands with late elk seasons, and on reservoirs with high ice fishing activity
 - on 3 PGLs experiencing groups of trespassers
- Provincial Conservation Officers spend a reduced amount of time patrolling EID lands adjacent to Dinosaur Provincial Park and Kinbrook Island Provincial Park
- Fish & Wildlife Officers' jurisdiction is the whole County, so they patrol the entire EID
- Brooks RCMP monitor central and eastern portions of the EID
- overall, compliance was noted as high in 2025 for hunters, campers, boaters and for day use recreational access
- Research Access:
 - Alberta Conservation Association, Calgary Zoo/Wilder Institute, Royal Tyrrell Museum, and United States Fish & Wildlife Service conducted research on EID lands in 2025; focus of activities included:
 - Pronghorn Antelope winter survival and migration, Burrowing Owl research and population enhancement program, access to excavation sites within Dinosaur Provincial Park, and a duck banding program
- Ducks Unlimited:
 - a total of 20,121 acre-feet of water was conveyed for DU projects, approximately 65% of their 31,122 acre-feet license
 - GIS mapping is being developed of irrigation turnouts for all DU projects in the EID, with most projects currently being in poor condition
- Wildlife:
 - the Fisheries & Wildlife Management Information System data has been filtered down to relevant species and locations on EID lands; ground truthing will occur in 2026

A number of questions were responded to by Mr. Buell. It was confirmed that any information concerning suspicious activity on District lands may be passed on to him and he can communicate with rural enforcement for follow up and/or patrols.

10.02.2 2025 Partners in Habitat Development (PHD) – Program Summary

The Partners in Habitat Development Program Summary was presented and discussed, outlined as follows:

- 2025 PHD Program:
 - late landowner cancellations and the loss of 2 summer students at the program's start resulted in excess seedlings being shared as replacement seedlings for previous sites and with the Duchess School for a planting project
 - 4,627 trees & shrubs were planted on 8 new sites; 5 sites received a total of 2,200 m of fencing materials to prevent livestock access
 - 2,663 replacement seedlings were planted on seven 2024 sites to replace seedlings that did not survive their first year
 - mowing and weeding maintenance was performed on 15 sites
 - poor quality of Saskatoon seedlings purchased in 2025 affected overall seedling survival after planting to be below average at 66%; long term average is 73%
 - 4 summer students were hired, and the County of Newell partnered at different times with 2 of their summer students, totalling 225 man-hours
 - abundant rain kept weed growth high and the maintenance cycle longer to work through; as a result, there was insufficient time to complete any site inspections
 - snowpack in the EID in January and February 2025 was insufficient to complete any winter upland gamebird surveys
 - time and budget constraints prevented the completion of any spring Pheasant crowing count transects or upland gamebird brood survey transects
 - Sharp-tailed Grouse lek surveys of 21 active leks indicated an average of 20.2 grouse/lek; 20-year average is 18.5 grouse/lek
 - incidental observations of Pheasants and Partridge would suggest 2025 being another good year
- 2026 PHD Program:
 - 12 new planting sites have been selected, near Bantry, Brooks, Duchess, One Tree, Rainier, and Rolling Hills
 - 4 Seasonal Habitat Aides will be hired for the full May – August PHD season
 - 8,335 seedlings were ordered (approximately 6,500 going to new habitat and up to 1,500 for 2025 replacements); mulch, landscape staples, and fencing materials will be ordered
- 2026 Budget:
 - \$151,000 is allotted for staffing and supplies, of which \$115,000 core funding is included in the District's budget, and approximately \$10,000 as well as some in-kind labour assistance will be received from the County of Newell
- Partnership:
 - the County of Newell will continue its summer student labour support and funding as a long-term soil erosion prevention strategy
- Advertising:
 - enough sites have been secured for the program to run at capacity until 2027; advertising in 2026 will take place to secure additional sites
- Long Term Plans:
 - stressing the importance of a watering plan and possibly raising the landowner deposit may be enough to encourage landowners to ensure the success of their sites
 - ArcGIS Field Maps will be used to enter PHD site data, and aid in eventual PHD display materials and statistics



- o additional fundraising opportunities will be explored

[11:28 a.m. N. Fontaine and D. Buell exited the meeting; R. Volek entered.]

2026-02-052 Moved by B. Schroeder that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by J. Alberts. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.0 Grazing Policy – Residency

[1:16 p.m. N. Fontaine re-entered the meeting.]

12.0 Sale of District Owned Lands Policy

[1:56 p.m. R. Volek exited the meeting.]

[2:03 p.m. – 2:09 p.m. Short break; B. Doerksen re-entered the meeting.]

13.0 Private Boat Docks

[2:19 p.m. N. Fontaine and B. Doerksen exited the meeting.]

14.0 Legal Update

15.0 Staffing Update

16.0 Annual General Meeting

16.01 Presentation & Questions to Irrigators

2026-02-053 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 Grazing Policy – Residency

Draft revisions to the Grazing Policy are to be presented at the spring GAC Meeting, then brought back to the Board for finalization so that the policy revisions may be approved prior to fall applications. In follow up to the January 27, 2026, Board Meeting it was confirmed that the Baxter and Douglass applications will be denied and that they will be allowed a phase out year this season. It was, however, confirmed that Charmark will be allowed a 1st year listing this season.

12.0 Sale of District Owned Lands Policy

This topic is to be brought back to the March 2nd meeting. Questions to irrigators are to be drafted that could be presented at the AGM. A suggestion was made to conduct spring or fall Information Meetings on this matter to obtain irrigator input.

13.0 Private Boat Docks

The Fee Schedule for the Lake Newell Reservoir Land Use Policy is to be brought to the Board at a later date for consideration of an increase, and diarized for annual review.



14.0 Legal Update

Directors were provided with an update on a legal matter.

15.0 Staffing Update

Directors were provided with a new hire update.

16.0 Annual General Meeting

16.01 Presentation & Questions to Irrigators

The GM presentation and questions to irrigators will be updated and brought back to the March 2nd meeting.

R. Hiebert moved adjournment of the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

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

Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John Jensen', written over a horizontal line.

General Manager