October 6, 2026, Special Directors Meeting

The Directors of the Eastern Irrigation District held a special meeting on the 6th day of October 2026. Those in attendance were:

Mr. Richard Hiebert	Director	[Division 1]	Mr. Gary Krushell	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]	Ms. Brandi Doerksen	Land Administrator - AIS
Mr. John Ketchmark	Director	[Division 5]		
Mr. Brent Schroeder	Director	[Division 6]		
Mr. Tracy Hemsing	Director	[Division 7]		

[7:55 a.m. S. Barlow – Financial Services Supervisor, entered the meeting.]

The meeting was called to order at 7:58 a.m.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

2026-10-270 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board adopt the Agenda as presented. Seconded by B. Deschamps. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2026-10-271 Moved by J. Ketchmark that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by J. Alberts. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2.0 2026/2027 Budget Discussion

2.01 Overview

[8:18 a.m. B. Kroschel – Operations Manager entered the meeting.]

2.02 Operations & Maintenance

[8:33 a.m. B. Kroschel exited the meeting; R. Elliott – Equipment Superintendent, L. Ramsay – Construction Labour Foreman, and D. Wester – Stores Supervisor/Picker Truck Operator entered.]

2.03 Equipment & Shop

[8:53 a.m. R. Elliott, L. Ramsay, and D. Wester exited the meeting; N. Fontaine – Land Supervisor, R. Volek – Land Administrator – Grazing, and S. Connauton – Land Administrator – Assessment, Water & Lands entered.]

2.04 Lands

[9:29 a.m. – 9:37 a.m. Short break. R. Volek, S. Connauton, and B. Doerksen exited the meeting; R. Moen – Internet Services Supervisor, M. Porter – Information Services Supervisor, and B. Anhel – Internet Technician – Network & Computer Systems entered.]

2.05 EIDNet & Information Services

[10:05 a.m. R. Moen, M. Porter, and B. Anhel exited the meeting.]

2.06 Administration

2026-10-272 Moved by R. Hiebert that the meeting be reconvened. Seconded by B. Deschamps. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[10:24 a.m. S. Barlow exited the meeting; R. Volek entered.]

2.04 Lands cont'd

2.04.1 Set AUM Rate for the 2027 Grazing Season

Beginning with the previous year's budget, the District implemented an AUM grazing rate calculation that covers the costs associated with the administration and operation of the community grazing leases on a minimum break-even basis plus 10%. The AUM rate is also used to establish the annual fees charged for the private grazing leases. Although several variables such as total head placed on community pastures, precipitation, waterline maintenance, and length of grazing season affect the expenses and revenues, the budget is based on a standard 5.0 month grazing period. Based on an anticipated 75 head maximum listing per member, a projected 10% above costs target, and a $28.00/AUM, it was estimated that after all expenses and revenues are finalized, the 2027 grazing season would result in a tentative surplus of approximately $259,520. A number of questions were responded to by Mr. Volek.

2026-10-273 Moved by D. Peltzer that the AUM Grazing Rate for the 2027 season be set at $28.00/AUM. Seconded by B. Deschamps. CARRIED
IN FAVOUR – R. Hiebert, D. Peltzer, B. Deschamps, J. Alberts, J. Ketchmark, T. Hemsing
OPPOSED – B. Schroeder

[10:35 a.m. M. Koochin, R. Gagley, and B. Doerksen exited the meeting.]

2026-10-274 Moved by D. Peltzer that the Board resolve into the Committee of the Whole. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.0 Health & Safety

4.0 Corporate Planning – Topics for Discussion

4.01 Confirm Upcoming Meetings

4.02 Corporate Planning – Confirm Topics for Discussion

[11:28 a.m. M. Koochin, R. Gagley, and B. Doerksen re-entered the meeting.]

2026-10-275 Moved by B. Schroeder that the meeting be reconvened. Seconded by R. Hiebert. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DIRECTION ARISING FROM THE IN CAMERA PORTION OF THE MEETING

2.0 2026/2027 Budget Discussion

2.01 Overview

S. Barlow presented a general overview of the proposed budget for 2026/2027, noting totals for revenue, operating costs, amortization, and anything of note when comparing this year's budgeted numbers versus last year's numbers. Major capital purchases, capital construction projects, and special projects were highlighted, and comment given to inflationary cost increases and a salary cost-of-living increase. R. Gagley reviewed upcoming AIM, IRP, and Capital Works construction projects noting that some projects have already been Board approved. It was again confirmed by Mrs. Barlow that all capital asset charges revenue and water rate revenue not dedicated to fulfilling the AIM program loan repayment is being earmarked for the funding of the Snake Lake Reservoir expansion project. To date, annual costs for the project are greater than the annual earmarked revenue received.

Throughout the meeting, Mrs. Barlow, Admin, and staff welcomed comments and answered questions. Directors were encouraged to contact G. Krushell or S. Barlow with any further questions or comments that might arise this month as they further assess the full budget. After today's review and any follow-up revisions, the budget will be presented to the Board at the October Regular Meeting for consideration of approval.

2.02 Operations & Maintenance

Capital purchases and improvements of note were listed for Operations and Maintenance departments, including electric weed whippers, repairs and renovations for the Water Operator houses in Elizabeth and Brooks, and floor upgrades for the Duchess shop. Comment was also given to various maintenance expenses and staffing changes.

2.03 Equipment & Shop

Standard Equipment and Shop capital purchases, including several heavy and light equipment items, were discussed. Updates regarding the fleet Enterprise program were provided, along with potential cost-saving options for future consideration.

Due to heavy rainfall experienced this past summer, the exterior of the EID office building requires replacement. Quotes and various options will be brought forward for consideration at a later date.

2.04 Lands

Various Community Grazing waterline extension and fencing projects were reviewed and budgeted for Rolling Hills West Hawkins, Scandia, and Tilley Swing Field areas. Projected 2027 Community grazing expenses and revenue were reviewed. Installation of liquid fertilizer tanks and pumps for Kitsim and Rock Lake pivots are being explored.

Included in the proposed budget were capital asset and pivot costs for the potential development of new District irrigated lease parcels. This matter and the additional carry forward acres that are available will be discussed with the Board in the coming months.

As a trending decline has been seen in the remaining parcels converting to pivot irrigation, $150,000 was budgeted for the Farm Improvement Grant program.

Capital Assets charges are projected to produce approximately $17.5M in revenue for the District. The Capital Assets Charges Bylaw will first be reviewed by the Board in October and upon confirmation includes a minimum 2% annual increase per year, effective December 1st.

The budget includes the continuance of a water rate for all assessed irrigation acres and acres subject to a terminable agreement. In 2026, a $7.00 water rate was approved by bylaw. The 2027 Rate Bylaw is scheduled to be reviewed in January 2027.

Both Oil & Gas surface lease and powerline revenues are projected to see a slight decrease overall, as compared to last year.

Partners in Habitat Development (PHD), Aquatic Invasive Species, Crawling Valley Campground, and Rolling Hills Reservoir campgrounds are expected to have expenses and revenues similar to or somewhat above last year.

2.05 EIDNet & Information Services

Three special projects are being budgeted in addition to standard Information Services purchases. These include digitizing the District's central files with the assistance of a third-party company, engaging a consultant to assist with the exchange server configuration, and having the Irrigation and Recording Management App (IRMA) rebuilt by a third-party developer.

The Bassano fibre project, independent of the Universal Broadband Funding, is budgeted for 2027. The fibre projects, Cisco switches, and power backup for towers account for the vast majority of EIDNet capital purchases.

2.06 Administration

The Administration budget includes funding for new accounting software, additional safety staff, and tables and chairs for District use. Legal fees and consulting services have also been increased to support ongoing and anticipated workload, professional development or assistance for staff, and to strengthen the District's Safety Program.

In response to Directors' questions regarding increases in General Administration, Land Administration, and operating costs, it was noted that the majority of the increase is attributed to additional staffing and increased irrigated lease development. S. Barlow will provide a more detailed breakdown of these differences.

3.0 Health & Safety

Mr. Krushell provided a Health and Safety update for Directors.

4.0 Corporate Planning

4.01 Confirm Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming Board and Committee meetings were reviewed and confirmed. The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28th.

4.02 Corporate Planning – Confirm Topics for Discussion

Specific topics, policies, and bylaws were presented to Directors for consideration for the upcoming Corporate Planning sessions. A number of items were also suggested by Directors.

CONTINUATION OF THE AGENDA

5.0 Upcoming Events

5.01	RHS Agricultural Academy Barn Grand Opening	- Wednesday, October 21st, 4:30 p.m., Rolling Hills School *[Attending: J. Alberts, J. Ketchmark, B. Schroeder, G. Krushell]*
5.02	Ag for Life Harves Gala	- Friday, October 23rd, 5:30 p.m., Heritage Park, Calgary) *[Attending: R. Hiebert, D. Peltzer, B. Schroeder, G. Krushell]*
5.03	Regular Board Meeting	- Wednesday, October 28th, 9:00 a.m.
5.04	Information Meeting	- Monday, November 9th, 7:00 p.m., Rosemary RecPlex
5.05	Scholarship Committee Meeting	- Tuesday, November 17th, 3:00 p.m.
5.06	Information Meeting	- Tuesday, November 17th, 7:00 p.m., Scandia Hall
5.07	Regular Board Meeting	- Tuesday, November 24th, 9:00 a.m.

B. Deschamps moved adjournment of the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Chairman

General Manager