

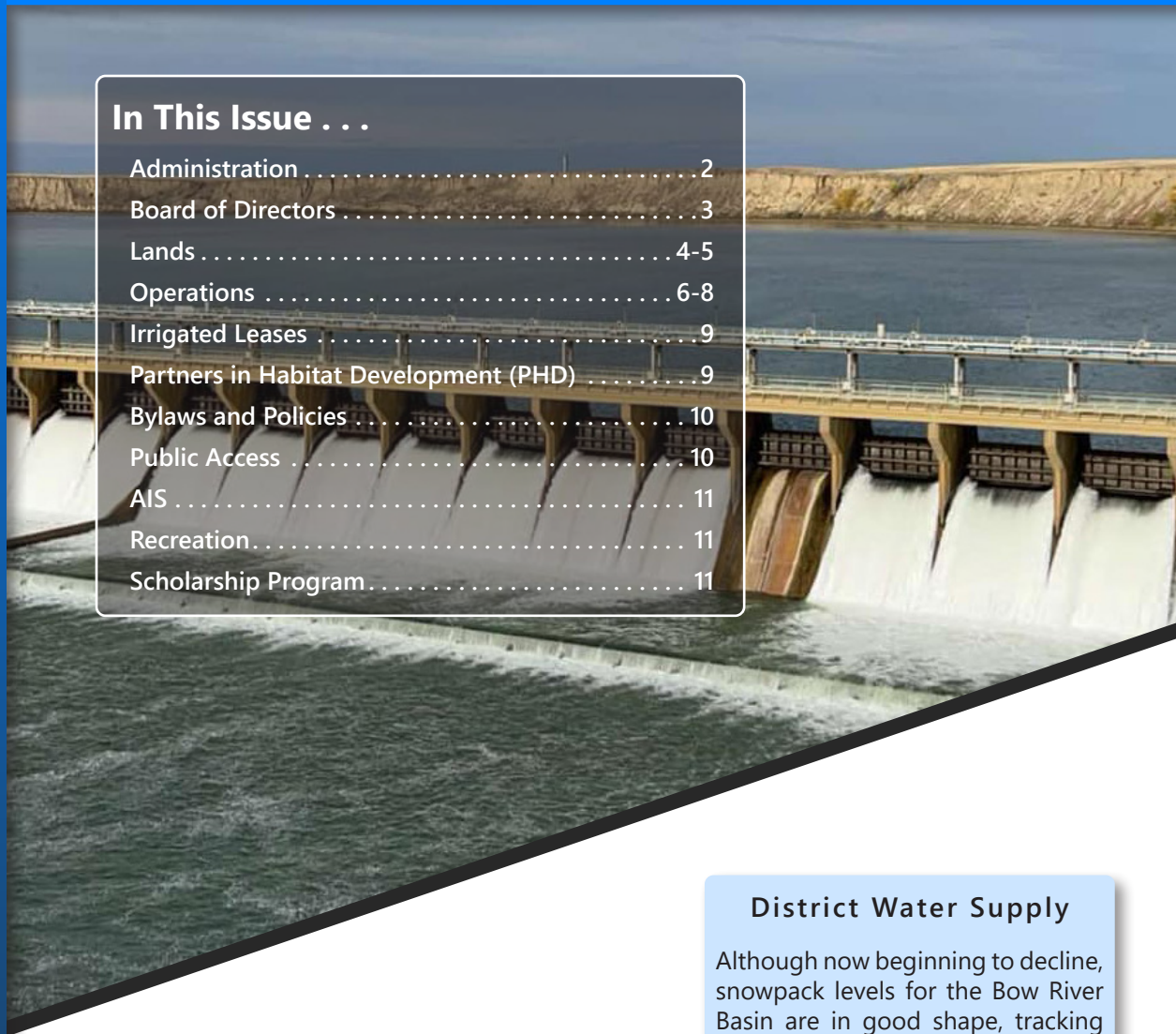


Publication Date
May 8, 2026

Eastern Irrigation District

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District Water Supply

Although now beginning to decline, snowpack levels for the Bow River Basin are in good shape, tracking above the average quartile from winter through spring.

Click [HERE](https://rivers.alberta.ca/) to view the Snowpack Data (<https://rivers.alberta.ca/>)

As of publication date, major District reservoirs are at or near operating levels. Diversion began on April 7th, with priority going to refilling reservoirs from winter levels to FSL (Full Supply Level) in anticipation of the upcoming irrigation season. The earliest date for water delivery was May 1st, where available off main trunks of the conveyance system, to May 8th, in all areas. Contact your Water Operator for availability in your area.

Notice of Auction for Irrigated Leases

A live auction will be scheduled this August for 4 short term Irrigated Leases. Read the enclosed preliminary information and watch for follow up advertising and a subsequent newsletter for more details.



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IRRIGATION UPDATE

The Eastern Irrigation District is dedicated to providing water security to the area and managing the District's diverse resources in a manner that will provide the greatest economic, social, and environmental benefit.

Investments in the District over the last 5 years include:

- allocating approx. 18,500 irrigation acres since the plebiscite in 2021
- developing 11 new irrigated leases, totalling approx. 1,620 acres
- rehabilitating 18.5 km of canal; installing 116 km of pipeline, 62 structures and 32 gabion walls; and including engineering, geotechnical and granular production for the Snake Lake project; totalling approx. \$169M
- advancing the Snake Lake Reservoir expansion project to the regulatory approvals stage
- including 2026, completing the EIDNet fibre optic build
- installing 123 km of grazing waterlines and associated infrastructure, and constructing 133 km of fence

Going forward, the Board of Directors recognizes the challenges but sees the potential for the District, through the following:

- upon receipt of regulatory approval, expand Snake Lake Reservoir (estimated commencement is 1 year, with a project duration of 3 years)
 - a reduction in pipeline and canal construction works is projected during this time, with District equipment being used to support Snake Lake Reservoir construction
- evaluating the cumulative gains in efficiencies in District and private infrastructure, and planning for the next plebiscite to increase the expansion limit
- continuing with allocating irrigation acres for private development
- continuing with using unallocated irrigation acres for District development as irrigated leases
- recognizing a decrease in current revenue sources and an increase in future expenses:
 - capital and material costs increasing
 - oil and gas well sites continuing to be abandoned and reclaimed
 - receiving less interest on investments since current investment funds will be deployed for Snake Lake
- optimizing District revenue sources or investigating new revenue streams for the District to offset the anticipated reductions:
 - continued operational efficiencies at all levels and within all EID departments
 - annually reviewing the water rate (these funds are all internally earmarked for the repayment of Snake Lake)
 - annually reviewing the capital asset charges (these funds are allocated to the repayment of the Snake Lake loan)
 - increasing the grazing rates
 - annually determining and re-evaluating the cost-share programs
 - considering and evaluating additional options (i.e. commercial proposals, potential land sales, etc.)
- after Snake Lake Reservoir project, resuming an infrastructure rehabilitation plan, but with a changing focus to:
 - maintenance of pipeline systems
 - utilizing additional automation and installing infrastructure to enable closed systems, for further water efficiencies
 - constructing new pipeline systems for new areas of irrigation development on EID lands
- exploring additional water security and water efficiency opportunities



Premier/Brooks-Medicine Hat MLA Danielle Smith met with the EID Board of Directors and Admin on April 8th to discuss irrigation expansion, aquatic invasive species prevention, and other topics of mutual concern.

Annual General Meeting Update

As mentioned at the AGM, irrigators are encouraged to reach out to Directors to discuss any matters of interest including the following topics before the Board in 2026:

- Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project – *ongoing*
- Irrigation Expansion – *determining the process timeline for the next plebiscite*
- Irrigation Development Pace – *Current pace is 3,000 acres/year plus infill; what should the pace be for the next plebiscite? Is using unallocated acres annually to develop EID lands into irrigated leases supported by the irrigators?*
- New Irrigation Development Leases – *Future potential on EID lands in Rolling Hills, Scott Pipeline, Gem, Rolling Hills Reservoir, Rolling Hills West, Rock Lake Reservoir, Bow Slope Canal, 12 Mile Coulee, and Lake Newell Reservoir West areas. Are the irrigators comfortable with the EID potentially developing these lands as irrigated leases?*
- Capital Asset Charges – *annual review*
- Water Rate – *annual review*
- Economic Development – *What role beyond irrigation development does the District play in the economic development of the area?*
 - *Should selling minimal small-scale pieces of District lands to boost the local economy and provide revenue for the District be considered?*

Board of Directors Elections

Members of the Board of Directors are elected by the irrigators. The Eastern Irrigation District has adopted a practice of staggered elections in which 2 directors are elected in one year, 2 directors are elected the next year, and 3 directors are elected in the following year. This method of elections provides for long term stability in the governance, administration, and operation of the District.

2026 Election Summary

- Division 1 (Gem/Bassano):
 - Richard Hiebert was elected; this is Mr. Hiebert's 2nd term of office.
- Division 5 (Scandia/Rainier):
 - Mr. John Ketchmark was elected by acclamation; this is Mr. Ketchmark's 2nd term of office.

IRRIGATION UPDATE

Capital Asset Charges - Last Year for Infill & Conversion Rules

The Capital Assets Charges Bylaw is reviewed and approved in fall of each year. Bylaw #981 (2025) [https://www.eid.ca/documents/bylaws/Capital_Assets_Bylaw.pdf] was approved in November 2025 and set the current charges in effect until December 1, 2026, as follows:

- \$2,000/acre for converting terminable acres to irrigation acres;
- \$2,000/acre for infill and efficiency acres up to 50 irrigation acres per parcel;
- \$4,000/acre for infill and efficiency acres over 50 irrigation acres per parcel;
- \$4,000/acre for acres assessed to dry parcels (new acres); and
- 150% of the new acre charge for assessment audit acres (\$6,000/acre).

Be advised that during the Corporate Planning sessions held January 13 & 15, 2026, it was confirmed by the Board that beginning in 2027:

- the infill acre category will continue; however, the infill acre rate will be equal to the new acre rate; and
- the terminable conversion acre rate will also be equal to the new acre rate.

Unauthorized Irrigation

Beginning in 2016, a general assessment was conducted of all irrigated parcels in the EID to identify any discrepancies in the assessment roll prior to proceeding with irrigation expansion modelling in preparation for the 2021 plebiscite. Over the next few years, the District completed the process of contacting landowners to reconcile parcels with excess irrigation and encroachment issues.

As a reminder, please be advised that anyone irrigating acres not shown on the assessment roll may have the water shut off under the *Irrigation Districts Act* and pursuant to the Delivery and Distribution of Water Bylaw #990 (2026). In addition to other remedies available to the District, the bylaw now also provides for payment of an Unauthorized Use Penalty, being an amount equal to 50% of the new acre capital asset charge per acre for anyone watering acres outside of their assessed area.

The District encourages Landowners who are unsure of their assessment acres or areas and parcel boundaries for any of their lands, to contact the EID to confirm such data. Parcel maps are provided to landowners free of charge.



Irrigation Development Applications

How do I apply?

- Landowners proposing projects requiring **50 or less** irrigation acres to be added to existing irrigation parcels may submit applications throughout the year.
- Landowners proposing projects requiring **more than 50 acres, or** to develop parcels which are **currently dry** (have no assessment), please contact Staci Connauton and submit your application on or before August 31, 2026.

In all instances:

- an application must be completed [https://www.eid.ca/documents/download/Irrigation_Acres_Application_Form.pdf];
- soil test results from a qualified Land Classification Agrologist must be submitted with the application;
- if the project will cross third party property, written consent from any third party, who must agree to the installation of new infrastructure crossing their lands, must be submitted with the application;
- if a reservoir is being proposed as part of the development, an engineering report confirming the volume of live storage must be submitted with the application; and
- if the project will irrigate on/over a County road allowance, approval must be obtained from the County of Newell prior to finalizing the project.

What happens when my irrigation development is given conditional approval?

- Once an application for irrigation development is given conditional approval by the Board of Directors, a letter will be forwarded to the applicant informing of the Board's decision and outlining a number of conditions (e.g. delivery location, adding an irrigable unit to the parcel, installing shutoffs or pivot stops, limiting the maximum flow rate, etc.)
- Upon receipt of the letter, the applicant is required to contact the EID to confirm that they will be proceeding with the project. The applicant must again contact the EID after the infrastructure is in place and all conditions have been met.
- Once surveyed by the District, the irrigated area will be mapped into the GIS system and irrigation acres verified.
- Full payment must be received and all conditions met, and if satisfactory, the project will be given final approval and the acres officially added to the assessment role.

Please remember to contact Staci Connauton to ensure your development project receives final approval prior to applying any irrigation water to your proposed project.

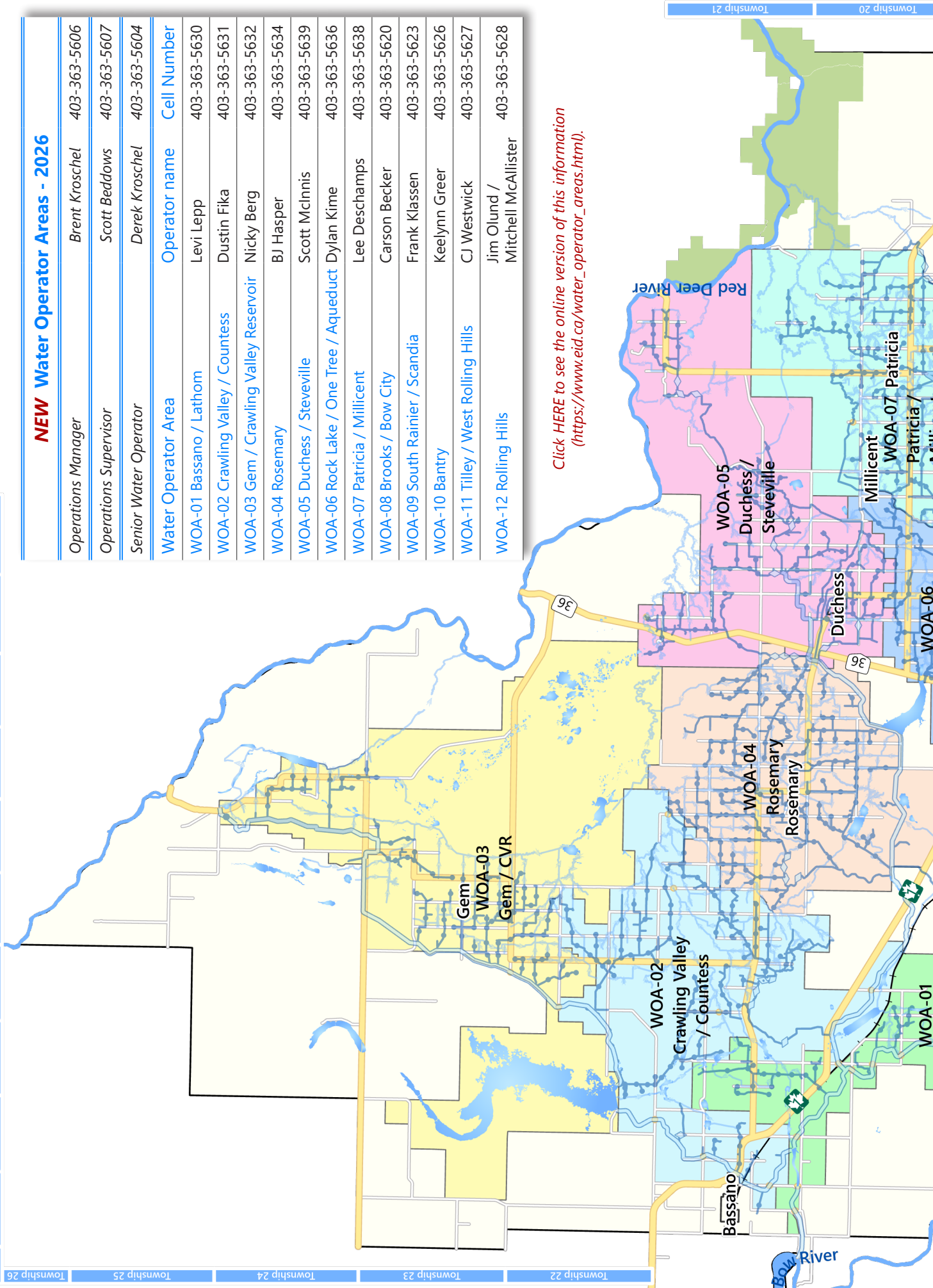
Staci Connauton,
Land Administrator – Assessment, Water and Lands
Cell: 403-363-1376
Email: staci.connauton@eid.ca

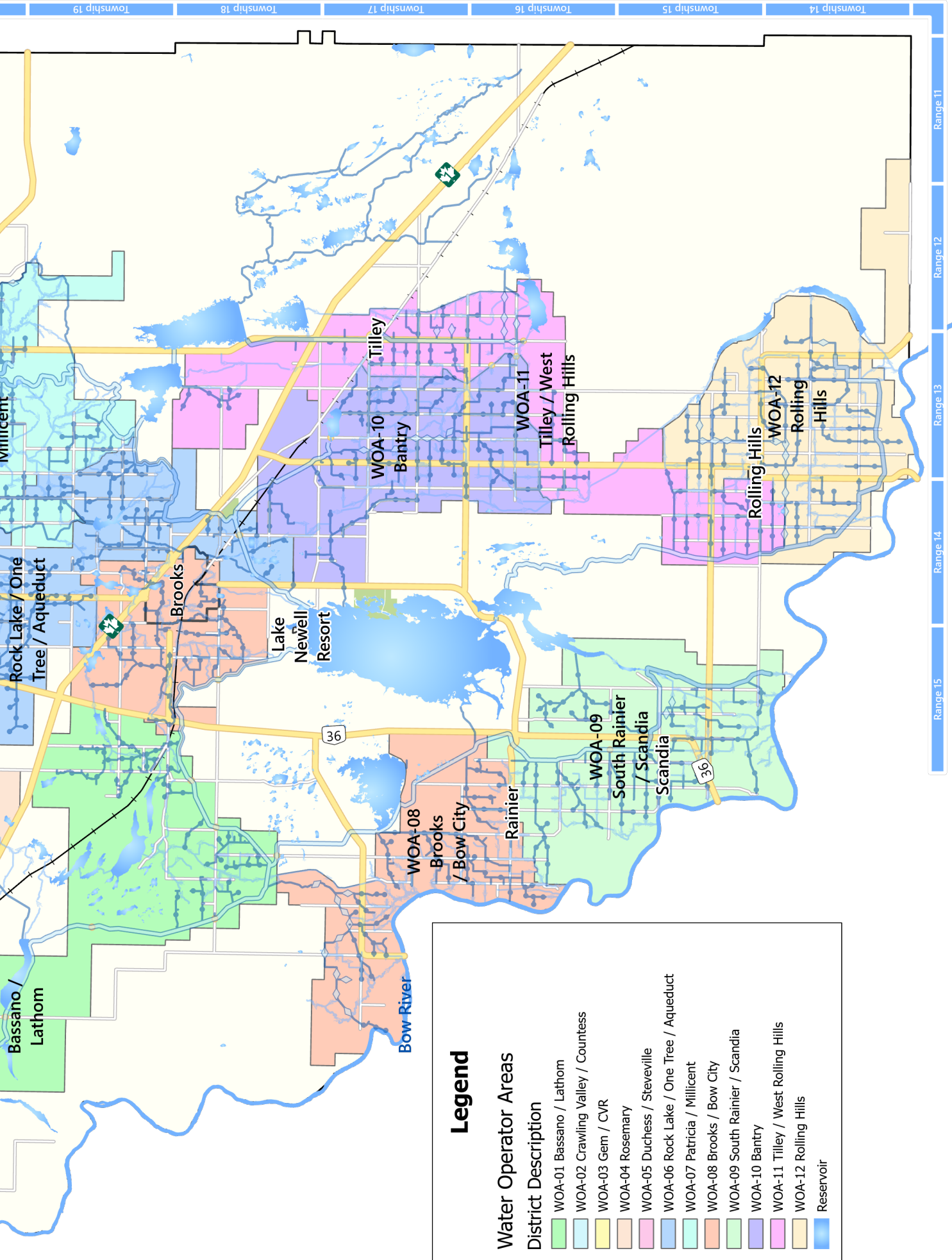


Range 18 Range 17 Range 16 Range 15 Range 14 Township 26 Township 25 Township 24 Township 23 Township 22 Township 21 Township 20

NEW Water Operator Areas - 2026			
<i>Operations Manager</i>	<i>Brent Kroschel</i>	<i>403-363-5606</i>	
<i>Operations Supervisor</i>	<i>Scott Beddows</i>	<i>403-363-5607</i>	
<i>Senior Water Operator</i>	<i>Derek Kroschel</i>	<i>403-363-5604</i>	
Water Operator Area	Operator name	Cell Number	
WOA-01 Bassano / Lathom	Levi Lepp	403-363-5630	
WOA-02 Crawling Valley / Countess	Dustin Fika	403-363-5631	
WOA-03 Gem / Crawling Valley Reservoir	Nicky Berg	403-363-5632	
WOA-04 Rosemary	BJ Hasper	403-363-5634	
WOA-05 Duchess / Steveville	Scott McInnis	403-363-5639	
WOA-06 Rock Lake / One Tree / Aqueduct	Dylan Kime	403-363-5636	
WOA-07 Patricia / Millicent	Lee Deschamps	403-363-5638	
WOA-08 Brooks / Bow City	Carson Becker	403-363-5620	
WOA-09 South Rainier / Scandia	Frank Klassen	403-363-5623	
WOA-10 Bantry	Keelynn Greer	403-363-5626	
WOA-11 Tilley / West Rolling Hills	CJ Westwick	403-363-5627	
WOA-12 Rolling Hills	Jim Olund / Mitchell McAllister	403-363-5628	

Click [HERE](https://www.eid.ca/water_operator_areas.html) to see the online version of this information (https://www.eid.ca/water_operator_areas.html).





Legend

Water Operator Areas	
District Description	Color
WOA-01 Bassano / Lathom	Green
WOA-02 Crawling Valley / Countess	Light Blue
WOA-03 Gem / CVR	Yellow
WOA-04 Rosemary	Orange
WOA-05 Duchess / Stevestille	Pink
WOA-06 Rock Lake / One Tree / Aqueduct	Light Blue
WOA-07 Patricia / Millicent	Light Green
WOA-08 Brooks / Bow City	Orange
WOA-09 South Rainier / Scandia	Light Green
WOA-10 Bantry	Purple
WOA-11 Tilley / West Rolling Hills	Pink
WOA-12 Rolling Hills	Yellow
Reservoir	Blue

IRRIGATION UPDATE

Chemical Treatment of Canals

The EID has seen successful results in implementing a scheduled chemical treatment program for canal reaches prone to aquatic weed issues. Following is the 2026 schedule, subject to weather conditions, for canals in this program:

- **16 Springhill:**
 - May 27, June 24, July 22, August 19
- **Antelope Creek Canal:**
 - June 18, August 4
- **Bow Slope and 17 Bow Slope Canals:**
 - June 9, August 12
- **H West Bantry and South Bantry Canals:**
 - May 13, June 10, July 8, August 5, August 25
- **North Branch Canal:**
 - May 14-15, May 28-29, June 11-12, June 25-26, July 9-10, July 23-24, August 6-7, August 20-21
- **Rolling Hills Main and Secondary A Canals:**
 - June 3-4, July 2-3, July 29-30, August 26-27
- **Tilley Main Canal:**
 - May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, August 5, August 19

Herbicides used are (Special Use Approval Registration Number 10572-05-01):

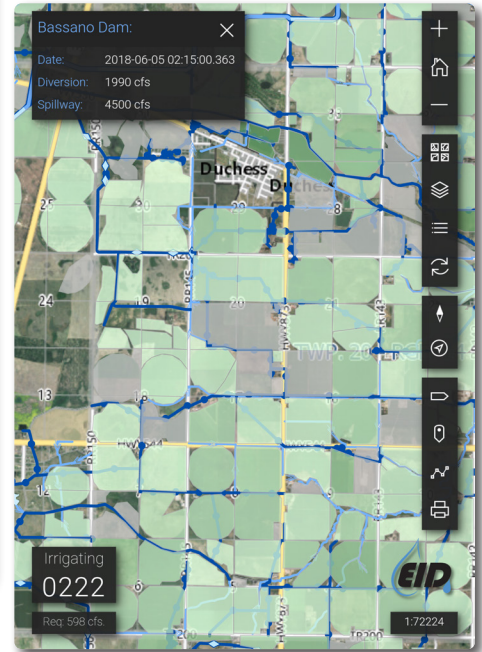
- Canals are treated with:
 - Magnacide H (Acrolein) – PCP Act Regulation Number 10948 – for aquatic vegetation and algae.
- Canal banks are treated with:
 - Vanquish (Dicamba) – PCP Act Registration Number 26980 – for broadleaf weeds, brush and willows.
 - Vision Max (Glyphosate) – PCP Act Registration Number 27736 – for Canary grass, Downy Brome, and cattail.

Brent Kroschel,
 Operations Manager
 Cell: 403-363-5606
 Email: brent.kroschel@eid.ca

Contact Brent Kroschel if you have any questions regarding this program.

Irrigation Recording and Management App

To support your on-farm tracking of water usage and aid in your irrigation planning, please sign up for IRMA (Irrigation Recording & Management App) by contacting Mark Porter. This tool provides real time water use information on all parcels in your farming operation and is especially useful if nearing a maximum use in water. And for those already signed up, remember to contact the office if you have any parcel updates. *(click [HERE](#) to view IRMA)*



Water Ordering and Recording

A parcel's total water usage for the irrigation season is calculated using the irrigation system's designated flow rate and the periods of time quantified between ON date & time and OFF date & time water orders. Timely communications with your Water Operator ensure an efficient conveyance system. If you have any concerns or questions regarding the flow rate on any of your irrigation systems, please contact your Water Operator or your Divisional Superintendent so that remeasuring may occur. **The District encourages irrigators to have their pivot or wheel flow rates metered for accuracy** prior to the irrigation season if, for example, the equipment has been renozzled.

Pumping from EID Canals

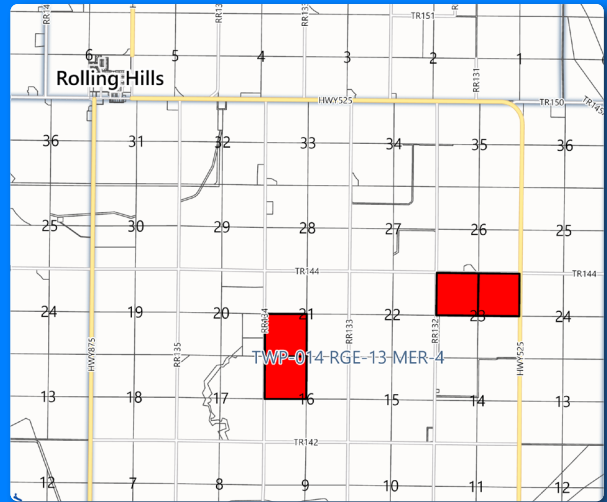
All water users are reminded that unauthorized pumping from and trenching across the driving bank of EID canals is prohibited. These activities may negatively affect downstream water users and could impair access to EID infrastructure. Contact your Water Operator or the EID office for more information.

New Irrigated Leases for 2027

4 new parcels of District owned lands were approved for development as short term Irrigated Leases for 2027 (parcels indicated in red). Equipment and infrastructure components have been ordered; necessary construction work on the parcels will be completed during the summer of 2026; and the successful bidders will have access to the parcels in the fall of 2026 to break the land.

It is planned to hold a live auction in August 2026. Lease and auction particulars will be more closely defined in a separate newsletter to be published this summer; however, the following will apply:

- 5 year term, with minimum bid requirement
- 640 acre maximum limitation per lessee of all current irrigated leases
- no lessee residency requirement, but the lessee must own irrigated acres within the EID
- subletting will be permitted, but no option to transfer and no automatic renewal
- crop management plan for specialty crops (seed canola, sugar beets, potatoes, beans)



**Nathan Fontaine,
Land Supervisor**

Cell: 403-409-3548

Email: nathan.fontaine@eid.ca

Partners in Habitat Development (PHD)

The PHD program is a habitat development program focusing on shelterbelt creation within the EID. On eligible sites the program works with the landowner regarding site design and at usually no cost to the landowner (refundable deposit based on survival), will order and plant seedlings, install weed barrier and mow/weed the shelterbelt site for two years. Site sizes vary and may be well over 1,000 seedlings. Typical planting locations are pivot corners, field edges, small pastures, bale yards, etc.

For more information about the PHD program or to express interest for your own potential site contact Daniel Buell.

Daniel Buell,

Land Administrator - Habitat, Wildlife & Access

Cell: 403-363-5618

Email: daniel.buell@eid.ca



IRRIGATION UPDATE

Updates on Policies and Bylaws

Bylaws and policies relevant to irrigators may be viewed on the District's website.

[see website for bylaws and policies]

Rate Bylaw #986 (2026)

This bylaw sets the rate for irrigation, terminable agreements, annual agreements, surcharges, and penalty on unpaid amounts. The 2026 Rate Bylaw was approved with:

- a \$7.00/acre water rate (operating costs in 2025 were \$30.00/assessed irrigation acre),
- an Annual Agreement rate of \$91.50/acre,
- a pressure surcharge rate of \$15.00/acre, and
- a surcharge rate of \$63.00/acre for acres under a terminable agreement which have been identified as being eligible for conversion to irrigation acres but have not been converted at the request of the agreement holder.

All revenue generated by sections 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0 not already pledged for repayment of the AIM loan will be held in an internally restricted account for the Snake Lake Reservoir Expansion Project to be used following issuance of the Environmental Impact Assessment approval and at the discretion of the Board.

Policy Governing Eligibility and Operation of Pastures on EID Lands

Additional wording was added to the Grazing Policy clarifying corporate membership eligibility, principal residence requirements, and review, approval and rejection of applications.

Fees Bylaw #987 (2026)

This bylaw is based on the overall calculated cost for the delivery of water (amortization of irrigation works, administration, maintenance, operations, equipment pool, and special projects), this year \$42.38 being the average cost per acre foot of water issued. Depending on the type of water conveyance or agreement, the fees are either based on a percentage of cost or have a flat fee assigned and may include charges for additional water over a typical set amount.

Delivery and Distribution of Water Bylaw #990

This bylaw regulates the delivery and distribution of water to a user, allows the District to stop the delivery of water when certain activities occur, and imposes conditions that must be satisfied before the delivery and distribution of water to a user may be reinstated. A penalty was added to the bylaw, which permits the District to charge the user 50% of the new parcel irrigation acre capital assets charge in effect per acre per year for unauthorized irrigation. (see page 4 for more)

Farm Improvement Policy

Additional wording was added to the Farm Improvement Policy clarifying that when a farm improvement grant is accepted by a landowner, the landowner agrees to the new reduced flow that may be necessary to serve the project.

Public Access

Anyone accessing EID lands is reminded to follow all EID public access rules such as no camping, fires, or off-highway vehicles, no disturbance of livestock, and vehicles are restricted to established roads & trails or designated routes (where applicable). All public access rules and further information may be found at: https://www.eid.ca/public_access.html

The EID is moving towards mandatory written permission for hunting on EID lands. Written permission may be obtained on the EID website (potentially this summer), by calling the office, or by emailing Daniel Buell.

Daniel Buell,
Land Administrator - Habitat, Wildlife & Access

Cell: 403-363-5618

Email: daniel.buell@eid.ca

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program

ALL BOATERS, including users of kayaks, canoes and paddleboards, wishing to access EID reservoirs must follow approved prevention procedures and each year complete a watercraft information form. Additional AIS information and reservoir access rules may be found on the District's website. Help do your part to prevent the introduction of invasive mussels to this area. To enroll in the program or for more information, contact Brandi Doerksen.



Brandi Doerksen,
Land Administrator - Aquatic Invasive Species

Cell: 403-363-9694
Email: brandi.doerksen@eid.ca

Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground

Subject to weather conditions, the Rolling Hills Reservoir Campground will open for the season this year at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2026, and close at noon on Thursday, September 10th.

- **Daily Camping** - (110 daily sites) \$45/night, including GST, plus an additional \$5/day for 50 amp sites
403-363-5603
- **Group Camping** - (2 areas, 5 single sites each) \$225/night, minimum of 2 nights, plus \$25 reservation fee, including GST
403-362-1400

Scholarship Program

The Eastern Irrigation District Scholarship Program is continuing in 2026. Non-irrigators (residents within the EID) and irrigators (farmers within the EID) may apply, and all career fields are eligible! Scholarships are awarded for trades, diplomas, certificates, or degrees:

- Post-Secondary Education at a recognized North American university - \$2,000
- Diploma or Technical programs (2-3 year programs, and condensed programs) - \$2,000
- Certified Trades (Alberta Certification Trades) - \$1,000



Master's programs or a second trade, diploma, certificate, or degree do not qualify. To obtain an application form and review requirements, download the form from www.eid.ca under the Information tab or visit or call the District Office (403-362-1400). Deadline for applications is October 30, 2026.



Pale Yellow Iris

Pale Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) has been confirmed along the north shore of Lake Newell Reservoir. This Prohibited Noxious wetland plant disrupts ecosystems, crowds out native vegetation, and is toxic to livestock.

The EID and the County of Newell will be actively managing and removing this plant in the affected areas. Please obey all signs and stay clear of treated zones. If you spot this plant on your property or around waterbodies, take a photo and report it through the Newell Connect app. Don't try to remove it yourself – small fragments can spread new plants.

To keep updated on this progress please refer to the County of Newell [<https://countyofnewell.ab.ca>], or our website and Facebook page.

EASTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

PO BOX 128
550 INDUSTRIAL ROAD WEST
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Please Note:

All Annual Reports and Newsletters
can be read online at:
www.eid.ca

