

Publication Date  
July 1, 2026

## Eastern Irrigation District



**In This Issue . . .**

Irrigated Leases . . . . .	2-3
Capital Asset Charges . . . . .	4
Unauthorized Irrigation . . . . .	4
Irrigation Development Applications . . . . .	5
Public Safety Message . . . . .	6
AIS Prevention Program . . . . .	7
Scholarship Program . . . . .	7

**Notice of Important Deadlines**  
Read pages 4 and 5 for information on Capital Asset Charges and Irrigation Development Applications.

**Notice of Auction For Irrigated Lease Agreements**  
A live auction is set for Thursday, August 13, 2026, 2:00 p.m. at the EID Office for 4 new Irrigated Leases. Read the enclosed for additional information on these leases, the auction process, eligibility, and how to obtain a bidder's card. In July, a bid package will be posted on the News/Ads page of our website at [www.eid.ca](http://www.eid.ca)

Phone: (403) 362-1400  
Fax: (403) 362-6206  
Email: [eid@eid.ca](mailto:eid@eid.ca)  
[www.eid.ca](http://www.eid.ca)

P.O. Box 128  
550 Industrial Road West  
Brooks, Alberta  
Canada T1R 1B2

# IRRIGATION UPDATE

## Irrigated Leases

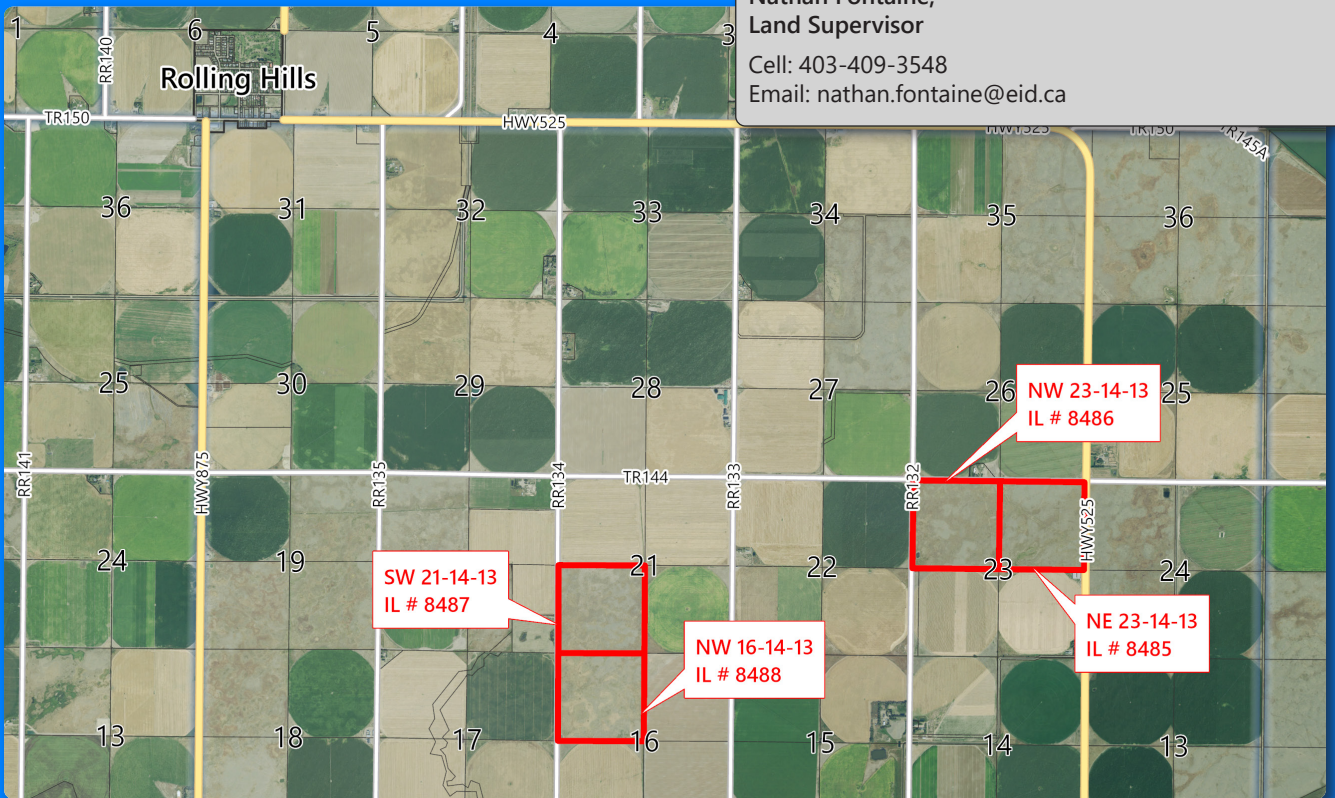
4 new parcels of District owned lands were approved for development as short term Irrigated Leases for 2027:

- NW 16-14-13 W4M - 150 irrigation acres (farmable acres) - IL # 8488
- SW 21-14-13 W4M - 148 irrigation acres (farmable acres) - IL # 8487
- NW 23-14-13 W4M - 150 irrigation acres (farmable acres) - IL # 8486
- NE 23-14-13 W4M - 148 irrigation acres (farmable acres) - IL # 8485

Individual parcels will be bid via a live public auction (see details and requirements on the following page):

- for the right to acquire the lease agreement:
  - beginning with a \$300/farmable acre minimum bid,
  - based on a price/farmable acre that will be applied as the annual rent each year;
- lease term of 5 years, from September 15, 2026 to December 31, 2031:
  - with subletting allowed, and
  - transferring the lease agreement to an eligible irrigator, by approval of the Board;
- with the EID installing pivot, corner arm, mainline, and pump; and
- the Lessee being responsible for:
  - equipment maintenance and repairs,
  - all aspects of farming the parcel, including breaking and leveling,
  - with access in the Fall of 2026 in preparation for the Spring 2027 planting season; and
  - abiding by a crop management plan for specialty crops, and other terms and conditions as outlined in the lease agreement.

**Nathan Fontaine,**  
 Land Supervisor  
 Cell: 403-409-3548  
 Email: nathan.fontaine@eid.ca



## Auction Date & Process

**Irrigated Lease Auction**  
**Thursday, August 13, 2026, 2:00 p.m. at the EID Office**

- Bidding will begin at 2:00 p.m.
- Each lease has a \$300/farmable acre minimum bid.
- Qualified bidders will receive a bid card when registering at the auction (please arrive early).
- A random process will be used to auction the leases; they will not be bid in numerical order.
- Each lease will be summarized, and particular factors noted prior to the bidding beginning.
- Successful bidders may not turn back their newly acquired Irrigated Lease at any time during the auction process, or at any time prior to executing the applicable agreement to be provided by the District.
- 50% of the first year's rent is to be paid by the successful bidder upon execution of the lease agreement.
- Deadline to sign the lease agreement and provide payment is September 11, 2026.

## Preregistration & Bid Package

All bidders must preregister to be eligible to bid at the auction:

- Irrigators are required to preregister at the EID Office from July 6, 2026 to August 7, 2026, proxy bidders may be designated. Irrigators and proxy bidders that are not registered or designated before August 7, 2026; will be denied bidding privileges.
- A bid package containing maps, soils information, sample lease agreement, and other details of the 4 Irrigated Leases to be auctioned will be provided; information will also be available on the District's website.
- Bidders, or proxy bidders, must register at the auction to receive their bid card.
- Only verified eligible irrigators/proxy bidders will receive a bid card.

## Eligibility

To be eligible to bid on these Irrigated Leases, a bidder must own land within the Eastern Irrigation District with assessed irrigation acres. Residency within the District is not required. A leaseholder may only lease up to a maximum of 640 acres of all irrigated leases held with the District, including these new Irrigated Leases. Irrigators that currently have an irrigated lease may bid at the auction; however, if they are successful and exceed the limitation, they must turn back their original irrigated lease to the District.

## Bid Payment & Annual Charges

The bid amount will establish the annual rent of the lease. The Lessee is also responsible for obtaining insurance, and payment of property taxes, irrigation rates, and utility costs. Except for the first year of the lease, the annual rent is invoiced in two installments: payment is due on or before April 1<sup>st</sup> and the second payment is due on or before November 1<sup>st</sup>. For the first year of the lease, the first rental payment is to be paid upon execution of the lease by the Lessee.

## Lease Agreement

New lease agreements with successful bidders will be executed by the District after the lease has been executed by the successful bidder and first payment is secured. Lease agreements expire December 31, 2031 and have no right of renewal upon expiry; however, subletting or transferring to an eligible irrigator are permitted.

# IRRIGATION UPDATE

## Capital Asset Charges - Last Year for Infill & Conversion Rates

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](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](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](mailto:staci.connauton@eid.ca)



# IRRIGATION UPDATE

## Use of Irrigation Canals and EID Infrastructure

### USE AT OWN RISK

The EID provides essential irrigation services to support agriculture in Alberta through its irrigation system. EID's canals, ditches, dugouts, pipelines, reservoirs, and related infrastructure are designed and operated primarily for the delivery and management of water for irrigated agriculture purposes. The EID also conveys water through its irrigation system to benefit municipalities, industry, wildlife habitat, and for recreational purposes.

Except for designated locations on certain reservoirs, EID's irrigation system is not intended to be used for recreational activities such as, but not limited to, swimming, boating, fishing, walking, climbing on, or any other public use. **Designated swimming locations are located at Rolling Hills Reservoir campground beach, Crawling Valley Reservoir campground beach and Kinbrook Island Provincial Park beach. No lifeguards are on duty and all users use these locations at their own risk.**

If you choose to access or use any of our infrastructure on or within our irrigation system for recreational purposes, you do so entirely at your own risk. The EID assumes no responsibility or liability for any injuries, damages, or incidents that may occur. Potential known and unknown hazards include, but are not limited to:

1. Fast-moving and fluctuating water levels that can change suddenly without warning.
2. Currents and objects under water.
3. Untreated water that may contain fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, livestock waste, and other pollutants from surface run-off which may pose health risks if ingested or contacted. Water in our canals and reservoirs (just like rivers and lakes) is untreated and is not for drinking or cooking with.
4. Slippery canal banks and concrete, uneven terrain and loose rocks that can lead to trips, slips and falls.
5. Structures that create dangerous re-circulating currents which can trap and submerge individuals.
6. Shallow areas and sudden drops which can cause injury, boat damage, or drowning.

### Special Warning for Children and Families:

Children not under direct parental or adult supervision should never play in or near irrigation canals, ditches, dugouts, pipelines, reservoirs, and related infrastructure except at designated beaches and campgrounds. These areas can be extremely hazardous. Parents or adults are urged to keep children away from these sites to prevent possible injury or death and to supervise their children at all times at designated beaches and campgrounds as there are no lifeguards on duty.



## 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

## Scholarship Program

The Eastern Irrigation District Scholarship Program is continuing in 2026. All area students 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**



To obtain an application form and review requirements, download the form from [www.eid.ca](http://www.eid.ca) under the Information tab. Deadline for applications is October 30, 2026.

EASTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

PO BOX 128  
550 INDUSTRIAL ROAD WEST  
BROOKS AB T1R 1B2



**Please Note:**

All Annual Reports and Newsletters  
can be read on-line at:

[www.eid.ca](http://www.eid.ca)

