



THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

The 2025 Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, April 16, 2026 at the Picture Butte Community Centre at 1:30pm.

PRESENT

51 Water Users, 5 Board members representing the Water Users, and 8 LNID staff. In addition, the following attended:

Irrigation Council: Mark Miyanaga;

Irrigation Secretariat: Jennifer Nitschelm;

Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation: Dennis Matis, Jollin Charest, Andrea Gonzalez, Trevor Warrior, Ole Byrgesen, Nicole Seitz Vermeer, Robert Plante, Marie Oxley, and Saad Haque;

Alberta Environment & Protected Areas: Lawrence Schinkel;

Mercer-Wilde Group: Hayden Wilde;

Walk on the Wild Side: John Kolk;

Ring Engineering: Len Ring;

AFSC: Rowena Shepherd.

CALL TO ORDER

C. Konynenbelt, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and introduced the Board of Directors.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

C. Konynenbelt introduced all guests and welcomed all attendees to the Annual General Meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

C. Konynenbelt asked for any additions/deletions/changes to the agenda. There were none.

26-04-39 Motion by B. Witdouck, seconded by E. Van Essen, to approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED



MINUTES OF 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

C. Konynenbelt asked if there were any errors or omissions for the Annual General Meeting held on April 16, 2025.

26-04-40 Motion by B. Nauta, seconded by E. Schuld, to approve the Minutes of the 2024 104th Annual General Meeting as presented. **CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF 2024 MINUTES

C. Gallagher addressed business arising from the 2024 Minutes:

- C. Gallagher clarified information regarding the water licence transfer process as referenced on page 7. Where delivery can be made through district works, preference is to enter into a Water Conveyance Agreement under LNID's amended junior water licence for other purposes.
- The following topics recorded in the 2024 minutes are to be addressed during presentations:
 - Return flows will be addressed in Item 10.2;
 - Risks on long term investments in Item 13.2;
 - Rate increases in Item 13.2;
 - The cost of irrigation acres in 10.2 and 10.3;
 - Storage in Keho Reservoir in Item 11; and,
 - Battersea Drain maintenance in Item 11.1.
- No business arising was identified from the floor.

BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

C. Konynenbelt presented the Board Chair report as documented in the Annual Report.

26-04-41 Motion by C. Konynenbelt, seconded by B. Nauta, to approve the Board Chairs Report. **CARRIED**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Chris Gallagher, General Manager presented the General Manager's Report as documented in the Annual with a supplemental PowerPoint presentation.

- Board nominations for Electoral Divisions No. 2 and No. 4 closed at 4:30PM on April 10, 2026. Peter Vanden Dool was declared elected by acclamation to represent Electoral Division No. 2, and Calvin Konynenbelt was declared elected by acclamation to continue representing Electoral Division No. 4.



- Levi Jackson, Greg Moore, Aaron Keeling, Cale Olsen, Ashley Presby, Rob Scheit, and Garret Alston joined the LNID team.
- C. Gallagher explained of the “One LNID” approach, implementing the overarching goal across departments to serve our water users effectively. The “One LNID” focus is on collaborative teamwork that stems from the Board, through the GM, to the leadership team, and reaches across all staff.

C. Gallagher presented an overview of the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan with a PowerPoint presentation.

- Development started with executing a SWOT analysis that was provided to internal and external sources. C. Gallagher thanked all present for their participation as the information gathered was integral to development.
- The board and leadership team then reviewed the ideas from this SWOT analysis at a retreat, establishing key elements of the values, vision, and mission of LNID.
- The Board and leadership team then established 5 goals with a breakdown of related objectives and reviewed several drafts prior to issuing the final document in January
- C. Gallagher provided an overview and progress on each of the goals.

26-04-42 Motion by K. Van Raay, seconded by D. Hummel, to adopt the General Manager’s Report as presented. **CARRIED**

TECHNICAL SERVICES REPORT: ABUBAKER SARDAR, P. ENG.

A. Sardar presented the Technical Services Report as documented in the Annual Report with a supplemental PowerPoint presentation.

- A. Sardar provided an overview of the various funding programs LNID uses for projects.
- A. Sardar provided an overview of Projects commenced or completed in 2025.

A. Sardar provided an overview of the Long-Term Infrastructure Plan. The plan will schedule and outline the upcoming projects for the next 10 years.

26-04-43 Motion by E. Van Essen, seconded by D. Stronk, to adopt the District Engineer’s Report as presented. **CARRIED**

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE REPORT: BRETT ZIELINSKI

B. Zielinski presented the Operations & Maintenance Report as documented in the Annual Report.

26-04-44 Motion by E. Schuld, seconded by G. Van Ash, to adopt the Operations & Maintenance Report as presented. **CARRIED**



CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT: GARY BURKE

G. Burke presented an update on the Safety Program as documented in the Annual Report with a supplemental PowerPoint presentation.

- G. Burke thanked all LNID team members for being active participants in the safety program and prioritizing safety at LNID.

G. Burke presented an expansion planning update with a PowerPoint presentation. A plebiscite held in 2010 determined five (5) phases of expansion for LNID, of which LNID is currently in Phase 3. The 2026-2028 Strategic Plan has identified expansion planning as an objective for review.

- Changes in operational factors, such as the increase in specialty crops, change in precipitation, improved on farm irrigation methods, improved water security, completed rehabilitation projects, and government funding programs for water efficiency, have made a significant impact on LNID operations. For example, in 2010 LNID only had 20% of piped delivery infrastructure versus 100% piped delivery infrastructure as of 2025.
- The Water Operations team has been diligently working on system optimizations that increase conveyance efficiency and decrease reaction time for delivery and spill volumes.
- LNID is currently developing a water management model with University of Alberta and Optimal Solutions Ltd. using Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR) grant funding to help with water forecasting and better matching water delivery with demand.
- New expansion planning modelling needs to be completed to determine the effects of these changes on LNID operations. A contract to complete this modelling will be awarded in May 2026. The modelling will be developed over the course of the year, and a final report is to be presented to the Board in December 2026.
- As the modelling is completed and recommendations have been submitted, a rollout plan will be developed and communicated to water users.
- The Board wants to ensure that the rollout of irrigation acres will not affect the water security for established acres.
- G. Burke invited water users to submit comments or ideas regarding expansion and rollout considerations to the LNID email.

G. Burke presented a water supply and management update.

- Snowpack stations report higher snowpack levels than 2025 at this time of year. Lower elevations have less snow than the high elevation snowpack stations, however, the snow melt has been captured in reservoirs.
- Allocation for 2026 was set by the board at 16" per irrigated acre.
- Water startup 'week' will commence on April 21, 2026 with the flushing of the Lethbridge Northern Headworks Canal and the Keho Main Canal. Flushing, priming, and filling of pipelines will start as water is available to systems. The target water delivery date will be May 1, 2026.



- Water Coordinators request that any water orders for the following day be received no later than 10:00AM the day before.

Lawrence Schinkel asked how many return flow sites LNID has.

G. Burke replied that five (5) return flow sites remain.

26-04-45 Motion by J. Kolk, seconded by B. Konynenbelt, to adopt the Corporate Services Report as presented. **CARRIED**

LETHBRIDGE NORTHERN HEADWORKS: WATER INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS BRANCH OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION

Dennis Matis of the Water Infrastructure and Operations Branch (WIOB) of Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation (AGI) presented a WIOB overview with a PowerPoint presentation.

- D. Matis provided an overview of the various dams in southern Alberta maintained by the Southern Region of WIOB;
- Approximately 25, 000 dam³ of additional water was captured in the Oldman Reservoir due to managed releases below the Fish Rule Curves under authorisation of the Director. 2025/26 winter capture above the spillway crest was also secured due to enhanced bubblers to protect the gates from potential ice damage.
- Due to the above-average reservoir levels at this time of year, an additional 5cms above the fish rule curve will be released until the end of May due to the increased water coming into the Oldman Reservoir;
- With new LNID management, Keho Reservoir will be used proactively as a buffer;
- WIOB is working with Optimal Solutions Ltd. to determine operating triggers and new rule curves;
- An overview of the headworks system was shown including the weir and diversion structure, Oldman flume, check structures, and Willow Creek flume through which the water travels to reach the LNID. A brief explanation of the Piikani Nation turnout was also provided.

Ken Van Raay asked for clarification of the condition of the weir and what maintenance is required.

D. Matis replied that the bays have been degraded and are being monitored as plans are being reviewed.

Kev Van Raay noted that the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Main Canal carries a maximum 46.5cms of water and asked if there is a chokepoint that causes this constraint or if it is the maximum operational capacity of the system.

D. Matis replied that the Willow Creek flume is a constraint, but the system functions at a maximum capacity of 46.5cms.

Evert Van Essen asked where the water volume for the Piikani Nation turnout is from and when this system will start using water.



D. Matis replied that the water will be delivered from the Lethbridge Northern Headworks canal. The water delivered will be a maximum of 2cms from the Oldman Reservoir. The water volume delivered through this turnout has been set aside for the Piikani Nation at the time of the Oldman Reservoir construction and will not be taken from the LNID water licence.

C. Gallagher replied that the Piikani Nation turnout will use additional capacity in the reach upstream of the Oldman flume and the operation of this turnout will not negatively impact LNID water delivery response or capacity. Having shared interest with Piikani Nation in irrigation on the headworks system is a positive for future operations.

Tyler Watmough asked if there is concern for water licences that are being applied for coal mining operations, raising awareness for the potential risk of water contamination.

C. Konyonenbelt and G. Burke replied that water currently being applied for is approximately four (4) pivots worth for dust control. LNID is performing due diligence in assessing risks and responsibility to water security for water users.

Tyler Watmough asked if there was a guarantee for the water quality return flow after use.

C. Konyonenbelt replied that there are checks and balances in place in Alberta, and LNID will continue to practice due diligence to support risk mitigation.

C. Konyonenbelt thanked D. Matis for his presentation.

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA'S WATER EFFICIENCY PROGRAM: ALBERTA AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION

Marie Oxley of AGI presented on the Government of Alberta's Water Efficiency Program with a PowerPoint presentation.

- Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) was explained.
- Aim to improve on farm operations to increase efficiencies.
- As of 2024, 85% of systems in Alberta are low pressure pivots. Up from 60% in 2008.
- Eligibility criteria for the program include:
 - Being a primary producer;
 - \$25,000 farm income; and,
 - Taxable on farm income.
- Program funds can only be used on the purchase of infrastructure, parts, or improvements to increase on farm efficiencies;
- The program is retroactive to April 1, 2023 and will expire March 31, 2028;
- Applicant name needs to match invoice and proof of payment.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

L. Jackson introduced Hayden Wilde from Mercer Wilde Group to present the 2025 Financial Statement Audit as documented in the Annual Report with a supplemental PowerPoint presentation. H. Wilde



thanked the Board for the opportunity to audit LNID for 2025. H. Wilde presented the 2025 Financial Statement Audit as documented in the Annual Report.

L. Jackson presented an LNID Fiscal Management Update with a PowerPoint presentation.

- L. Jackson thanked St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID) for their input and assistance over the past year;
- Provided a historical comparison of the LNID budget across departments;
- Reviewed the cost to operate the district, including irrigation rates and Irrigation Works Reserve (IWR) contributions. The increase in water rates covers the increase in operational costs, primarily due to inflation and is intended to be slow and sustainable rather than large leaps;
- All rate increases require board approval before being implemented;
- Base rates for 2026 irrigation acres increased by \$1.00 per acre;
- The Irrigation Rehabilitation Program (IRP) has been approved for another 3 years at current levels, however, there is no guarantee that this program will be renewed again at the end of this 3-year term;
- Detailed the investment portfolio of the LNID, breaking down the investments into Operations, Capital Reserve (i.e. future capital projects outside of AIM or IRP grant funds), and Long-Term Reserve (i.e. funds set aside for emergency repairs and interest revenue).

26-04-46 Motion by D. Hummel, seconded by E. Konynenbelt, to adopt the Financial Statements and Finance & Administration reports as presented. **CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS

C. Konynenbelt asked if there was any other business arising from the reports presented. No business arising was identified from the floor.

C. Gallagher thanked WIOB for their proactive installation of the bubblers at Oldman Reservoir, noting that the proactive installation of this infrastructure allowed proactive capture of lower elevation snow melt in the Oldman Reservoir.

NEW BUSINESS

C. Konynenbelt asked if there was any new business. No new business arose.

C. Konynenbelt thanked Janice Hupper at ATB Wealth for the refreshments provided.

C. Konynenbelt thanked M. Van Diemen for his years of service with the LNID.

M. Van Diemen thanked LNID and irrigators for the opportunity to serve the district for 18 years.



ADJOURNMENT

26-04-47 3:55pm: **Motion** by A. Bergen-Henengouwen that the meeting be adjourned.