

DEWDNEY AREA IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
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Email: admin@daidinfo.com Website: www.daidinfo.com

TRUSTEE MEETING
Hatzic Prairie Hall – 10845 Farms Road
March 24th, 2025 -7:00pm

MINUTES

In Attendance: Richard Astell Ross Thompson Rick Dekker
Greg Hawksby Ray Boucher Jim Loewen
Steve Anderson

Dave Scott, Operations Manager
Heather Thompson, Administrator

Absent: Deb McKay, Chair and Ron Beck, Dyke Manager

Residents: 1 in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER: Due to Deb McKay absence, Ray Boucher appointed Acting Chair – 7 pm.

Motion:	To adopt March 24 th , 2025 meeting agenda.		
	Ross Thompson/Greg Hawksby	Opposed: None	Motion: Adopted
Motion:	To adopt February 24 th , 2025 Trustee meeting minutes.		
	Richard Astell/Steve Anderson	Opposed: None	Motion: Adopted
Signed:	February 24 th , 2025 Trustee meeting minutes – Ray Boucher, Acting Chair		

Operations Report: Dave Scott

- Dewdney Bridge progress – no updates from MOTI on progress or completion schedule.
- Responded to concerns from ratepayer on Sward Road with water pooling in fields, investigated and found culvert blocked, supplied the owner with the emergency number for EAM.
- Provided additional data requested by AEI as they continue to gather information on the old pump refurbishment. Reached out to Roy Chaplin who had been involved with refits to the old pumpstation. It was also noted that the old pumpstation roof has a leak, so covered the pumps and will make temporary repairs.
- Fields Tree Service has completed assessment of tree beside dyke access gate on Hyde Buker Road, they will be submitting a full report but did confirm that the tree needs to be removed. Have asked them for a quote on cost to take down the tree.
- When weather permits, have hired Lauren Bailey to install new fence and repair gaps in the existing fencing to limit access of horses on the dyke.
- March 14th, 2025 received STU permit tracking #, forwarded to Deb McKay.

Dyke Report: Ron Beck (Absent)

Admin/Finance: Heather Thompson

- Assessment Notices and AGM notice have been mailed.
- Received email from Dave Scott, OM, with picture showing blackberry removal by FVRD at Dewdney Nature Park. Went to site and took additional pictures, emailed them to trustees as well as FVRD Parks.

Old Business:

- **Dyking Committee:** received emails from DIOD Alex Salvaille as follows: March 17th, 2025, letter from GeoWest Engineering setting out parameters for Exploratory Geotechnical Testing Within a Dyke and on March 19th, 2025, Ministry's response and approval of Geo Technical Investigation Letter, Site Location Map and Proposed Test Hole Location Plan.
- **IAF funded project:** no further update at this time, still ongoing.
- **Strengthening Hydro Service:** Work to upgrade the lines is scheduled for March 25th to 26th, weather permitting.

New Business:

- Presented Tax Bylaw No. 84 – read by Ray Boucher – no questions from trustees.

Motion: **To adopt 2025 Tax Bylaw No. 84 as presented**

Ross Thompson/Elske Von Hardenberg Opposed: None

Motion: Adopted

- Tax Bylaw No. 84 will be emailed to the MHMA Local Government Infrastructure & Finance for registration.
- **FVRD's removal of blackberry vines and damage to dyke boundary fence underneath.** Pictures taken of the site were sent to Christina Vugteveen, Manager of Parks at FVRD for her review, Christina responded that she would be willing to assess the site with someone from DAID, Dave Scott's contact information was forwarded. DAID's concern is that removal of the barrier has opened the dyke to easy access for horses or motorized vehicles.
- **K.I.D (Kaleden Irrigation District) Class Action Lawsuit against the Province of BC email:** If there is enough support for this lawsuit asking for the fair treatment of Improvement Districts and to have the same rights as Municipalities to access lower interest loans and grant funding. As this is in the initial stages of determining what the legal costs would be to initiate the law suit, it is necessary to know how many IDs would support the cause before proceeding. DAID has responded to the email and asked to be kept informed with updated information as it becomes available.

Public Questions:

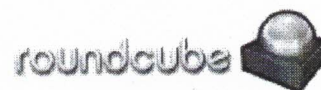
- Attendee inquired about the installation of the Bird Diverts on the powerlines. Dave Scott advised that at a previous meeting the board had instead approved the installation of coated wires as a more reliable solution to bird strikes causing power outages.

Date for next Trustee meeting: post AGM April 14th, 2025

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45pm

Deborah McKay

Subject **Proposed Class Action Law Suit Against the Province of BC**
From KALEDEN IRRIGATION DISTRICT <kaledenirrigation@gmail.com>
Bcc <admin@daidinfo.com>
Date 2025-03-06 10:45 AM



An open letter to B.C. irrigation and improvement districts:

My name is Steve Arstad, I'm current board chair for the Kaleden Irrigation District, located south of Penticton.

I'm writing to you regarding a common issue faced by irrigation and improvement districts throughout BC - our legislated inability to apply for infrastructure grant funding and low interest municipal loans.

The Kaleden Irrigation District Board oversees waterworks for approximately 550 ratepayers in the community of Kaleden. The Board recently began considering the possibility of launching a class action suit against the Province for the discriminatory and unfair treatment against improvement and irrigation districts for restricting our ability to access lower interest loans and grant funding.

This initiative is in its early stages, but we have contacted a Vancouver law firm engaging in this type of legal action. That initial consultation with the lawyer was encouraging, and the firm has offered assistance.

Our Board decided that the next step was to reach out to all of our organizations throughout the province to see if there is a mutual interest in pursuing this type of legal action.

To be successful we think we need the majority of the province's improvement districts participating. As we all know, legal action isn't cheap, but with each organization contributing a share towards the cost of launching legal proceedings, we believe it is viable.

The lawyers have indicated first steps would be an advisory stage, to provide legal advice on the rights of improvement districts and legal options to challenge the current government grant eligibility regime prior to engaging in any litigation.

We have been promised a rough estimate of legal costs, and when we receive that information we will pass it on.

Thanks for the time and effort many of you have already put in to trying to correct this unfairness. We at KID have seen several neighboring ID's surrender their operations and resources to our local regional district, who on one hand claim they don't want to acquire us, but on the other do absolutely nothing to assist us.

The time has come to challenge the provincial authority and force them to deal with this issue. The potential publicity surrounding such a class action would go a long way towards increasing both political and public awareness as to who we are and what we do for mostly rural populations of B.C., knowledge that is largely absent in the Lower Mainland and in Victoria.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Steve Arstad, Board Chair, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Kaleden Irrigation District.

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Dewdney Area Improvement District

Monthly Dike Report

Location: HATZIC
WATERSHED

Date: report for Mar. 24 2025

PROJECT SITE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

PERSONNEL

Operator - Ron Beck
Ops. Manager - Dave Scott

EQUIPMENT

WORK PROGRESS

Monthly update : March

- Approved price and hired Fields Tree Service on the third and the assessment of the tree has been completed and waiting for the report. I can tell you that the tree is rotten and only 3-4 inches of solid wood remains at the base of the tree. I asked for a removal price when he sends the Assessment Letter.
- DS received an email from Heather that a farmer was complaining about water in his field on Sward Rd. and after getting the call I arranged to meet on site. After driving the area I found the culvert that was plugged and gave them the emergency number to EAM.
- Hired Lauren Bailey to complete a number of areas of barb wire fence repair to limit the access of horses on to the dike. This work started on Monday and will be on going as required.
- More SCADA work also ongoing. Working with all parties to insure system interface with Old Pump Station upgrades.
- Valley has the material to complete the high voltage work and this is scheduled for 25th-26th of March.
- DS continues to put in hours at the AE PS upgrade (pics and info regarding status of elements and other investigations.
- On the 14th DS received permit tracking # and this was forward to DM.
- Roof leaking in old pump station. (covered pump).
- Spoke to Paul Haig today and put DM name to documents
- DS reached out to Roy Chaplin regarding some info on old PS refits (jack stands on pump support beams and grouting of the flumes for next meeting update with AE.

O&M Manager Dave Scott

March 24, 2025

BYLAW No. 84

A bylaw for imposing taxes upon land and improvements in the district, and to provide for imposing a percentage addition to encourage prompt payment thereof.

The Trustees of the Dewdney Area Improvement District ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. For the year 2025 there is hereby levied the following taxes:

1.1 Parcel Tax

- a) A tax of \$225.00 on all parcels of land classified into Group "1" (L9).
- b) A tax of \$100.00 on all parcels of land classified into Group "2" (L1).
- c) A tax of \$100.00 on all parcels of land classified into Group "3" (L2-L8).

1.2 Acre Tax

- a) A tax of \$5.00 per acre up to 50 acres in all Groups 1, 2, & 3.
- b) A tax of \$2.00 per acre for each acre over 50 in all Groups 1, 2, & 3.

1.3 Value Tax

The following taxes (rates) are hereby imposed and levied for the tax year.

<u>"L" PROPERTY CLASS</u>	<u>TAX RATES (DOLLARS PER \$1000 TAXABLE VALUE)</u>		
	<u>Base</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Rate (mil)</u>
1. Residential	.383	1.0:1	.383
2. Utilities	.383	3.5:1	1.34
3. Supportive Housing	.383	1.0:1	.383
4. Major Industry	.383	3.4:1	1.30
5. Light Industry	.383	3.4:1	1.30
6. Business and Other	.383	2.45:1	.94
7. Managed Forest Land	.383	3.0:1	1.15
8. Recreation Property	.383	1.0:1	.383
9. Farm	.383	1.0:1	.383

2. The minimum amount of taxation assessed will be \$200.00.

3. The aforementioned taxes shall be due and payable on or before the 30th day of September 2025, and a percentage addition of fifteen (15%) percent of the amount therefore shall be added to current taxes remaining unpaid after the said date.

4. In addition, taxes remaining unpaid on the first day of March next following the date upon which the taxes are levied shall bear interest at the rate prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor Council under Section 11 of the Taxation (Rural Area) Act, as set out in the Local Government Act.

5. This Bylaw may be cited as the "Tax Rates Bylaw No. 84".

INTRODUCED and given first reading by the Trustees on the 24th day of March, 2025.
RECONSIDERED and finally passed by the Trustees on the 24th day of March, 2025.

Chair of the Board of Trustees

I hereby certify under the seal of Dewdney Area Improvement District that this is a true copy of Bylaw No. 84 of the Dewdney Area Improvement District passed by the Trustees on the 24th day of March, 2025.

Finance/Administrative Office