

# SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

# 2021 ELECTION APPEAL AND BY-ELECTION UPDATE

In April 2021, GEID held its annual election of trustees. Because provincial health orders related to the Covid-19 pandemic prohibited public gatherings, GEID postponed its AGM until a month after the election, based on its interpretation of provincial government guidance. Doing so resulted in the AGM being held outside the required timeframe.

Robert Hrasko, one of the unsuccessful candidates in the 2021 election, appealed the election in BC Supreme Court. The court ruled that the election was of "no effect." While the court concluded the error was "clearly not a situation of intentional malfeasance or electoral tampering," it ordered a by-election be held to fill two board vacancies.

That by-election was held in April, 2023. Despite his court challenge, Mr. Hrasko chose not to run in the by-election. The original trustees elected in 2021 were re-elected for the balance of their term.

During this process, GEID became aware of an online misinformation campaign run by Mr. Hrasko that includes very misleading and potentially defamatory statements about GEID, its staff and trustees. In the interests of providing factual information and defending the integrity of our organization and our people, we present a statement of facts correcting the misleading information on our website at www.geid.ca. The board has full confidence and trust in all of our staff and their commitment to serve ratepayers with integrity and the public's best interest at heart.

Sincerely,

GEID Board of Trustees

# NEW AGRICULTURAL RATE STRUCTURE SUPPORTS CONSERVATION

GEID's irrigation water licences permit GEID to provide irrigation water from Okanagan Lake and Kelowna Creek between April 1 and September 30. Approximately 35 per cent of GEID's total annual water usage is from agricultural irrigation used during this time period.

Last year, GEID adopted a new water rate structure for agricultural customers that rewards water-use efficiency and supports climate change adaptation. The old structure of a set parcel tax for a set irrigation allotment was inequitable for most farmers and did not provide incentives for conservation.

Since the implementation of this "pay for what you use" structure, consumption has decreased significantly as farmers have improved their irrigation management, resulting in both water savings for the region and financial savings for ratepayers.

GEID is committed to conservation and protecting our most valuable resource while supporting our agricultural properties that are essential to our community.

## WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Climate change is bringing warmer overall temperatures, less rain in the summer, more extreme dry periods, and changes to the amount and timing of rain and snow throughout the year. These changes will impact water demand and may also affect the amount of water we can store and release for use. Water-use efficiency keeps water in our lakes and reservoirs so we can make it through drought years without needing increased restrictions.

GEID has conservation measures in place to reduce peaks in water use, reducing the high demands on our water delivery system. Assigned water days and flow restrictions allow the system to keep up with the demands for drinking water, irrigation, commercial use and storage for fire protection. Normal conservation efforts require all water users to be mindful of the water they use to maintain efficient overall water use practices.

Details of water use restrictions and stages are posted on the GEID website.

For water-use efficiency tips and to learn how to prepare for drought, please visit www.obwb.ca









## DID YOU KNOW?

While dripping taps and running toilets are easy to detect, many leaks go unnoticed. Toilets, humidifiers, ice makers, reverse osmosis water filtration systems and your underground irrigation systems can all have slow silent leaks; wasting water and costing you more money. Check for leaks in your home today.

For more tips on saving water, check out: www.okwaterwise.ca

# RATEPAYER SURVEY RESULTS

As part of our ongoing engagement with water users, GEID recently completed a ratepayer opinion survey. The results of the survey demonstrate overall satisfaction levels with GEID services are very strong and also help point to areas to serve you better. For the full results go to www.geid.ca.

### GEID AGM INVITE

GEID invites you to attend its Annual General Meeting Thursday, June 8 at 7:00 pm at the GEID Operations Building at 451 Glenmore Road.

Your input helps us make important decisions regarding your GEID services.

If you plan to attend the AGM, please email reception@geid.org to confirm. This will assist in ensuring appropriate seating arrangements can be made.

# 2023 ELECTION NOTICE:

Trustee elections are held annually to fill the rotating three-year terms for Trustees. The terms for Trustees Steve Lemke and Bob Fugger expire this year.

Nominations will be open from 8:00 am on May 30, 2023 until 3:00 pm on June 9, 2023. Nomination forms are available for pick up at the GEID Office during this period, during normal office hours.

If an election is required, voting will take place on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00 pm at the GEID Office. An Advanced Poll will be available between 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm Thursday, June 22, 2023 also at the GEID Office.



# SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING

Reduce your paper waste with e-billing. Going paperless is simple. Please email the office at reception@geid.org and simply request to receive your bills electronically.

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Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm, except for holidays.