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**SPRING  
 NEWSLETTER**  
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### WATER SUPPLY

The gates at the Little Bow Reservoir were opened on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We have not begun diverting water from the Bow River because of flood damages to the headworks canal, which need to be repaired first. Tentative date for diversion is May 21<sup>st</sup> at the latest.

Total storage in McGregor, Travers, and Little Bow reservoirs is 369,000 acre feet as of May 7<sup>th</sup>, which is 91.2% of full storage. As of this date, we have not begun filling the reservoirs from the river, but we have gained over 50,000 acre feet from snowmelt runoff.

The snowpack in the Bow River headwaters is above normal at all five measuring stations. The water supply should be good this year, especially if the mountain snowpack melts at a normal rate.

At the April board meeting, the board approved a water allotment of 24 inches per irrigation acre with an extra 6 inches per acre allowed for purchase for a flood irrigated parcel.

### IDEAS FOR DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS

In an effort to improve the operation of the District, irrigators are invited to submit ideas which may streamline, enhance or improve the efficiency of the Bow River Irrigation District. If you think you have a great idea that may improve your irrigation district, please contact us.

### **BRID WEBSITE**

Visit our website for more information on the BRID at:  
[brid.ca](http://brid.ca)

**FLOOD FACTS**

- ◆ Approximately 120,000 acres of land drains into Lost Lake. The lake level increased about 3 ft due to flooding, its highest level in over 20 years. As of May 9 it has dropped by about 6 inches from the peak level. Construction of a dike around the pump house was required to exclude water and allow the pumps to operate.
- ◆ All water in Lost Lake gets returned to the BRID main canal via a 42” pipe, over 3,200 feet long with a 50 foot rise. It is fed by three 400 HP pumps, with a combined capacity of 90 cubic feet per second (cfs), or nearly 40,000 US GPM. Pumps were turned on April 18 and all pumps will continue to run for a few more weeks until the lake level returns to an acceptable level.

- ◆ Inflow to the lake on Enchant Drain was 300 cfs+ for several days, and was measured at 340 cfs on April 24. On April 26, it had decreased to 140 cfs and to 50 cfs on April 30. The last measurement was taken on May10; the flow rate was 34 cfs.
- ◆ A concrete spillway in south Hays that returns excess flow to a drain into the Oldman River was overtopped and washed out. Peak flow was calculated at around 130 cfs, which is over twice the capacity of the structure. It was 4 feet wide and 265 feet long, with an 80 foot drop. A replacement structure utilizing buried PVC pipe instead of a concrete chute will be completed in May.



- ◆ There has been widespread damage on a smaller scale throughout most of the district.

**FIELD DRAINAGE**

Landowners are to be reminded that at no time are they to pump or drain low lying areas into District drainage or delivery canals without the consent of the BRID. **Call your ditchrider first or Bill Skelly at the office.**

Any area or ponded water that appears to have polluted water will not be allowed to drain into a BRID canal unless it can be shown through testing that the water does not contain microorganisms typically found in manure. Testing can be done in Lethbridge for a nominal fee and with a 3 to 5 day turnaround.

**WATER ON DEMAND/DITCHRIDER HOURS OF WORK**

The ditchriders make every effort to deliver water as soon as possible after it is ordered, and in some locations “water on demand” can be achieved, much of the time. Those locations are the Main Canal above Scope Reservoir, the Lomond Lateral above Badger Reservoir, or on a pipeline originating from those canals. Elsewhere, if another irrigator has finished with their order, their water may be diverted immediately.

All irrigators, including those where “water on demand” is usually possible, should order water the day before they wish to irrigate to ensure that their water is delivered on time. In some locations, irrigators may have to order water up to 48 hours in advance of the time it is required. Irrigators are also reminded that they are expected to give 24 hours notice of shutoffs whenever possible.

Irrigators should be able to contact their ditchriders and receive a response between the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and 7:00 A.M. to noon on Saturdays. They are not expected to make deliveries on Sundays.

Messages, whether phone or text, can still be sent at any time but the ditchriders are not expected to respond before 7 A.M. or after 7 P.M.

**DITCHRIDER CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Gerald Drist (Area 5) & Stan Kurek (Area 9) have retired, and we wish them all the best.

Area 1 - Headworks: **Matt Coster** 403-485-0582

Area 2 - South Headworks and Travers/Lomond: **Lonnie Howg** 403-485-1392

Area 3 - Badger Lake: **Vince Row** 403-485-1391  
or 403-654-3042

Area 4 - Enchant: **Kelly Howg** 403-654-0361

Area 5 - Vauxhall North: **Mark Borle** 403-654-8214

Area 6 - Circle Hill: **Conrad Cazemier**  
403-654-3134

Area 7 - Vauxhall South: **Ray Friesen**  
403-654-0362

Area 9 - Grantham/West Hays: **Adam Locke**  
403-654-8212

Area 10 - Hays: **Richard Church** 403-654-8082

If you have an emergency and cannot contact your ditchrider, please contact the operations supervisor.

**Operations Supervisor: Denis Odland**  
403-654-8210

Maintenance Supervisor: Butch Porter 403-654-0257

**I.R.P. FUNDING CUT**

In the Alberta budget, on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, it was announced that the I.R.P. (Irrigation Rehabilitation Project) funding would be cut to \$14 million in both 2018 and 2019 and \$10 million in 2020. The funding was \$19 million last year. The BRID’s share of this total is approximately 16%.

The IRP provides funding for the irrigation districts to use for the rehabilitation of their extensive water conveyance and storage infrastructure.

## IRRIGATION EXPANSION

The BRID is planning a further expansion of the irrigated acreage of the district. Modelling of the water requirements and supply is complete. It is anticipated that the public meetings and plebiscite will be held some time after the 2018 irrigation season. If the irrigators vote in favor of expansion, we expect to accept applications for the development of dryland parcels and intensification of existing irrigated parcels immediately after the plebiscite. Input from irrigators regarding the number of acres by which the district should expand is welcomed.

Anyone considering the purchase of or development of owned dryland parcels for the purpose of irrigation is cautioned not to invest in any irrigation equipment prior to completion of certain conditions:

1. **A YES vote on the expansion plebiscite.**
2. Board approval. If more applications are received than we have available acres, not all parcels will be approved for inclusion in the district. Not all of the district infrastructure can accept additional demand. Parcels served from the Main Canal or Lomond Lateral will have no capacity issues. Most of the pipelines and some smaller canals may be at their maximum capacity.
3. Soil testing for irrigability. Upon approval, a parcel will require soil testing to determine if the parcel is irrigable. If there are non-irrigable soils present, they can total no more than 15% of the planned wetted area. An excess of non-irrigable soils will prohibit the irrigation of the parcel.
4. Advertising process. Applications must be advertised in the newspapers of general circulation within the district. Any person that feels that they are negatively affected by the irrigation of the advertised parcel has 30 days from the date the ad appears to submit their concerns to the district. This does not occur frequently, and the concern may not necessarily affect the irrigation of the parcel.

The entire process may extend over several months, and until complete, there is a risk that the parcel may not be included in the district. Therefore, the BRID cannot accept any responsibility if an irrigator purchases irrigation equipment for a parcel or parcels that cannot be irrigated.

## BOARD ELECTIONS

The annual board elections resulted in Glenn Logan (Area #1 - Headworks) and Walter Unruh (Area #7 – South Hays) being returned to the Board by acclamation.

Following is a list of the current directors with their 3 year terms noted:

Area #1 – Glen Logan (2018-2021)

Area #2 – Ron Schlaht (2017-2020) – Vice-Chairman

Area #3 – James Larson (2016 – 2019)

Area #4 – John DeVries (2017-2020)

Area #5 – Vic Van Dyk (2016-2019)

Area #6 – Harold Unruh (2016-2019) – Chairman

Area #7 – Walter Unruh (2018-2021)

## BOARD MEETING SUBMISSIONS

To ensure that requests or concerns are received in time to be included on the agenda of the upcoming board meeting, and to allow staff and directors sufficient time to complete any research on the issues, submissions must be received at the office no later than 4:30 P.M. on the Thursday prior to the board meeting. Board meetings are scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Any submission received after that time will be considered for the agenda of the next month's meeting.

Submissions should be sent to the office addressed to either the board of directors, Richard Phillips, General Manager or Rolf Schwabe, Executive Assistant. They can be sent by mail, fax (403-654-4197), or email to [RichardP@brid.ca](mailto:RichardP@brid.ca) or [RolfS@brid.ca](mailto:RolfS@brid.ca).

## NOTICE: WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

The Bow River Irrigation District will be applying herbicides to control vegetation in or within 30 horizontal meters of open water owned by the district.

Activities will be carried out under approval No. 10409-04-00 issued by Alberta Environment. This approval expires March 15, 2020. Applications for broadleaf control will begin in May and continue until the end of September. For aquatic weed and algae

control: treatments begin May 22<sup>nd</sup> and continue until the first week of September. Affected water users will be notified before aquatic applications begin. Please check this page and page 5 of this newsletter or <http://brid.ca/> for a list of locations and application dates. The weed control program is administered by licensed applicators.

<b><u>Herbicide Used</u></b>	<b><u>Purpose</u></b>
Magnacide H PCP# 10948	Control of submerged aquatic vegetation and algae.
2, 4-D Amine 600, Oracle (Dicamba) & Vantage Plus	Control of broadleaf weeds, willow, brush, and poplar
Vantage Plus (Glyphosate)	Control of cattail, and reed canary grass.

Contact Bill Skelly at the BRID Office:  
(403) 654-2111 for information.

Beginning in the 2018 season, to ensure more efficient weed control, the BRID will no longer avoid spraying adjacent to organic crops. It will be the landowner's responsibility to maintain a buffer zone on their own lands between their crops and the sprayed area.

### **2018 MAGNACIDE APPLICATIONS NOTICE**

The Bow River Irrigation District will apply Magnacide H to control aquatic vegetation and algae at the following locations:

**Badger Lake/ Enchant Area – Lateral H TWP 15, 16, RGE 18** - Applications: May 24; May 29<sup>\*\*</sup>; and on Wednesdays: June 6, June 27, and July 18

**Badger / Lonesome Lake Area – Lower Lomond Lateral TWP 17, RGE 17, 18**  
-Applications on Tuesdays: June 19 and July 10

**Travers / Lomond Area – Lomond Lateral TWP 15, 16 RGE 19** - Applications: May 23, Monday May 28<sup>\*\*</sup>; Tuesday, June 12; Wednesdays: July 4 and July 25

**Travers / Lomond Area – Lateral D-TWP 15, RGE 19**  
-Applications: Wednesdays - May 30, June 20, July 11, August 1

**Enchant Area – Lateral B- TWP 14, 15, RGE 18, 19**  
-Applications on Tuesdays: June 5, June 26, July 17

**Circle Hill / Stonehill Area -Lateral B -TWP 14, 15, RGE 16, 17** -Applications: Thursdays - May 31, June 14, June 28, and July 12

**Vauxhall/Retlaw Area-Lateral A-TWP 13, RGE 16, 17**  
-Application on June 13 & Thursdays: July 5, July 26

**Vauxhall Area - Lateral C TWP 13, 14, RGE 16**  
-Applications on June 13 & Thursdays: July 5, July 26

**Vauxhall Area-Lateral H & H-1, TWP 12, 13, RGE 16**  
-Applications on Fridays: June 1, June 22, July 13, and August 3

**Vauxhall Area – Drain A, TWP 12, 13, RGE 16**  
-Applications: June 1 and Mondays: June 25; July 23

**Hays Area - Lateral R below Scope Reservoir TWP 12, 13 RGE 13, 14** - Applications on May 22; Mondays: June 4 and June 18; Tuesday, July 3; Mondays - July 16, July 30, and August 20

**Hays Area – Main Canal below Scope Reservoir TWP 13, RGE 13, 14** -Applications on May 25; Thursdays: June 7, and June 21; Friday, July 6; and Thursday, July 19

**Hays Area – Lateral O - TWP 12, 13, RGE 13, 14**  
-Applications on Friday, May 26; Thursdays - June 8; June 22; Friday, July 7; and Thursday, July 20

*\*\*Applications only if canal is not treated a week earlier because of cold water temperatures and no algae growth.*

During the application no water is permitted to enter municipal waterworks systems, water systems used to supply water for household purposes, dugouts or ponds used for livestock watering, dugouts or ponds containing stocked fish. Please ensure that water you have diverted on these dates does not apply to any of these categories.

We ask that you review the information package available from your ditchrider for more information about Magnacide H.

Please check the application schedule on our website at <http://www.brid.ca/pages/weedcontrol.html> . If you have any questions regarding Magnacide application, please call Bill Skelly at the Bow River Irrigation Office (403) 654-2111

## **WATER LICENCE TRANSFER – PLEBISCITE**

A plebiscite will be held for the purpose of seeking approval of the irrigators to apply to transfer up to 600 acre feet of water allocated in the district's water licence to the Town of Okotoks, with up to 100 acre feet of this total available for private development on the Elbow River. If approved, this proposed transfer will coincide with the transfer of an equivalent volume of water from the water licences issued to other parties to the Bow River Irrigation District, resulting in no net change to the district's allocation. The compensation payable to the BRID will be at least \$2,000 per acre foot.

Alberta Environment's rules for water licence transfers stipulate that when a licence is transferred from a river to one of its tributaries, the portion of a licence which can be transferred cannot exceed the portion of the flow which the tributary contributes to the main river. The Sheep River contributes less than 5% of the flow in the Bow River, so in order to provide an adequate volume for Okotoks, only large licences, such as the BRID's, are useful. Since the BRID is not willing to give up any of our allocation, we then require that other smaller licences be transferred to us, and since they are being transferred on the same system, they are 100% transferrable.

Voting will take place at the BRID on May 23<sup>rd</sup> between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. at the BRID office.

Anyone having irrigation acres on the assessment roll of the BRID is eligible to vote. If you have irrigated land in your own name and in a company name you would be able to vote for yourself and for your company.

Additional information regarding this proposed transfer is available to the public at the offices of the district.