



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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WATER SUPPLY

The gates at the Little Bow Reservoir were opened on April 27th. We began diverting water from the river on April 12th to fill the reservoirs.

At the February board meeting, the board approved of designating April 15th as the earliest date for the diversion of water from Little Bow Reservoir. This is conditional on the existence of dry conditions and weather that is conducive to canal operations. This date was previously April 23rd. April 15th is not the date that water will be turned on every year; it is merely the earliest possible date that will be considered under very dry conditions.

Total storage in McGregor, Travers, and Little Bow reservoirs is 355,000 acre feet as of May 8th, which is 88% of full storage, and storage is increasing steadily. The total storage was about 300,000 acre feet when we began filling reservoirs on April 12th.

The snowpack in the Bow River headwaters is above normal at all five measuring stations. The water supply should be good this year.

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 parcel.

BRID WEBSITE

For more information on the BRID, visit:
<http://brid.ca>

BRID ADDRESS

P.O. Box 140
704 – 7th Avenue North
Vauxhall, AB T0K 2K0

Phone: (403) 654-2111
Fax: (403) 654-4197

DITCH RIDERS

Any irrigators not sure of which ditchrider to call can call the office for the correct name and number or you can look at the ditchrider area map on our website: www.brid.ca .

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.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The annual board elections resulted in Ron Schlaht (Area #2 - Lomond/Travers) and John DeVries (Area #4 - New West/ Circle Hill) 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 (2015-2018)

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 (2015-2018)

ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS

The BRID now accepts online bill payments through most major banks and credit unions.

WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

The Bow River Irrigation District will be applying herbicides to control vegetation in or within 30 horizontal meters of open bodies of 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 23rd and continue until the first week of September. Affected water users will be notified before aquatic applications begin. Please check page 4 of this newsletter or <http://brid.ca/> for a list of locations and application dates. The weed control program is administered by licensed applicators.

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

Organic growers or any water users who do not wish the BRID to use chemicals adjacent to their land must fill out a No Spray Zone agreement with the district at the start of the season. Contact Bill Skelly at the BRID Office: (403) 654-2111 for information.

IRRIGATION EXPANSION

This is notice that applications for the intensification of irrigated parcels will be accepted, however, irrigation acres are only available due to cancellations or a reduction in the number of acres purchased when current applications are processed. There is no guarantee that irrigation acres will be available.

We are awaiting modelling information from the government as one part of our expansion process. After we secure that information and our board confirms details of the proposed expansion, the district will be holding public meetings at several locations within the district. At these meetings, the information will be presented to irrigators which will detail the justification for expansion. A plebiscite will follow these meetings, which will afford irrigators the opportunity to approve or reject the expansion plans.

No firm date has been set for the meetings and plebiscite but they are expected to be held soon after the 2017 irrigation season.

Applications for the development of dryland parcels will no longer be accepted as irrigation acres for new parcels have all been reserved. New parcels can potentially still be added to the District, but the applicant(s) will have to secure the required irrigation acres from other irrigators with a supply of unused acres or from their own parcels which contain unused acres.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Rolf Schwabe at the BRID office in Vauxhall.

Please submit applications to:

Rolf Schwabe, Executive Assistant

Bow River Irrigation District

P.O. Box 140, Vauxhall, Alberta T0K 2K0

Telephone: (403) 654-2111

Fax: (403) 654-4197

DRAIN / CANAL RELOCATIONS POLICY

The District had a policy whereby it would contribute 75% of the cost of a canal relocation, up to a maximum of \$60,000, when a landowner planned to relocate a canal or drain that was interfering with their irrigation system or farming practices. This policy was eliminated in April 2017.

Any irrigators who want to relocate a canal or drain are still able to present their requests to the board, but the elimination of the policy means that a contribution to the project costs cannot be guaranteed.

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

HEADWORKS REHABILITATION

Work was completed on Travers and Little Bow reservoirs this spring, including the removal of the irrigation outlet control structure on Travers Dam, which used to separate it from Little Bow Reservoir. Those two reservoirs now function as a single reservoir. This work was the final step in the completion of the rehabilitation and upgrading of the headworks system, which began in the early 1990's.

2017 MAGNACIDE APPLICATION 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: Thursday, May 25; Tuesday, May 30**;
Wednesdays: June 7, June 28, and July 19

Badger / Lonesome Lake Area – Lower Lomond Lateral TWP 17, RGE 17, 18

-Applications on Tuesdays: June 20 and July 11

Travers / Lomond Area – Lomond Lateral TWP 15, 16 RGE 19

-Applications on May 24 and Monday May 29**; Tuesday, June 13; Wednesdays: July 5 and July 26

Travers / Lomond Area – Lateral D TWP 15, RGE 19

-Applications: Wednesdays: May 31, June 21, July 12, August 2

Enchant Area – Lateral B TWP 14, 15, RGE 18, 19

-Applications on Tuesdays: June 6, June 27, July 18

Circle Hill / Stonehill Area - Lateral B TWP 14, 15, RGE 16, 17

-Applications on Thursdays: June 1, June 15, June 29, and July 13

Vauxhall/Retlaw Area -Lateral A TWP 13, RGE 16, 17

-Application on June 14 & Thursdays: July 6, July 27

Vauxhall Area - Lateral C TWP 13, 14, RGE 16

-Application on June 14 & Thursdays: July 6, July 27

Vauxhall Area - Lateral H & H-1 TWP 12, 13, RGE 16

-Application on Fridays: June 2, June 23, July 14, and August 4

Hays Area - Lateral R below Scope Reservoir

TWP 12, 13 RGE 13, 14

-Applications on Tuesday, May 23; Mondays - June 5, June 19; Tuesday, July 4; Mondays -July 17, July 31, and August 21

Hays Area – Main Canal below Scope Reservoir

TWP 13, RGE 13, 14

-Applications on Friday, May 26; Thursdays: June 8, and June 22; Friday, July 7; and Thursday, July 20

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. **Organic growers should inform their ditchrider** of the location of their certified organic crop so that sprayers can be notified.

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