



# INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

If you would prefer receiving newsletters via email please send us a message to: [newsletter@brid.ca](mailto:newsletter@brid.ca)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- EXPANSION UPDATE
- INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING
- CONSTRUCTION
- 2020 WATER OPERATIONS
- HISTORY BOOK
- BOARD MEETING SUBMISSIONS
- STAFF CHANGES
- WATER RATES PAYMENT DEADLINE
- IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER QUALITY DATA TOOL
- HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

## EXPANSION UPDATE

Expansion of the BRID’s assessment roll from 260,000 to 295,000 acres is nearing its conclusion. As applications greatly exceeded the number of acres available for new parcel development, not all applicants received the number of parcels they desired. After distributing irrigation acres to applicants, the board has capped the maximum number of parcels for any one irrigator at twelve. The district is no longer accepting applications for new parcels.

The District is accepting applications for intensification, which is defined as irrigation acres which are added to parcels of land that already contain irrigation acres. Current applications total 4,159 acres, and the District has reserved 8,000 acres strictly for intensification. The cost is currently \$1,500.00 per acre plus GST.

A policy approved at the March 26, 2019 regular board meeting has placed conditions on the purchase of intensification acres. Acres can only be purchased for parcels of land which contained irrigation acres as of January 1, 2019. Intensification acres cannot be purchased to replace irrigation acres which are transferred or removed from an irrigated parcel after January 1, 2019. In the past it was permissible for irrigators to purchase irrigation acres to fill parcels, then consolidate unused acres to develop dryland parcels. They could then purchase intensification acres again to fill the parcels. This practice greatly reduced the number of intensification acres that would otherwise have been available to irrigators who required some acres to cover needs due to a system change.

This policy will eliminate that practice and should ensure that intensification acres will be available to anyone that genuinely requires acres for the foreseeable future.

Please contact either Rolf Schwabe at (403) 654-2111, (403) 654-7060, email [RolfS@brid.ca](mailto:RolfS@brid.ca) or Evan Blindback at (403)654-2111, (403)-654-7095, email [EvanB@brid.ca](mailto:EvanB@brid.ca) if you wish to apply for, or have questions concerning irrigation acres.

### **BRID ADDRESS**

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

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

### **BRID WEBSITE**

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

## **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

As Premier Kenney announced on October 9, the Government of Alberta is contributing \$244.5 million to a major \$815 million project to modernize irrigation district infrastructure and increase water storage capacity in the eight largest irrigation districts. The government's contribution will cover 30% of the project costs, with 70% covered by the irrigation districts. The districts will contribute 20% initially, with the remaining 50% funded by a long-term low interest loan from the Canada Infrastructure Bank. It is expected that the infrastructure modernization projects will be completed by the spring of 2025, with reservoir projects completed by the spring of 2028.

Our proposed Deadhorse Coulee reservoir on our main canal between Retlaw and Enchant will be built under this agreement. In addition, the following modernization projects are included:

- Lomond Lateral Rehabilitation to Lateral G check.
- B-5- C and Drain B (Vauxhall Block) pipelines.
- Lost Lake north channel pipeline.
- Lateral H concrete canal (West Block) pipeline replacement.
- Lateral H-7-2 (West Block) pipeline.
- Lateral O (Hays Block) pipeline.
- Lateral B & K laterals (Vauxhall Block) pipelines.

## **CONSTRUCTION**

This will be a busy construction year for the district. Our crew will be completing two pipeline projects near Vauxhall. The H/H-1 pipeline will replace the outlet canal from Reservoir H (Marshes Lake), and the B-5-C /Drain B pipelines will serve irrigation currently supplied by Drain A (Expanse Coulee). Dennis Dirtworx Ltd. will be modernizing several kilometers of the Lomond Lateral near Badger Reservoir, and the North channel for irrigation supply at Lost Lake will be replaced with a pipeline.

## **2020 WATER OPERATIONS**

For the first time since 2014 our water use was below average. The diversion from Little Bow Reservoir was 252,000 acre feet, which is 5% below the long term average. The total diversion from the Bow River at Carseland was 284,400 acre feet, which is 52% of the licensed total. The total storage in the headworks reservoirs at the end of the year was 323,000 acre feet.

## **HISTORY BOOK**

The BRID now has updated history books. A chapter was added to the original book, which is a history of the district from the early concept in 1903 through 1995. The final chapter updates the history through 2019. Any irrigator interested in a copy of the book needs only to make a request to the BRID and a free copy will be sent to you.

## **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 Wednesday prior to the board meeting. Board meetings are normally held on the fourth Wednesday of every month. A submission received after that time will be considered for the agenda of the next month's meeting.

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

## **STAFF CHANGES**

Cory Hull was hired as the new Inventory Storekeeper, Anne Cazemier as our Accounts Receivable clerk and Dylan Fletcher, Engineering Technologist will start in November. Matt Coster will be leaving us at the end of October. Rolf Schwabe will be retiring at the end of January 2021.

## **WATER RATES PAYMENT DEADLINE**

Please note that the deadline for payment of 2020 water rates is December 31, 2020. The payment must be received at the BRID on or before this date. Any payments arriving in the mail after December 31<sup>st</sup> will be considered as late, even if they are postmarked December 31<sup>st</sup>.

An online payment must be in the BRID's bank account on or before the deadline or it will be considered late. This means initiating the payment with your bank several days before the deadline to ensure it is posted to our account on time.

Payments (cash, cheque or online only) can be made in the following manner:

- Payment posted to our account online on or before December 31, 2020.
- Payment at the office on or before 4:30 P.M. on December 31, 2020, during office hours (see holiday hours below).
- Mailed cheques must be received no later than December 31, 2020.

Penalties on arrears will be applied January 2, 2021.

If you are sending in a cheque from someone other than the owner named on the invoice, please specify on the cheque: the owner name, account number and land location being paid for. This is to ensure that payment is applied to the correct account. If someone other than the landowner is responsible for paying the water rates, it is the landowner's responsibility to forward the bill on to the responsible party.

Receipts will no longer be mailed for online or mailed payments. Please contact the office to request a receipt.

## **IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER QUALITY DATA TOOL**

This website provides access to water quality data collected throughout Alberta's 13 irrigation districts as part of the Irrigation District Water Quality Project. This project assesses the quality of water in Alberta's irrigation districts.

To access this website, enter [www.idwq.ca/](http://www.idwq.ca/)

## **HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

- Closed** – Thursday, December 24, 2020 through Monday, December 28, 2020 for Christmas Holidays
- Open** - Tuesday, December 29, 2020 through Thursday, December 31, 2020
- Closed** – Friday, January 1, 2021