



SPRING NEWSLETTER

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704-7th Avenue North
Phone: (403) 654-2111
Fax: (403) 654-4197

BRID WEBSITE

Visit our website for more information on BRID at: <https://brid.ca>

NOTICE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual meeting of the Board of Directors and Irrigators of the Bow River Irrigation District will be held Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 1:30 PM in the Vauxhall Community Hall.

WATER SUPPLY

The mountain snowpack at the end of March is below average in the Bow River basin but similar to last year at this time. April is a critical month for snowfall in the mountains, so we never know until late April what our water supply will look like. The large headworks reservoirs are currently at about 90% of normal winter storage, so we are in reasonable shape heading into the season, but we will have a lower on-farm water use limit than last year. The worst case, if mountain weather conditions are poor in April, will

be 12”, but the official starting limit will be set at the April 24 board meeting. If mountain snowpack is better by then, it should be over 12”, and if water supplies improve due to rainfall during the season it could be increased further. We will also allow irrigators to trade a portion of their water limit to other irrigators this year.

The water turn-on date has not been set yet, but with good current soil moisture, and a slight deficit in reservoir storage, we hope to begin deliveries in early May instead of April.

As requested by the province, we will participate in water sharing agreements with other licence holders in the Bow basin to ensure that all essential water needs are met.

WATER ORDERS AND ORDERING

The ditchriders make every effort to deliver water as soon as possible after it is ordered, but all irrigators must order water 24 hours in advance of the time that they wish to commence irrigation. Though it may take up to 24 hours to deliver water to any specific parcel, ditchriders will attempt to deliver water as soon as it is reasonably possible. Irrigators are also reminded that they are required to give 24 hours’ notice of shutoffs.

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 by phone or text, can still be sent at any time but the ditchriders are not expected to respond before 7:00 A.M or after 7:00 P.M. Contacting your ditchrider by texting is encouraged as the preferred method of communication. This method ensures that a record of communication exists between both parties.

Pipelines may seem to always contain water, but it takes time for water to flow to the inlets from the reservoirs and canals. When too many irrigators take water without ordering it causes shortages downstream.

The board and Management will also look at enforcing further penalties on those who ignore the BRID’s policies and bylaws concerning water ordering.

CROP REPORTS

In 2024, crop information for most ditchriders will be gathered by the office. Unless your ditchrider asks you for that information, irrigators will be receiving requests for crop information by email or telephone early in the irrigation season.

DO NOT OPEN PIPE VALVES EARLY

The ditchriders check and close all pipeline valves in fall and spring prior to the next irrigation season. They do not normally check valves again immediately prior to the water turn-on. When they start priming the pipelines, in some cases it is discovered that some valves have been opened and left open. This may cause flooding of a portion of the irrigator’s land, and we are not aware of it until notified by the landowner. All irrigators are requested to leave the valves closed until water is ordered. It is evident that some irrigators are opening domestic delivery valves to check if water is in the pipeline yet and leaving the valve open.

Not tampering with the valves is appreciated by the ditchriders as they will have better luck with priming the pipelines and will not have to respond to any flooding issues. Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTICE: WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

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

Activities will be carried out under approval No. 10409-05-00 issued by Alberta Environment. This approval expires February 15, 2030. Applications for broadleaf control will begin in May and continue until the end of September. For aquatic weed and algae control, treatments will begin May 17th, 2024, and continue until the second week of September. Please check our website <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 (PCP #29248)	
Engenia (Dicamba) (PCP #32220)	Control of broadleaf weeds, willow, brush, poplar
Transorb (Glyphosate) (PCP #28198)	
Estaprop XT (PCP #29660)	
Transorb (Glyphosate) (PCP #28198)	Control of cattail and reed canary grass.

If you have any questions regarding this activity, please call Bill Skelly at the Bow River Irrigation District office at (403) 654-2111.

2024 MAGNACIDE APPLICATION NOTICE

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

**Sundial/Enchant/Deadhorse Area – Main Canal-
TWP 13, 14, 15 – RG 17, 18, 19, 20**
-Applications on Fridays June 7, July 12

**Deadhorse/Vauxhall/Hays Area – Main Canal –
TWP 13, 14 – RG 14, 15, 16, 17**
-Applications on Saturdays June 8, July 13, and Friday August 9

**Travers /Lomond Area – Lomond Lateral -
TWP 15, 16 – RG 19**
-Applications on Tuesdays May 21, June 4, June 25, July 16

**Badger/Lonesome Lake Area – Lower Lomond Lateral
TWP 17 – RG 17, 18**
-Applications on Wednesdays June 12, July 10, August 14

**Travers/Lomond Area – Lateral D
TWP 15 – RG 19**
-Applications on Tuesdays May 28, June 18, July 9, July 30

**Badger Lake Area – Lateral G & G-3
TWP 17 – RG 18**
-Applications on Mondays June 24, July 22

**Badger Lake/Enchant Area – Lateral H
TWP 15, 16 – RG 18**
-Applications on Wednesdays May 22, June 5, June 19, July 3, July 17, August 7, August 28

**Travers/Lomond Area – Drain F
TWP 16 – RG 18, 19**
-Applications on Tuesdays May 28, June 18, July 9 July 30

**Vauxhall/Retlaw Area – Lateral A
TWP 13 – RG 16, 17**
-Application on Fridays May 24, June 14, July 5, July 26, August 16

**Circle Hill/Stone Hill Area – Lateral B
TWP 14, 15 – RG 16, 17**
-Applications on Thursday May 30, June 13, June 27, July 11, August 1, August 22

**Vauxhall Area/ Lateral C
TWP 13, 14 – RG 16**
-Application on Fridays May 24, June 14, July 5, July 26, August 16

**Circle Hill/Stonehill Area – Lateral K-10
TWP 14 – RG 16, 17**
-Application on Friday July 19

**Circle Hill/Stonehill Area – Lateral K-11
TWP 14, 15 – RG 16, 17**
-Applications on Mondays June 10, July 8

**Hay Area – Lateral R Scope Reservoir
TWP – 12, 13 – RG 13, 14**
-Applications on Friday May 17, Mondays June 3, June 17, Tuesday July 2, Mondays July 15, July 29, August 12, August 26

**Hays Area – Main Canal below Scope Reservoir
TWP 13 – RG 13, 14**
-Applications on Thursdays May 23, June 6, June 20, July 4, July 18, August 8

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 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 irrigating should inform their ditchrider to be aware of any application, which could affect organic crop certification. Please check the application schedule on our website at <http://brid.ca/pesticide.html> . If you have any questions regarding Magnacide application, please call Bill Skelly at the Bow River Irrigation District office (403)654-2111.

BOARD MEETING SUBMISSIONS

Board meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month. 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. Submissions received after that time will be considered for the agenda of next month's meeting.

Submissions to the office should be addressed to either the board of directors, Richard Phillips - General Manager, or Jessica Robbins - Assistant General Manager - Finance & HR. They can be sent by mail, fax (403-654-4197), or email to Richard.Phillips@brid.ca Jessica.Robbins@brid.ca.

STAFF CHANGES

Neil Redekop and Kaleb Unrau, laborers, left 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.

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 normal fee and with a 3 to 5-day turnaround.

DITCHRIDER INFORMATION

Area 1- Headworks: **Nicholas May**
(403) 892-9446

Area 2 – Travers/Lomond: **Lonnie Howg**
(403) 485- 1392

Area 3 – Badger Reservoir: **Vince Row**
(403) 485-1391 or (403) 654-3042

Area 4 – Enchant: **Kelly Howg**
(403) 654-0361

Area 5 – Vauxhall North: **Bryden Geremia**
(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: Daryl Brouwers
(403) 654-8162

IRRIGATION EXPANSION UPDATE

At the start of the 2019 expansion, 8,000 acres were allocated to intensification. The last of these acres were sold towards the end of 2021. After reviewing the applications still being processed and taking in account the acres reserved for future projects, the district has not reached its limit of 295,000 acres. In January 2022, the board approved 1,200 additional acres to be available for intensification at a cost of \$3,000/acre. The previous conditions that determined if a parcel was eligible for intensification acres are still in effect. In addition, acres will only be added to

areas which are irrigated with efficient systems. As of March 25, 2024, there are 244 acres remaining for intensification.

If you are interested in purchasing intensification acres, the procedure is:

1. Contact the office to determine if the parcel is eligible, and how many acres will be required.
2. Pay a \$100.00/acre deposit to hold the acres for you.
3. Install your system in the field.
4. Confirm with the office that the system is in place and confirm the number of acres required.
5. Pay the balance of the invoice.

Please contact Evan Blindback at (403) 654 -2111, (403) 654-7095 or evan.blindback@brid.ca if you wish to apply for or have questions concerning irrigation acres.

DEADHORSE COULEE RESERVOIR

We are continuing to make progress on this project and anticipate applying for approval later this year to build it. Depending on the length of the approval process, construction may begin in late 2025.

EYREMORE DAM

The province has hired a consultant to complete a feasibility study for the proposed Eyremore Dam. This would create a large new reservoir on the Bow River downstream of the Bassano Dam to improve water management for the Bow, Oldman, and South Saskatchewan rivers.

CULTIVATION/GRAZING LEASES

There are various cultivation/grazing leases that are expiring this year. More information will be made available as details are finalized later this year.