



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

If you would prefer to have this newsletter emailed to you...send us an email with your request to: newsletter@brid.ca

BRID ADDRESS & WEBSITE

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CONSTRUCTION

The 2015/16 construction projects (all pipelines) are as follows:

- Lateral C-7 (Hays Block)
- Laterals H-6-3 (West Block)
- Laterals K-11-B, K-11-C, K-11-D, K-11-E (Vauxhall Block)



HEADWORKS CONSTRUCTION

Work is progressing under two separate contracts this winter to complete the remaining work at Travers and Little Bow dams. This work will complete the spillway system and raise the level of Little Bow Reservoir. All of the work will be completed in early 2017.

IRRIGATION REHABILITATION PROGRAM

At the November 18, 2015 meeting of the B.R.I.D. Board of Directors, the I.R.P. Three Year Rolling Plan was approved for submission to Irrigation Council. The planned pipeline project is:

- 2016-2019 Lateral B (West Block) This is a large lateral, serving the area between Enchant and Prouty Lake, and it will require three years of IRP funding.

DITCHRIDERS

Richard Church has been the ditchrider for **Area #10 – Hays** since July 1, 2015. He took over Ivan Bolen's area and his telephone number is the same as Ivan's was: (403) 654-8082

Any irrigators not sure of which ditchrider to call can call the office for the correct name and number.

Communication is a key component for the smooth and efficient operation of the district. Improvements have resulted in the ability to deliver water almost on demand. Irrigators are continuing to improve their communication with the ditchriders concerning water orders. However, there are still too many instances where the irrigators are not communicating their shutoffs to ditchriders. This results in wasted water, and irrigators' water allocations are based on the time water is ordered on until it is ordered off, so failing to order water off may result in an irrigator running out of water well before they actually use their allocation. This may be critical in a year where the normal 24" per acre allotment is reduced due to low water supply conditions. It also allows the ditchrider to potentially help out other irrigators with the timely diversion of water in the system to them when orders are placed. All ditchriders can be contacted by a telephone call or text message.

EXPANSION ACRES UPDATE

The district has nearly reached its expansion limit of 260,000 assessed acres. Any applications for expansion (current dryland parcels) will now be placed on a waiting list. As formerly approved applications are processed, some irrigation acres may become available although the number is unlikely to exceed 320 acres. The waiting list currently has 2,800 acres in applications.

An application at this time would not result in the ability to develop additional irrigated parcels but would help the district to gauge interest in a potential future expansion.

The district also has approximately 215 irrigation acres available for intensification (increasing assessed acres on existing irrigated parcels) only. These acres are sold on a first come, first served basis. Irrigators are encouraged to examine their operation and determine whether they have any need for additional acres in the near future.

If you wish to apply, or if you have any questions concerning availability of irrigation acres, please contact Rolf Schwabe at 403-654-2111 or RolfS@brid.ca.

2015 WATER OPERATIONS

Our water use in 2015 was about 10% higher than the long term average, which is good for such a dry year. McGregor and Travers reservoirs are at normal winter levels. Little Bow reservoir is below normal level to facilitate construction activities.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

After **35 years of service** to the Bow River Irrigation District, **Don Ackrill**, Mechanic, retired this past summer. We wish him all the best.

Also retiring after 35 years, **Lorne Pretzlaw**, Engineering Technologist, worked his last day on October 14th, 2015. We thank him for his dedication.

WATER RATES PAYMENT DEADLINE - UPDATE

Please note that the deadline for payment of 2015 water rates is December 31, 2015. Payment (cash, cheque or online only) can be made in the following manner:

- Payment at the office on or before December 31st, 2015 during office hours (see holiday hours below).
- Cheques in the mail dated December 31, 2015 or earlier and postmarked by Canada Post no later than December 31st.
- Cheques dated December 31st, 2015 or earlier and deposited in our drop box located to the south of the main door of the office any time prior to opening on Monday, January 4 at 8:00 A.M.
- Payment made online on or before December 31st, 2015.

Penalties on arrears will be applied on January 1, 2016.

Please note that to receive the discount on water rates **in the future**, payments must be received at the BRID no later than October 31st. **This means that any payments arriving in the mail after October 31st will not be eligible for the discount, even if they are postmarked October 31st.**

If you are sending in a cheque from someone other than the owner named on the irrigation billing, please specify on the cheque the invoice number, owner number and/or land location being paid for. This is to ensure that the correct account is credited.

If someone other than the landowner is responsible for paying the irrigation billing, it is up to the landowner to forward the bill on to the responsible party.

ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS - UPDATE

If you bank with the following institutions, you are now be able to make payments to the BRID online:

- ATB Financial
- BMO
- CIBC
- RBC
- Scotiabank
- TD

Most credit unions will also allow you to make payments to us online, but you may need to contact your branch to see if we are listed as a creditor with them.

Online payment must be in the BRID's bank account on or before the deadlines 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.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Closed – Thursday, December 24, 2015 through Monday, December 28th, 2015 for Christmas Holidays

Open – Tuesday December 29, 2015 through Thursday, December 31st

Closed – Friday January 1, 2015

Open – Monday January 4, 2015.

The directors & staff of the Bow River Irrigation District would like to wish you all a **MERRY CHRISTMAS & a HAPPY NEW YEAR !**