



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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CONSTRUCTION

The 2017/2018 construction projects will consist of only the Lateral B-5 pipeline. This is year two of the three year project to replace all of the Lateral B (West Block) canal system. This portion of the pipeline will extend from Highway #526 near the BRID’s Enchant camp to Prouty Lake.

EXPANSION

The BRID is planning a further expansion of the irrigated acreage of the district. Modelling of the water requirements and water supply is underway. It is anticipated that the public meetings and plebiscite will be held in early 2018. 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.

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. 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 Headworks Canal, Main Canal or Lomond Lateral will have no capacity issues. Most of the pipelines and some smaller canals may be at their maximum capacity.

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BRID WEBSITE

Visit our website for more information on the BRID at: brid.ca

2. 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 its irrigation.
3. Advertising process: Applications are advertised in 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 affect 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

The BRID cannot accept any responsibility if an irrigator purchases irrigation equipment for a parcel or parcels that cannot be irrigated.

We do not have irrigation acres available now, and will not in the future, unless the district is successful in its expansion efforts. Although applications for the development of dryland parcels and the intensification of existing irrigated parcels are being accepted, the applications will be placed on a waiting list. Having an application on the waiting list does not imply any priority in the approval over applications that are received after the plebiscite date. It also does not imply that the application will be approved.

SALE OR RENTAL OF IRRIGATION ACRES

The *Irrigation Districts Act* allows irrigation acres to be transferred from one parcel to another through permanent sale, and allows acres that are not being used on a parcel to be rented for use on another parcel on an annual basis. Parcels where the acres are to be used must have soil tests completed, which prove that the land is irrigable. On our website, brid.ca, we maintain lists of irrigators who are interested in buying or selling irrigation acres, as well as those who want to rent irrigation acres and those who are willing to rent excess acres to others.

If you want to be added to these lists, please contact us at 403-654-2111 or via email to: RolfS@brid.ca .

WATER RATES PAYMENT DEADLINE

The deadline date to receive a 5% discount on water rates is October 31, 2017. The payment must be received at the BRID on or before this date. Any payments arriving in the mail after October 31st are not eligible for the discount, even if they are postmarked October 31st.

Online payments 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.

Please note that the deadline for payment of 2017 water rates is January 2, 2018. Payment (cash, cheque or online only) can be made in the following manner:

- Payment at the office on or before January 2, 2018, during office hours (see holiday hours below).
- Cheques in the mail dated January 2, 2018, or earlier and postmarked no later than January 2.
- Payment posted to our account online on or before January 2, 2018.

Penalties on arrears will be applied January 3, 2018.

If you are sending in a cheque from someone other than the owner named on the invoice, please specify on the cheque: the invoice number, owner name and 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 water rates, it is the landowner’s responsibility to forward the bill on to the responsible party.

At the September 28, 2016 board meeting, the board agreed that **receipts will no longer be mailed for online or mailed payments. Receipts will only be given to people making in-person payments or upon request.**

2017 WATER OPERATIONS

OPENING OF PIPELINE VALVES IN SPRING

Prolonged hot, dry weather caused consistently high demand throughout most of the year, and our total water diversion out of Little Bow Reservoir was 351,500 acre feet, which is 34% above the average diversion for the past 25 years. Our water use in 2017 was the fourth highest on record, after 2001 (427,000 acre feet), 1988 (391,000 acre feet) and 2000 (375,000 acre feet).

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.

In spite of the high demand for water, we should finish the season with normal winter storage volumes in reservoirs, and significantly more than we had at the beginning of the year. Historically, full winter storage in the headworks reservoirs (McGregor, Travers, and Little Bow) was 316,000 acre feet, and this year we expect to have at least that much in those reservoirs when we shut off the diversion from the river. As of October 12, we have 311,000 acre feet. We began the year with just over 300,000 acre feet in the headworks reservoirs, because Travers was drawn down to accommodate construction last winter. Our main internal reservoirs, Badger and Scope, are at normal winter levels.

All irrigators are requested to leave the valves closed until water is ordered.

It is evident that some irrigators are opening valves to check if water is in the pipeline yet and leaving the valves open. Domestic delivery valves are often left 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.

The total diversion from the Bow River at Carseland this year will be approximately 420,000 acre feet, which is under 80% of the total allowed under all of the existing licences.

WATER ON DEMAND / WATER ORDERING

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. This is more likely to be possible if your source of water is on a major canal or on a pipeline originating from a major canal. If another irrigator has finished with their order, their water may be diverted immediately.

We had a very small number of flood irrigators this year that used their entire 24-inch allocation, and then purchased additional water. Several irrigators with only sprinkler irrigation were close to their 24 inch water use limits.

Ditchriders are not expected to have to deliver water on Sundays.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Closed – Monday, December 25, 2017 through Wednesday, December 27, 2017 for Christmas Holidays

Open - Thursday December 28 and Friday, December 29, 2017

Closed – Monday January 1, 2018

Open – Tuesday January 2, 2018.

In some locations, irrigators may have to order water up to 48 hours in advance of the time it is required, and all irrigators should order water the day before they wish to irrigate to ensure that their water is delivered on time.

Irrigators are also reminded that they must give 24 hours notice of shutoffs whenever possible.

Irrigators are reminded that they must communicate their turn-ons and shutoffs to their ditchrider. This is

always important, and more so in a dry year. If you have stopped irrigating, and haven't informed your ditchrider that your system is off, it may be considered as still operating and using water. You may risk exceeding your limit, which is 24" per acre in most seasons, if your system is considered as on.

If you take water without ordering, you may also be taking the water from another irrigator who has ordered it.

WEED CONTROL ADJACENT TO ORGANIC CROPS

The district has had concerns about weed control on BRID lands and canal banks for some time. The BRID normally mows canal banks or sprays to control weeds to reduce the likelihood of affecting other landowners. By request of landowners who grow organic crops, weeds have not been sprayed adjacent to organic crop fields.

At the September board meeting, the board agreed that 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.