



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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EXPANSION

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The BRID held an expansion plebiscite on December 4, 2018. The irrigators who came to vote approved of the district’s expansion by a large majority. The district is currently in the process of expanding the district by 35,000 acres.

27,000 acres were reserved for the development of dryland parcels and 8,000 acres were reserved for the intensification of irrigated parcels. After initial applications were accepted and deposits paid, dryland applications totalled 30,700 acres, 3,700 acres above the allotment. The district is not accepting applications for the development of dryland parcels.

Intensification applications (adding irrigation acres to existing irrigated parcels) total 3,100 acres, leaving 4,900 acres available to applicants.

The current price is \$1,500 per acre (plus GST). Applications will be examined to ensure that the BRID infrastructure can accept the additional demand and if soil testing will be required.

If you are interested in applying for intensification irrigation acres, please contact Rolf Schwabe at 403-654-2111 or RolfS@brid.ca.



Are you thinking about expanding your irrigation? We’re working with FCC to give you some financing options.

FCC has experience and knowledge in agriculture and in irrigation financing. If you’d like to learn more, or get pre-approved, just fill out the form at the link below. A representative from FCC will call you to discuss your options.

fcc.ca/irrigation

BRID ADDRESS

P.O. Box 140
704 – 7th 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

[F.C.C. presentation: Exploring risk profitability in ag business](#)

January 29, 2020

Vauxhall, Alberta - Vauxhall Community Hall 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M., lunch included

Learn about the economic factors influencing the ag business environment and the tools and techniques to manage the factors on your farm that impact profitability.

What you’ll learn:

- Lock-in interest rates or go short-term? What should you monitor?
- Navigate trade tensions and determine exposure to market risk.
- Understand economic drivers and farmland values.
- Project profit margins for crops and livestock

Presented by J.P. Gervais, FCC Vice-President and Chief Agricultural Economist

J.P. Gervais will provide an overview of how to make the best investment and production decisions for your

farm in the current economic environment.

J.P. Gervais has over 20 years analyzing agricultural policies and markets helping guide strategy and monitor risk at the FCC. He speaks on the connection between global trends and agri-food markets and shares insight on the agriculture industry through the FCC Ag Economics blog. He has a Ph.D. in economics and is past president of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society.

Register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/exploring-risk-and-profitability-in-ag-business-farm-business-plans-risk-reward-and-profit-vauxhall-registration-73877849637>

CONSTRUCTION

This winter we'll complete three relatively small pipeline projects in the Lomond area. The E-2 pipeline will serve eight parcels, the Drain F pipeline will convey water from the Lomond Lateral to Drain F, as well as other parcels on the Enchant Drain, and the M-1 pipeline will serve two parcels. This work will be primarily completed by the BRID crew. We are also replacing Drop 7 on the main canal. This work is being done by VHL Construction of Taber, which was the contractor for the replacement of Drop 5 last year.

2019 WATER OPERATIONS

The total diversion from the Bow River at Carseland was 389,000 acre feet, which is 71.5% of the total licensed allocation. Approximately 90% of this is counted as BRID's use, with the remainder counted as use under other licenses. We had above average diversion from Little Bow each month from April through August. The highest monthly Little Bow Reservoir diversion occurred in June, with a total of 91,000 acre feet, which is 40,000 acre feet higher than the June average. Our total diversion from Little Bow Reservoir was 314,000 acre feet, which is nearly 47,000 acre feet above the long-term average. This includes approximately 14,000 acre feet of spill to get Travers/Little Bow Reservoir down to winter level. The reservoirs were being kept fairly full through August in anticipation of normal fall use, but September use was only 60% of normal and October use was negligible so the surplus water was spilled. The winter level on Travers this year is 0.4 meters higher than the normal historic level, which in conjunction with the recent changes to combine Little Bow and Travers as a single reservoir gives us much better storage at the end of the year. The current storage in McGregor, Travers, and Little Bow is 333,000 acre feet, which is 17,000 acre feet above the old winter storage volume.

LEASE AUCTION LAND

The Board of Directors of the Bow River Irrigation District (BRID) invite all interested irrigators to attend a public auction to be held at the BRID office on December 9, 2019 at 11:00 AM for the lease of the following parcels of land for a five (5) year period commencing in the spring of 2020 and ending the fall of 2024:

- 1) S 1/2 & NE of 32-12-16-W4M
containing: 420 acres more or less of dryland grass, 96 AUM
(located 1 mile south & 1 mile west of Vauxhall)
- 2) Ptn. of Sec 29-12-13-W4M & Ptn. of SE 32-12-13-W4M
containing: 242 acres more or less of dryland grass, 60 AUM
(located 4 miles south & 2 miles east of Hays)
- 3) Ptn. SW 36-13-16-W4M lying north of Lateral C Canal
containing: 84 acres more or less of dryland grass, 24 AUM
(located 3.5 miles north & 1 mile east of Vauxhall)
- 4) Ptn. NW 28-13-14-W4M south of new BRID pivot and between canals
containing: 37 acres more or less of irrigation grass or cultivation
(located 3 miles west & 1.5 miles north of Hays)

Grazing leases will be restricted to only cow/calf operations which means only cow/calf pairs with the exception of breeding bulls and some replacement heifers.

In conjunction with Board Policy, only "irrigators" within the BRID, as defined in the Irrigation Districts Act, may lease land from the BRID. All Interested irrigators must pre-register for this auction on BRID forms. All pre-registrations must be received before 4:30 pm December 6, 2019.

Pre-auction information may be obtained from the Bow River Irrigation District office at 704 – 7 Ave N, Vauxhall, AB or by directing inquiries to:

George Thiessen (Land Administrator) at (403) 654-2111

Email: george.thiessen@brid.ca

BRID EMPLOYEE VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

The district has received reports lately involving BRID employees interacting with non-employees where the employees have felt threatened or harassed.

The BRID is committed to providing its employees with a violence and harassment free workplace. The workplace isn't confined to the office/shop building, it can be considered any jobsite within the district's boundaries. This applies to all employees, consultants and contractors of the BRID, and irrigators when they are in contact with employees.

Workplace violence means the threatened, attempted or actual conduct of a person that causes or is likely to cause physical injury, whether work related or at a work site. Harassment occurs when one person subjects another person to unwelcome verbal or physical conduct.

The BRID has a zero-tolerance stance for any type of workplace violence, bullying and harassment.

WATER RATES PAYMENT DEADLINE

Please note that the deadline for payment of 2019 water rates is December 31, 2019. The payment must be received at the BRID on or before this date. Any payments arriving in the mail after December 31st will be considered as late, even if they are postmarked December 31st.

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, 2019.
- Payment at the office on or before 4:30 P.M. on December 31, 2019, during office hours (see holiday hours below).
- Mailed cheques must be received no later than December 31, 2019.

Penalties on arrears will be applied January 2, 2020.

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, number 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.

Receipts will no longer be mailed for online or mailed payments.

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/

DEADHORSE

The district has been considering the possibility of constructing a new reservoir on the main canal at Deadhorse coulee, three miles SW of Lost Lake, for the past few years. A study completed by a consultant in 2017 showed that a reservoir of approximately 20,000 acre feet could be built at this location. In addition to improving our total water supply, this reservoir would improve our operations by allowing us to re-regulate flow between Little Bow and Scope Reservoirs. This fall a preliminary geotechnical investigation was completed to assess the foundation conditions for the dams, and the results were positive. Although we hope to eventually construct a reservoir here, it would be dependent on receiving significant financial assistance from government.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Closed – Wednesday, December 25, 2019 through Friday, December 27, 2019 for Christmas Holidays

Open - Monday, December 30 and Tuesday, December 31, 2019

Closed – Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Open – Thursday, January 2, 2020