



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

P.O. Box 140
704 – 7 Avenue North
Vauxhall, AB T0K 2K0
Phone: (403) 654-2111
Fax: (403) 654-4197
Website: www.brid.ca



WATER ON DEMAND/DITCHRIDER HOURS OF WORK

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.

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 are expected to give 24 hours notice of shutoffs whenever possible.

At the latest board meeting, the directors discussed water on demand and the hours that ditchriders are expected to be available. The board agreed that 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 phone or text, can still be sent at any time but the ditchriders can turn off their phones outside of the working hours if they wish. Responding to orders or making deliveries outside of the stated hours is at the discretion of the individual ditchrider.

Due to safety concerns, ditchriders are discouraged from working late at night or extremely early in the morning.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Area 1- Headworks: **Matt Coster** 403-485-0582

Area 2 - South Headworks and Travers/Lomond: **Lonnie Howg** 403-485-1392

Area 3 - Badger Lake: **Vince Row** 403-485-1391 or 403-654-3042

Area 4 - Enchant: **Kelly Howg** 403-654-0361

Area 5 - Vauxhall North: **Gerald Drist** 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: **Stan Kurek** 403-654-8212

Area 10 - Hays: **Richard Church** 403-654-8082

If you have an emergency and cannot contact your ditchrider, please contact either of the supervisors.

Ditchrider Supervisors: Denis Odland - 403-654-8210 Butch Porter - 403-654-0257

BOARD MEETING SUBMISSIONS

To ensure that submissions, 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 Thursday prior to the board meeting. Board meetings are scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Any submission received after that time will be placed on the agenda of the next month’s meeting. Submissions should be sent to the office addressed to either the board of directors, Richard Phillips, General Manager or Rolf Schwabe, Executive Assistant. They can be sent by mail, fax (403-654-4197), or email to RichardP@brid.ca or RolfS@brid.ca.

OPENING OF PIPELINE VALVES IN SPRING

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 valves to check if water is in the pipeline yet and leaving the valves open. Domestic delivery valves are often the ones left open.

Not tampering with the valves is appreciated by the ditchriders because they will have better luck with priming the pipelines and will not have to respond to any flooding issues.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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 some time after the 2017 irrigation season. 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 Main Canal or Lomond Lateral will have no capacity issues. Most of the pipelines and some smaller canals may be at their maximum capacity.
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 the irrigation of the parcel.
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 necessarily affect the 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.