



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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EXPANSION PLANS

The BRID has been contemplating another expansion for some time. We have no irrigation acres available for sale for new parcels, and only a very small number of acres available for intensification of existing parcels.

In order to expand, we need to hold one or more public meetings, and to then have a plebiscite, where all irrigators can vote whether or not they wish to increase the expansion limit. Prior to holding public meetings and a plebiscite, we need to have modelling done by Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment, to confirm the feasibility of expansion. We had hoped that this would be completed in time to have meetings and a plebiscite this spring, but this will not be possible. We are now looking at the fall of 2017 as the earliest possible date for a plebiscite.



Since our last expansion in 2012, we have continued to improve our efficiencies as more canals are replaced with pipelines, and as more of our irrigators install more efficient pivots. Another 12,000 acres of land previously irrigated by flood or wheel moves has had pivots installed since 2012. We have also received a substantial new water licence, and Little Bow Reservoir has been expanded, giving us at least 20,000 acre feet of additional water storage. Our low water use during the dry spring and summer of 2015 was proof of our ability to irrigate more land with less water. We are confident that another expansion is reasonable, but it will be up to you as irrigators to make the decision in the plebiscite.

We remind anyone who is interested in expansion that they will only be able to add new parcels to the district if the expansion is approved in the plebiscite, and if soil tests prove that their parcel is irrigable.

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 it also 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.

BRID OFFER OF IRRIGATION ACRES FOR RENT FOR 2017

The BRID has a number of unused irrigation acres on land the district owns which could be available for rent **in 2017 only**. There are at least 135 acres available, and possibly substantially more.

We invite anyone interested in renting any of these acres to submit a sealed bid to the District prior to 4:00 P.M. on Friday, March 17, 2017, specifying how many acres they wish to rent in 2017, and their offer per acre. The BRID reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

SOLAR POWER DEVELOPMENT

There has been considerable interest in solar power development on BRID owned lands, and the Board thinks that this could be a good way to increase revenue on some of our land. Several years ago, we signed an agreement with a developer for an option to develop a 100 acre solar power project near Hays, but no development has occurred yet. We are now considering additional development on a small portion of our lands. The majority of BRID land will still be leased for grazing or cultivation.

In order to ensure that we get the best possible deal on any future solar power projects, we hired a consultant with experience in solar development to evaluate the potential of all our lands, and to conduct a tender process for our best land for solar development. We are currently tendering the right to lease six quarter sections of land northwest of Vauxhall in TWP 13, RG 16, W4, for the development of a solar power project. Tenders will close on February 3, 2017 and the Board expects to approve entering into a contract with the developer submitting the best bid on February 14, 2017.

The District has purchased and installed ten pivots on BRID owned land in the last three years, and we intend to add one more in 2018. This has greatly increased the revenue we receive from our land, and we believe that solar development on land which is not suitable for irrigation will be another way to increase revenue.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 1:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at the Vauxhall Legion Hall. All irrigators are invited to attend.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The election of directors for electoral divisions #2 and #4 will be held on March 20, 2017. The incumbents in those areas are Ron Schlaht and John DeVries. Nomination forms are available at the office and there will also be a nomination form in the Annual Report which will be mailed out mid-month. The deadline for filing nominations is February 27, 2017 at 4:00 P.M.