



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

If you would prefer receiving newsletters via email please send us a message to: newsletter@brid.ca

IN THIS ISSUE:

- WATER SUPPLY
- 2016 ANNUAL MEETING
- DITCH RIDERS
- FIELD DRAINAGE
- ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS
- HEADWORKS REHABILITATION
- APPLICATIONS FOR IRRIGATION EXPANSION
- STAFF CHANGES
- GROWING FORWARD 2 – IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY
- BOARD ELECTIONS
- PUBLIC NOTICES: WEED CONTROL PROGRAM & 2016 MAGNACIDE APPLICATION NOTICE



McGregor Reservoir

WATER SUPPLY

If conditions remain dry, and if it is warm enough, we will begin running water out of Little Bow Reservoir to fill our canals on April 23rd, but in accordance with policy set the Board of Directors, it will not be earlier than that date. It will take a few days after that to get all of the canals and pipelines filled. This date is at least a week earlier than when our neighbouring districts consider beginning water delivery. We began diverting water from the river on April 1st to fill the reservoirs. Travers and Little Bow Reservoirs will both be full by April 11th, to allow everything to be tested at the new level before we begin taking water from Little Bow. The water to fill them has been taken from McGregor Reservoir, which has resulted in its level being temporarily much lower than normal. However, the water level will rise as we take water from the river to refill it.

The snowpack in the Bow River headwaters is normal, and total reservoir storage is normal, so we look forward to a good water supply this year.

The water allotment is expected to once again be 24 inches per irrigation acre with an extra 6 inches per acre allowed to be purchased for a flood parcel.

DITCH RIDERS

Any irrigators not sure of which ditch rider to call can call the office for the correct name and number or you can look at the ditch rider area map on our website: www.brid.ca.

STAFF CHANGES

Nicholas May was hired as our new mechanic in January 2016.

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

FIELD DRAINAGE

With spring fast approaching, landowners are to be reminded that at no time are they to pump or drain low lying areas into District drainage or delivery canals without the consent of the BRID. **Call your ditchrider first or Bill Skelly at the office.**

Any area or ponded water that appears to have polluted water will not be allowed to drain into a BRID canal unless it can be shown through testing that the water does not contain microorganisms typically found in manure. Testing can be done in Lethbridge for a nominal fee and with a 3 to 5 day turnaround.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING - Held in Vauxhall on March 15, 2016

The attendance at the BRID annual meeting has dropped again. Only 8 irrigators attended this year. With the addition of directors, staff, and representatives of various organizations, the total attendance was 25 people.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The annual board elections resulted in James Larson (Area #3-Enchant), Vic Van Dyk (Area #5-Vauxhall) and Harold Unruh (Area #6 – Grantham/West Hays) being returned to the Board by acclamation.

Following is a list of the current directors with their 3 year terms noted:

- Area #1 – Glen Logan (2015-2018)
- Area #2 – Ron Schlaht (2014-2017) –Vice-Chairman
- Area #3 – James Larson (2016 – 2019)
- Area #4 – John DeVries (2014-2017)
- Area #5 – Vic Van Dyk (2016-2019)
- Area #6 – Harold Unruh (2016-2019) – Chairman
- Area #7 – Walter Unruh (2015-2018)

ONLINE BILL PAYMENTS

The BRID now accepts online bill payments through most major banks and credit unions.

GROWING FORWARD 2 – IRRIGATION

EFFICIENCY: www.growingforward.alberta.ca

Growing Forward 2 is a federal-provincial partnership aimed at assisting Canadian agriculture in moving forward. One part of the program is funding for new low-pressure pivot irrigation equipment. Irrigators can be reimbursed for 40% of eligible costs for approved projects, incurred by the applicant for equipment upgrades to a maximum of \$5,000 OR \$15,000 of eligible costs incurred by the applicant for an upgrade from a gravity or side-wheel irrigation system to a new LPCP system. Eligible projects include:

-) upgrades of high-pressure centre pivot systems to LPCP systems;
-) pump modifications as part of an LPCP upgrade;
-) addition of high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles to existing LPCP equipment (with efficiency ratings of 85% or higher);
-) variable-rate irrigation system components (controllers and software); and
-) upgrades of centre pivot control panels.

Equipment must be new and purchased from a licensed irrigation supply dealer and installation must be performed by a licensed service provider. Costs of design and installation are eligible, while costs for delivery and GST are not. Eligible equipment must be purchased after April 1, 2013, and must be operational within six months after an application is approved.

For more information contact the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276).

HEADWORKS REHABILITATION

Work was completed to raise the dam at Little Bow Reservoir last winter, and the new outlet structure from the reservoir into our main canal was completed. The enlargement of the canal between Travers and Little Bow Reservoirs was also completed, including the construction of a new road crossing structure on the canal. Those two reservoirs will be operated as a single reservoir this year and in the future. Next winter, the existing outlet structure at Travers Dam to control flow into Little Bow Reservoir will be removed, completing the headworks rehabilitation project.

WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

The Bow River Irrigation District will be applying herbicides to control vegetation in or within 30 horizontal meters of open bodies of water owned by the district.

Activities will be carried out under approval No. 10409-04-00 issued by Alberta Environment. This approval expires March 15, 2020. Applications for broadleaf control will begin in May and continue until the end of September. For aquatic weed and algae control, treatments begin May 21st and continue until the first week of September. Affected water users will be notified before aquatic applications begin. Please check <http://brid.ca/> for a list of locations and application dates. The weed control program is administered by licensed applicators.

<u>Herbicide Used</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Magnacide H PCP# 10948	Control of submerged aquatic vegetation and algae.
2, 4-D Amine 600, Oracle (Dicamba)	Control of broadleaf weeds, willow, brush,
Vantage Plus (Glyphosate)	poplar
Vantage Plus (Glyphosate)	Control of cattail and reed canary grass.

Organic growers or any water users who do not wish the BRID to use chemicals adjacent to their land must fill out a No Spray Zone agreement with the district at the start of the season. Contact Bill Skelly at the BRID Office: (403) 654-2111 for information.

APPLICATIONS FOR IRRIGATION EXPANSION

This is notice that the Bow River Irrigation District will continue to accept applications for the intensification of existing irrigated parcels. Irrigation acres are sold on a first come first served basis. Irrigation acres are now only available due to cancellations or a reduction in the number of acres purchased when current applications are processed. There is no guarantee that irrigation acres will be available.

Intensification applications must contain the legal description of the parcel and the number of acres requested, and must be signed by the registered owner or a person authorized to sign on behalf of that landowner. Application forms are available at the office or on the BRID website at brid.ca. For your convenience, alternatively, a letter, fax or email would be acceptable provided it contains the above-noted information.

Applications for the development of dryland parcels will no longer be accepted as irrigation acres for new parcels have all been reserved. New parcels can potentially still be added to the district, but the applicant(s) will have to secure the required irrigation acres from other irrigators with a supply of unused acres or from their own parcels which contain unused acres.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Rolf Schwabe at the BRID office in Vauxhall.

Please submit applications to:

Rolf Schwabe, Executive Assistant
Bow River Irrigation District
P.O. Box 140, Vauxhall, Alberta T0K 2K0

Telephone: (403) 654-2111

Fax: (403) 654-4197

2016 MAGNACIDE APPLICATION NOTICE

The Bow River Irrigation District will apply Magnacide H to control aquatic vegetation and algae at the following locations:

Badger Lake/Enchant Area – Lateral H TWP 15, 16, RGE 18

-Applications on Tuesday, May 31**; Wednesday June 8; June 29; July 20, and Thursday May 26

Badger / Lonesome Lake Area – Lower Lomond Lateral TWP 17, RGE 17, 18

-Applications on Tuesdays, June 21; July 12

Travers / Lomond Area – Lomond Lateral TWP 15, 16 RGE 19

-Applications on Monday May 30**; Tuesdays, June 14; July 5; July 26, and Wednesday, May 25

Travers / Lomond Area – Lateral D TWP 15, RGE 19

-Applications on Wednesdays, June 1; June 22; July 13; August 3

Enchant Area – Lateral B TWP 14, 15, RGE 18, 19

-Applications on Tuesdays, June 7; June 28; July 19

Circle Hill / Stonehill Area -Lateral B TWP 14, 15, RGE 16, 17

-Applications on Thursdays, June 2; June 16; June 30; July 14

Vauxhall / Retlaw Area -Lateral A TWP 13, RGE 16, 17

-Application on Wednesdays, June 15; July 6; July 27

Vauxhall Area - Lateral C TWP 13, 14, RGE 16

-Application on Wednesdays, June 15; July 6; July 27

Vauxhall Area - Lateral H & H-1 TWP 12, 13, RGE 16

-Application on Fridays, June 3; June 24; July 15; August 5

Hays Area - Lateral R below Scope Reservoir

TWP 12, 13 RGE 13, 14

-Applications on Mondays, June 6; June 20; July 4; July 18; August 22 and Tuesdays, May 24; August 2

Hays Area – Main Canal below Scope Reservoir
TWP 13, RGE 13, 14

-Applications on Thursdays, June 9; June 23; July 7; July 21 and Friday, May 27

Hays Area – Lateral O TWP 12, 13, RGE 13, 14

-Applications on Thursdays, June 9; June 23; July 7; July 21 and Friday, May 27

**Applications only if canal is not treated a week earlier because of cold water temperatures and no algae growth.

During the application no water is permitted to enter municipal waterworks systems, water systems used to supply water for household purposes, dugouts or ponds used for livestock watering, dugouts or ponds containing stocked fish. Please ensure that water you have diverted on these dates does not apply to any of these categories.

We ask that you review the information package available from your ditchrider for more information about Magnacide H. Organic growers irrigating should inform their ditchrider to be aware of any application which could affect organic crop certification.

Please check the application schedule on our website at <http://www.brid.ca/pages/weedcontrol.html> . If you have any questions regarding Magnacide application, please call Bill Skelly at the Bow River Irrigation Office (403) 654-2111