



# SPRING NEWSLETTER

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### BRID MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O Box 140  
Vauxhall, Alberta T0K 2K0

### STREET/ COURIER ADDRESS:

704-7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Phone: (403) 654-2111  
Fax: (403) 654-4197

### BRID WEBSITE

Visit our website for more information on BRID at: <https://brid.ca>

## WATER SUPPLY

The main factors influencing river flow are the mountain snowpack, the rate at which the snow melts, and mountain rainfall. On May 19 the snowpack was above average throughout the Bow River basin, so if it does not melt too quickly there should be good flow into July. River flow after mid-July is highly dependent on

rainfall and therefore unpredictable. Our reservoir levels are good, with Travers and Little Bow filling and McGregor near full. The on-farm water allocation for this year is the normal limit of 18 inches.

### **EXPANSION UPDATE**

Increasing the expansion limit from 295,000 acres to 320,000 acres was approved by a vote of 124 in favor to 90 opposed in the February 12, 2025 plebiscite.

At the regular board meeting on March 23, 2026, an expansion bylaw was approved to change the expansion limit of the district to 310,000 acres for the first tranche of expansion. A subsequent bylaw will eventually be approved to change the expansion limit to 320,000 acres before the second tranche of the expansion begins.

Preliminary applications were accepted until April 10. Over 64,000 acres were applied for by 174 applicants. At the regular board meeting on April 22, 2026, the board of directors agreed to allocate up to 91 acres to each applicant. Formal applications will be accepted along with a deposit of \$100/acre until 4:30pm on May 25, 2026.

Please contact George Thiessen at the BRID office with any questions about the expansion.

### **REMINDERS**

All important notices are posted on our website so please check it regularly.

If you want online access to our real-time records of your water use, please email [contact@brid.ca](mailto:contact@brid.ca).

We provide notifications of significant items via text messages and email. Please ensure that we have accurate contact information for you.

### **WATER ORDERS AND ORDERING**

The ditchriders make every effort to deliver water as soon as possible after it is ordered, but all irrigators must order water 24 hours in advance of the time that they wish to commence irrigation. Though it may take up to 24 hours to deliver water to any specific parcel, ditchriders will attempt to deliver water as soon as it is reasonably possible. Irrigators are also reminded that they are required to give 24 hours' notice of shutoffs.

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 by phone or text, can still be sent at any time but the ditchriders are not expected to respond before 7:00 A.M or after 7:00 P.M. Contacting your ditchrider by texting is encouraged as the preferred method of communication. This method ensures that a record of communication exists between both parties.

Pipelines may seem to always contain water, but it takes time for water to flow to the inlets from the reservoirs and canals. When too many irrigators take water without ordering it causes shortages downstream.

The board and management will also look at enforcing further penalties on those who ignore the BRID's policies and bylaws concerning water ordering.

**CROP REPORTS**

In 2026, crop information for most ditchriders will be gathered by the office. Unless your ditchrider asks you for that information, irrigators will be receiving requests for crop information by email or telephone early in the irrigation season.

**NOTICE: WEED CONTROL PROGRAM**

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

Activities will be carried out under approval No. 10409-05-01 issued by Alberta Environment. This approval expires February 15, 2030. Applications for broadleaf control will begin in May and continue until the end of September. For aquatic weed and algae control, treatments will begin May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and continue until the second week of September. Please check our website <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 - PCP #29248	Control of broadleaf weeds, willow, brush, poplar
Engenia (Dicamba) - PCP #32220	
Transorb (Glyphosate) - PCP #28198	
Estoprop XT - PCP #29660	
Transorb (Glyphosate) - PCP #28198	Control of cattail and reed canary grass.

If you have any questions regarding this activity, please call Bill Skelly at the Bow River Irrigation District office at (403) 654-2111.

**2026 MAGNACIDE APPLICATION NOTICE**

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

**Sundial/Enchant/Deadhorse Area – Main Canal - TWP 13, 14, 15 – RG 17, 18, 19, 20**

-Applications on Fridays June 5, July 10

**Deadhorse/Vauxhall/Hays Area – Main Canal – TWP 13, 14 – RG 14, 15, 16, 17**

-Applications on Saturdays June 6, July 11, and Friday August 7

**Travers /Lomond Area – Lomond Lateral - TWP 15, 16 – RG 19**

-Applications on Tuesdays May 19, June 2, June 23, July 14

**Badger/Lonesome Lake Area – Lower Lomond Lateral - TWP 17 – RG 17, 18**

-Applications on Wednesdays June 10, July 8, August 12

**Travers/Lomond Area – Lateral D - TWP 15 – RG 19**

-Applications on Tuesdays May 26, June 16, July 7, July 28

**Badger Lake Area – Lateral G & G-3 - TWP 17 – RG 18**

-Applications on Mondays June 22, July 20

**Badger Lake/Enchant Area – Lateral H - TWP 15, 16 – RG 18**

-Applications on Wednesdays May 20, June 3, June 17, Tuesday June 30, Wednesday July 15, August 5, August 26

**Travers/Lomond Area – Drain F - TWP 16 – RG 18, 19**

-Applications on Tuesdays May 26, June 16, July 7, July 28

**Vauxhall/Retlaw Area – Lateral A - TWP 13 – RG 16, 17**

-Application on Fridays May 22, June 12, July 3, July 24, August 14

**Circle Hill/Stone Hill Area – Lateral B - TWP 14, 15 – RG 16, 17**

-Applications on Thursday May 28, June 11, June 25, July 10, July 30, August 20

**Vauxhall Area/ Lateral C - TWP 13, 14 – RG 16**

-Application on Fridays May 22, June 12, July 3, July 24, August 14

**Circle Hill/Stonehill Area – Lateral K-10 - TWP 14 – RG 16, 17**

-Application on Friday July 17

**Circle Hill/Stonehill Area – Lateral K-11 - TWP 14, 15 – RG 16, 17**

-Applications on Mondays June 8, July 6

**Hay Area – Lateral R below Scope Reservoir - TWP – 12, 13 – RG 13, 14**

-Applications on Friday May 15, Mondays June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13, July 27, August 10, August 24

**Hays Area – Main Canal below Scope Reservoir - TWP 13 – RG 13, 14**

-Applications on Thursdays May 21, June 4, June 18, July 2, July 16, August 6

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 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://brid.ca/pesticide.html>. If you have any questions regarding Magnacide application, please call Bill Skelly at the Bow River Irrigation District office (403)654-2111.

## **BOARD MEETING SUBMISSIONS**

Board meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month. To ensure that 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 Wednesday prior to the board meeting. Submissions received after that time will be considered for the agenda of next month's meeting.

Submissions to the office should be addressed to either the board of directors, Richard Phillips - General Manager, or Jessica Robbins - Assistant General Manager. They can be sent by mail, fax (403-654-4197), or email to

[Richard.Phillips@brid.ca](mailto:Richard.Phillips@brid.ca) [Jessica.Robbins@brid.ca](mailto:Jessica.Robbins@brid.ca).

**FIELD DRAINAGE**

Landowners are to be reminded that at no time are they to pump or drain low lying areas into district drainage.

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 normal fee and with a 3 to 5-day turnaround.

**DITCHRIDER INFORMATION**

Area 1- Headworks: **Nicholas May**  
**(403) 892-9446**

Area 2 – Travers/Lomond: **Lonnie Howg**  
**(403) 485- 1392**

Area 3 – Badger Reservoir: **Vince Row**  
**(403) 485-1391 or (403) 654-3042**

Area 4 – Enchant: **Kelly Howg**  
**(403) 654-0361**

Area 5 – Vauxhall North: **Bryden Geremia**  
**(403) 654-8214**

Area 6 – Circle Hill: **Les Olson**  
**(403) 654-3134**

Area 7 – Vauxhall South: **Ray Friesen**  
**(403) 654-0362**

Area 9 – Grantham/West Hays: **Adam Locke**  
**(403) 654-8212**

Area 10 – Hays: **Richard Church**  
**(403) 654-8082**

If you have an emergency and cannot contact your ditchrider, please contact the operations supervisor.

**Operations Supervisor: Daryl Brouwers (403) 654-8162**

**WATER RATES PAYMENT DEADLINE**

The water rates payment deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup> each year. A 2% interest charge will be added to outstanding balances on December 1<sup>st</sup>. A 9% penalty will be added to outstanding balances on January 1<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

**OVER-IRRIGATION RATES**

Changes have been made regarding how rates will be charged for over-irrigation. There will now be two categories of charges as follows:

- Volume rate: \$75 per inch per acre
- Area rate: \$2,000 per acre

**BRID/MD OF TABER SCOPE RESERVOIR IRRIGATION PROJECT**

The BRID and the MD of Taber are developing an irrigation project on MD-owned land adjacent to Scope Reservoir, with the project costs and rents to be shared equally. The project is being developed in two phases. Phase 1 include 15 quarter sections which will be rented as three blocks of four pivots each and one block of three pivots. Phase 2 will include two blocks of four pivots each. Phase 1 is under construction, and the auction for the four-year rentals commencing in the spring of 2027 will be held June 8, 2026. Further details are available on the BRID and MD websites.

**DEADHORSE RESERVOIR**

There has been good progress on land acquisition and regulatory approval is progressing. If regulatory approval is received this summer, which seems likely, some work will begin this fall. The majority of work would then be completed in 2027 and early 2028 with completion in the spring or early summer of 2028.

**CULTIVATION LEASES**

There are 12 cultivation leases that are expiring this year. The lease auction will be held July 22, 2026. Once all the details have been finalized more information will be made available.