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



Bow Glacier – Icefields Parkway

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BRID WEBSITE
 Visit our website for more information on the BRID at:
brid.ca

support for the need to order water on and off 24 hours ahead. This is part of the reason why the allotment was changed this year. The Board and Management will also look at enforcing further penalties on those who ignore the BRID’s policies and bylaws concerning water ordering

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

A lack of cooperation from too many irrigators regarding water ordering still exists. 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.

CROP REPORTS

In 2020, crop information for most ditchrider areas 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.

WATER TURN-ON DATE

The headgates at Little Bow Reservoir were opened on April 29. Water orders will be accepted, and irrigation can begin once the system is flushed and charged.

Water was being diverted at the Carseland Weir into the headworks canal on April 24.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The health of our clients and colleagues remains a top priority. We have temporarily closed our office to visitor traffic. Instead of visiting in person, please call 403-654-2111 or visit brid.ca. Field staff are encouraged to maintain social distancing from our clients and our clients are asked to respect the distancing guidelines when interacting with our staff.

There will be no interruptions in water delivery.

CHANGE TO THE WATER LIMIT

At the April 22, 2020 regular board meeting, the board approved of lowering the limit for sprinkler irrigation methods (pivots, wheel lines) to 20” per acre, with the ability to purchase up to an additional 4” per acre for \$4.00. The limit for flood irrigation remains at 24” per acre, also with the ability to purchase up to an additional 4” per acre for \$4.00. The ability to pool your total allotment has not changed. Most irrigators who attended area meetings and the annual meeting earlier this year voiced strong

DO NOT OPEN PIPELINE VALVES EARLY

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 domestic delivery valves to check if water is in the pipeline yet and leaving the valve open.

Not tampering with the valves is appreciated by the ditchriders as they will have better luck with priming the pipelines and will not have to respond to any flooding issues. Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTICE: WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

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

Activities will be carried out under approval No. 10409-04-00 issued by Alberta Environment. This approval expires March 15, 2030. Applications for broadleaf control will begin in May and continue until the end of September. For aquatic weed and algae control, treatments begin May 19, 2020 and continue until the first week of September. A list of locations and application dates is given in the following notice and is on our website: <http://brid.ca/>. 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 & algae.
2, 4-D Amine 600, Oracle (Dicamba) VP480 (Glyphosate) Estaprop XT	Control broadleaf weeds, willow, brush, poplar.
VP480 (Glyphosate)	Control of cattail & reed canary grass

Contact Bill Skelly at the BRID Office: (403) 654-2111 for information.

The BRID does not avoid spraying adjacent to organic crops. It is the landowner’s responsibility to maintain a buffer zone on their own lands between their crops and the sprayed area.

2020 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; June 26

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

-Applications on Saturdays June 6; June 27

Travers/Lomond Area – Lomond Lateral TWP 15, 16 RGE 19 - Applications on Wednesdays: May 20; Monday May 25**; & Tuesdays, June 9; June 30; July 21

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

-Applications on Tuesdays June 16; July 7; August 11

Travers/Lomond Area–Lateral D TWP 15 RGE 19

-Applications on Wednesday May 27; Friday June 12; Monday July 6; Tuesday July 28

Badger Lake Area-Lateral G & G-3-TWP 17 RGE 18

-Applications on Wednesday July 29

Badger Lake/Enchant Area –Lateral H TWP 15, 16 RGE 18 - Applications on Thursday May 21; Tuesday, May 26**; Wednesdays, June 3; June 17; Fridays, July 3, July 17; August 7

Travers/Lomond Area-Drain F-TWP 16 RGE 18,19

-Applications on Mondays June 22; July 6

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

-Applications on Fridays May 29; June 19; July 10 & Wednesday August 5

Circle Hill/Stonehill Area – Lateral B TWP 14, 15 RGE 16, 17 - Applications on Thursdays May 28; June 11; June 25; July 9; July 30

Vauxhall Area – Lateral C TWP 13, 14 RGE 16

-Applications on Fridays May 29; June 19; July 10 & Wednesday August 5

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

-Applications on Tuesdays: June 2; June 23; July 14; August 4

Circle Hill/Stonehill Area- Lateral K-10 TWP 14, RGE 16,17

-Applications on Wednesday July 15

Circle Hill/Stonehill Area-Lateral K-11 TWP 14,15, RGE 16,17

-Applications on Monday June 8 & Wednesday July 8

Vauxhall Area – Drain A TWP 12, 13 RGE 16

-Applications on Tuesdays: June 2; June 23; July 14; August 4

Hays Area – Lateral R below Scope Reservoir TWP 12, 13 RGE 13, 14

-Applications on Tuesdays May 19 and Mondays June 1; June 15; June 29; July 13; July 27; August 10

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

-Applications on Friday May 22 and Thursdays June 4; June 18; July 2; July 16; August 6

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

-Applications on Friday May 22 and Thursdays June 4; June 18; July 2; July 16; August 6

***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 divert on these dates does not apply to any of these categories.

Please ask for the information package available from your ditchrider for more details about Magnacide H. Please note that you will not be individually contacted by your ditchrider when a Magnacide application is scheduled. It is your responsibility to be aware of the schedule on page 1 of this newsletter, which is also accessed as shown below.

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

BOARD MEETING SUBMISSIONS

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. Board meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month. A submission received after that time will be considered for the agenda of the next month’s meeting.

Submissions to the office should be addressed to either the board of directors, Richard Phillips-Gen. 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.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The annual board elections resulted in John Devries (Area #4 – New West/Circle Hill) being returned to the board by acclamation. Ron Schlaht (Area #2 – Lomond/Travers) did not seek re-election and Richard Sander joined the board as the area #2 representative.

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

- Area #1 – Glen Logan (2018-2021)
- Area #2 – Richard Sander (2020-2023)
- Area #3 – James Larson (2019–2022) Vice Chair
- Area #4 – John DeVries (2020-2023)
- Area #5 – Vic Van Dyk (2019-2022)
- Area #6 – Laus Stiekema (2019-2022)
- Area #7 – Walter Unruh (2018-2021) – Chairman

STAFF CHANGES

Ray Nickel, Landman, will be retiring at the end of May. Dana Laurence was hired to fill the position.

FIELD DRAINAGE

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.

DITCHRIDER INFORMATION:

Area 1 - Headworks: **Matt Coster** 403-485-5742

Area 2 - 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: **Mark Borle** 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: **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: Denis Odland
403-654-8210

Maintenance Supervisor: Butch Porter 403-654-0257

IRRIGATION EXPANSION UPDATE

Expansion of the BRID’s assessment roll from 260,000 to 295,000 acres is well underway. The total number of acres applied for on new dryland parcels was over 37,000 acres, with the largest application totaling 28 quarter sections. As applications greatly exceeded the number of acres available for new parcel development, not all applicants received the number of parcels they desired. After distributing irrigation acres to applicants, the board has now capped the maximum number of parcels for any one irrigator at twelve. The district is no longer accepting applications for new parcels.

The District is accepting applications for intensification, which is defined as irrigation acres which are added to parcels of land that already contain irrigation acres. Current applications total 3,736 acres, and the District has reserved 8,000 acres strictly for intensification.

A policy approved at the March 26, 2019 regular board meeting has placed conditions on the

purchase of intensification acres. Acres can only be purchased for parcels of land which contained irrigation acres as of January 1, 2019. Intensification acres cannot be purchased to replace irrigation acres which are transferred or removed from an irrigated parcel after January 1, 2019. In the past it was permissible for irrigators to purchase irrigation acres to fill parcels, then consolidate unused acres to develop dryland parcels. They could then purchase intensification acres again to fill the parcels. This practice greatly reduced the number of intensification acres that would otherwise have been available to irrigators who required some acres to cover needs due to a system change.

This policy will eliminate that practice and should ensure that intensification acres will be available to anyone that genuinely requires acres for the foreseeable future.

Please contact Rolf Schwabe at (403) 654-2111, (403) 654-7060 or RolfS@brid.ca if you wish to apply for, or have questions concerning irrigation acres.

WATER SUPPLY

Total storage in McGregor, Travers and Little Bow reservoirs is 352,000 acre feet as of April 24, which is 87% of full storage, and above average for this date.

The snowpack in Bow River headwaters is average or well above average at the five measuring stations.

HISTORY BOOK

The BRID recently received its order of revised history books. A chapter was added to the original book, which is a history of the district from the early concept in 1903 through 1995. The final chapter updates the history through 2019. Any irrigator that is interested in a copy of the book needs only to make a request to the BRID and a free copy will be sent to you.