



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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2021 WATER OPERATIONS SUMMARY

The past season was one of the driest in memory, but we were successful in meeting all water demands and filling reservoirs for next year. We appreciate the cooperation from irrigators with water orders and the hard work by our staff. Precipitation at Vauxhall from April 1 to September 30 was only 115 mm, which is just under half of the long-term average, and it was dry across the district. The total diversion from Little Bow Reservoir, which serves over 90% of our district, was 339,000 acre feet, which is 27% above the 25- year average diversion, but only the seventh highest total on record.

Previous years with higher demand are listed below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Little Bow Diversion (acre feet)</u>	<u>Assessed Acres</u>
2001	427,000	210,000
1988	391,000	192,000
2000	375,000	210,000
2017	352,000	260,000
1985	351,000	185,000
1990	347,000	200,000

This year we have over 285,000 assessed acres. Total storage in McGregor, Travers, and Little Bow Reservoirs at the end of the season was 329,000 acre feet, which is 8,000 acre feet higher than it was at the start of the season. In some previous dry years, we were unable to refill reservoirs by the end of the year. The new trash boom which the district installed this spring at Carseland to prevent debris from plugging the trash rack on the diversion structure was instrumental in helping us divert the water we needed from the Bow River.

2021/2022 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

There will be a lot of construction again this winter, with the total cost of all projects estimated at approximately \$10 million. Drop 3, the largest drop structure on the main canal, will be replaced by VHL Construction. Our crew will complete two pipeline projects north of Lost Lake, Lateral H

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BRID WEBSITE

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

and Lateral H-7-2. We also intend to complete the Lateral O pipeline in the Hays Block. As part of that project, a new check structure that will replace the existing Scope Reservoir inlet is being built by Porter Tanner Associates.

Future Projects

Engineering is proceeding on the Deadhorse Coulee Reservoir, and we have initiated the regulatory approval process. We still hope to begin construction before the end of 2023.

Engineering is also underway for the Lateral B/K block pipelines in the Circle Hill area. This will be largest pipeline project ever done in the BRID and will replace the entire system with pipelines from the main canal which will greatly increase our efficiency. Construction will begin next fall and will take three years to complete.

LOST LAKE SOLAR PROJECT

The district is working with ATCO to build a 400kw solar project at Lost Lake.

It should provide sufficient power to offset our power use for our pumpstation there. Power produced when the pumps are not running will be sold. This will be operational next spring.

WATER RATES PAYMENT DEADLINE

Please note that the deadline for payment of 2021 water rates is December 31, 2021. The payment must be received at the BRID on or before this date. Any payments arriving in the mail after December 31st will be considered as late, even if they are postmarked December 31st.

An online payment must be in the BRID's bank account on or before the deadline or it will be considered late. This means initiating the payment with your bank several days before the deadline to ensure it is posted to our account on time.

Payments (cash, cheque or online only) can be made in the following manner:

- Payment posted to our account online on or before December 31, 2021.
- Payment at the office on or before 4:30 P.M. on December 31, 2021, during office hours (see holiday hours below).
- Mailed cheques must be received no later than December 31, 2021.

Penalties on arrears will be applied January 3, 2022.

If you are sending in a cheque from someone other than the owner named on the invoice, please specify on the cheque: the owner name, account number and land location being paid for. This is to ensure that payment is applied to the correct account. If someone other than the landowner is responsible for paying the water rates, it is the landowner's responsibility to forward the bill on to the responsible party.

Receipts will no longer be mailed for online or mailed payments. Please contact the office to request a receipt.

STAFF CHANGES

Mark Borle, who was previously a ditch rider, is now our water operations assistant. Bryden Geremia was hired as a ditch rider. Butch Porter retired from his position as maintenance supervisor and was replaced by Donnell Schlosser. Noel Going retired from his position as engineering technologist. Dennis Brouwers is retiring from his position as truck driver in December.

EXPANSION UPDATE

The district still has some irrigation acres available for the intensification of existing irrigated parcels. They are available on a first come first- first served basis, with payment due in full before they are added to a parcel. The cost is \$3000 per acre.

Please contact Evan Blindback at (403)654-2111, or email EvanB@brid.ca if you wish to apply for, or have questions concerning irrigation acres.

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 normally held on the fourth Wednesday of every 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-General Manager, or Jessica Robbins-Assistant General Manager-Finance & HR. They can be sent by mail, fax (403-654-4197), or email to RichardP@brid.ca or Jessica.Robbins@brid.ca.

HISTORY BOOK

The BRID now has updated 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 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.

IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER QUALITY DATA TOOL

This website provides access to water quality data collected throughout Alberta's 13 irrigation districts as part of the Irrigation District Water Quality Project. This project assesses the quality of water in Alberta's irrigation districts.

To access this website, enter www.idwq.ca/

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Closed – Friday, December 24, 2021, through Tuesday, December 28, 2021, for Christmas Holidays

Open - Wednesday, December 29, 2021 through Friday, December 31, 2021