



INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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BRID ADDRESS & WEBSITE

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WATER LICENCE TRANSFER

The Board has received a request for a transfer of up to 220 acre feet of water from its existing water licences to the Town of Okotoks. At the regular board meeting held on May 25, 2016, the Board approved of holding a public information meeting to inform the irrigators of this potential transfer. The Board also approved of holding a plebiscite to seek approval from the irrigators to apply to Alberta Environment and Parks to transfer this volume of water to the Town of Okotoks. If approved, this transfer will only occur if the equivalent volume of water is transferred to the Bow River Irrigation District from the water licences issued to other parties.

The Town of Okotoks has been looking for an additional water allocation from the Sheep River for some time, and AEP has determined that only small portions of any water licences on the Bow River may be transferred upstream to the Sheep River, which ultimately flows into the Bow River. Therefore, in order to provide a reasonable volume of water for Okotoks, it is necessary to transfer a portion of a large licence, such as the BRID's 1996 licence for 70,000 acre feet. We also have an older licence for 380,000 acre feet. If our irrigators approve of this, an application will then be made to AEP to transfer up to 220 acre feet from the 1996 licence to Okotoks, provided that the same volume of water will be simultaneously transferred to the BRID from water licences held by other parties. The licence or licences transferred to us will have equal or better conditions than the licence we will transfer to Okotoks, so there will be absolutely no reduction in either the size or the value of our allocation. We will also receive a significant payment as part of this proposed deal.

There is no guarantee that AEP will approve this transfer, but we can only apply to AEP if a majority of irrigators that vote in the plebiscite vote in favor of it.

The public meeting will be held on July 6, 2016, at the Bow River Irrigation District office, 704 7th Avenue North, Vauxhall, Alberta at 9:30 A.M.

The plebiscite will be held on July 6, 2016, in the BRID boardroom at the Bow River Irrigation District office between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

Interested parties are invited to contact the office for further details related to this transfer of a portion of the Bow River Irrigation District's 1996 water licence.

LAND LEASE AUCTION: PORTION OF THE SOUTH ½ -SECTION 17-14-17-W4M

The Board of Directors of the Bow River Irrigation District (BRID) invite all interested irrigators to attend a public auction to be held on site at the S.W. 17-14-17-W4M (on Highway #526, 9 miles west of the intersection with Highway #36 and 5 ½ miles east of the main access into Enchant) on Monday, July 18, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. for one parcel of irrigation cultivation land. All BRID irrigators (anyone owning land in the BRID with irrigated acres on the assessment roll) are eligible to bid on this lease as long as they are pre-registered prior to 4:30 P.M. on Friday July 15, 2016. Pre-registration must be done on BRID forms.

The BRID will supply the pivot and pump. Water will be supplied from the north channel at Lost Lake.

The successful bidder will be responsible for power costs, water rates and any assessed land taxes in addition to annual lease rent.

The BRID will allow subleasing to other eligible BRID irrigators only.

Potatoes and beans may only be grown one year each.

Only one of either canola OR sugar beets may be grown and then only for one year.

Fall grazing will be permitted if desired.

Parcel: Portion of the South ½ 17-14-17-W4M

4-year term beginning in 2017

Bid is for 135 wetted acres but area east of pivot can also be cultivated (approximately 87 dry acres)

To obtain additional details, including copies of the lease agreement, and to register for the auction, please contact Glen Brown at 403-654-2111 or email GlenB@brid.ca.

ANNUAL AGREEMENT OVER-IRRIGATION RATE

At the regular board meeting on May 25, 2016, the board approved the 2016 water rates bylaw. None of the rates have changed from 2015 excepting the annual agreement over-irrigation rate. This has increased from \$66 per acre to \$109 per acre. This is charged to irrigators that are irrigating in excess of their assessed acres on a parcel.

Intensification acres are no longer available for purchase. To avoid being charged this rate, and if you do not have unused irrigation acres on other parcels that can be transferred to the parcel being over-irrigated, irrigators have three options:

1. **Cease irrigating the areas that are in excess of the assessed acreage of the parcel.**
2. **Alternate Parcel Agreements:** if you can find another irrigator with irrigation acres that are not in use, you can rent them from that irrigator. The BRID has a short agreement form that must be signed by the owner and renter of the acres. There is a \$5.00 per acre fee for the administration of the agreement, which must be renewed yearly.
3. **Private Purchase of Irrigation Acres:** if you can find another irrigator with unused irrigation acres they are willing to sell, with board approval you could transfer these acres to your parcel(s). There is a \$10.00 per acre administration fee charged by the district.

Irrigators are encouraged to contact Rolf Schwabe at 403-654-2111 or RolfS@brid.ca prior to making any changes to irrigation systems that will result in a larger wetted area on their parcels.