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SPRING NEWSLETTER
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Bow Glacier – Icefields Parkway

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BRID WEBSITE

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

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, 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 22nd and continue until the first week of September. Please check this page and page 5 of this newsletter or <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 & algae.
2, 4-D Amine 600, Oracle (Dicamba) & Vantage Plus	Control of broadleaf weeds, willow, brush & poplar
Vantage Plus (Glyphosate)	Control of cattail & reed canary grass.

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

Beginning in the 2018 season, to ensure more efficient weed control, the BRID no longer avoids 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.

2019 MAGNACIDE APPLICATIONS 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 May 31; June 21

Deadhorse/Vauxhall/Hays Area - Main Canal – TWP 13, 14 – RG 14, 15, 16, 17
 -Applications on Saturdays June 1; June 22

Travers/Lomond Area – Lomond Lateral TWP 15, 16 RGE 19 - Applications on Wednesdays: May 22; July 3; July 24; Monday, May 27** & Tuesday, June 11

Badger/Lonesome Lake Area – Lower Lomond Lateral TWP 17 RGE 17, 18
 -Applications on Tuesdays June 18; July 9

Travers/Lomond Area–Lateral D TWP 15 RGE 19
 -Applications on Wednesday May 29; Friday June 14; Monday July 8; Tuesday July 30

Badger Lake/Enchant Area –Lateral H TWP 15, 16 RGE 18 - Applications on Thursday May 23; Tuesday, May 28**, Wednesdays, June 5; June 19; Friday, July 5 and Monday, July 22

Vauxhall/Retlaw Area-Lateral A-TWP 13 RGE 16, 17
 -Applications on Fridays June 7; June 28; July 19

Circle Hill/Stonehill Area – Lateral B TWP 14, 15 RGE 16, 17 - Applications on Thursdays: May 30; June 13; June 27; July 11

Vauxhall Area – Lateral C TWP 13, 14 RGE 16
 -Applications on Fridays June 7; June 28; July 19

Vauxhall Area–Lateral H & H-1 TWP 12, 13 RGE 16
 -Applications on Tuesdays: June 4; June 25; July 16; August 6

Vauxhall Area – Drain A TWP 12, 13 RGE 16
 -Applications on Tuesdays: June 4; June 25; July 16; August 6

Hays Area – Lateral R below Scope Reservoir TWP 12, 13 RGE 13, 14 -Applications on Tuesdays May 21; July 2 and Mondays June 3; June 17; July 15; July 29; August 12

Hays Area – Main Canal below Scope Reservoir TWP 13 RGE 13, 14
 -Applications on Friday May 24 and Thursdays: June 6; June 20; July 4; July 18

Hays Area – Lateral O TWP 12, 13 RGE 13, 14
 -Applications on Friday May 24 and Thursdays: June 6; June 20; July 4; July 18

***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.

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

WATER SUPPLY

The gates at Little Bow Reservoir were opened on April 22nd. We began diverting water from the river on April 11th to fill the reservoirs.

Total storage in McGregor, Travers, and Little Bow reservoirs is 348,000 acre feet as of May 7th, which is 86% of full storage.

The snow pack in the Bow River headwaters is average or below average at the five measuring stations. Irrigators are encouraged to practice water conservation during the 2019 season.

At the April board meeting, the board approved a water allotment of 24 inches per irrigation acre with an extra 6 inches per acre for purchase for a flood parcel.

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.

ALBERTA RIVERS APP

This free app is available for your mobile device. Information is provided by the Government of Alberta on river flows, lake levels, snowpack, precipitation and advisories. All monitoring stations can be viewed on a map and only a tap is required to view current data and whether flows are normal. You can also receive notifications when new advisories and comments are issued.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The annual board elections resulted in James Larson (Area #3 - Enchant) and Vic Van Dyk (Area #5-Vauxhall) being returned to the Board by acclamation. Harold Unruh (Area #6 – Grantham / West Hays) retired from the Board after 33 years of service and Laus Stiekema joined the Board as the Area #6 representative.

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

Area #1 – Glen Logan (2018-2021)

Area #2 – Ron Schlaht (2017-2020) –Vice-Chair

Area #3 – James Larson (2019–2022)

Area #4 – John DeVries (2017-2020)

Area #5 – Vic Van Dyk (2019-2022)

Area #6 – Laus Stiekema (2019-2022)

Area #7 – Walter Unruh (2018-2021) – Chairman

STAFF CHANGES

Edith Stevens, Accounts Receivable retired at the end of 2018. Teri Unruh was hired to fill the Accounts Receivable position.

Koos VanderWielen, Building Maintenance, and Glen Brown, Land Administrator, retired earlier this year.

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.

PRECISION AGRICULTURE STUDY

An economics research team from the University of Lethbridge would like to carry out a survey regarding the use of precision agriculture in irrigation. This survey would take place in November 2019 using an anonymous questionnaire through email and cell phone contact. If you wish to take part in this survey, please contact the BRID office and you will be contacted by the research team.

WATER ORDERS

The ditchriders make every effort to deliver water as soon as possible after it is ordered, but all irrigators should order water the day before they wish to irrigate to ensure that their water is delivered on time. In some locations, irrigators may have to order water up to 48 hours in advance of the time required. Irrigators are also reminded they are required to give 24 hours notice of shutoffs whenever possible.

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.

DITCHRIDER INFORMATION:

Area 1 - Headworks: **Matt Coster** 403-485-0582

Area 2 - South Headworks and 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 the applications greatly exceeded the number of acres available for new parcel development, not all applicants received the number of parcels they desired. 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 3,700 acres, and the District has reserved 8,000 acres strictly for intensification.

A new policy, approved at the March 26 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.

The new 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.