



SPRING NEWSLETTER

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BRID MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O Box 140
Vauxhall, Alberta T0K 2K0

STREET/ COURIER ADDRESS:

704-7th Avenue North
Phone: (403) 654-2111
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BRID WEBSITE

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

NOTICE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Board of Directors and irrigators of the Bow River Irrigation District will be held Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 1:30 PM in the Vauxhall Community Hall.

WATER SUPPLY

The main factors influencing river flow are the mountain snowpack, the rate at which the snow melts, and mountain rainfall. On April 1 the snowpack was below average throughout the Bow River basin, and lower than in 2024, but if it does not melt too quickly there should be good flow in May and June. River flow after mid-

July is highly dependent on rainfall and therefore unpredictable. Our reservoir levels were 97% of normal winter storage, with McGregor low to accommodate erosion repair on the NE shoreline, but Travers is high to partially compensate.

The board will set the initial on-farm water allocation for this year at the April board meeting, but they have determined that 18 inches is a reasonable limit in normal years.

Some irrigators have expressed concern about the reduced allocation per acre as the district has expanded, and there is a perception that we used to have enough licenced allocation to guarantee 24 inches of water for every acre. The reality is that although prior to 2002 we did not have any on-farm water use limit, followed by a 24" limit until 2020, when it was reduced to 20", the licenced allocation was insufficient to provide that amount to each parcel.

Prior to 1996 the total licenced allocation for the BRID system was only 380,000 acre feet. In addition to irrigation, that allocation also had to cover all system losses including evaporation from the headworks reservoirs (McGregor, Travers, Little Bow), return flow, other canal losses, and water used in Ducks Unlimited's projects in our district. This left under 12 inches per acre available for irrigation. Over the years there have been new licences issued to the BRID, the province for reservoir evaporation, and Ducks Unlimited, increasing the allocation by over 151,000 acre feet. At the same time, we have significantly reduced flow and other canal losses by replacing canals with pipelines, leaving more water available for irrigation now than in the 1990's. The table below shows the changes that have occurred since 1991, and the water allocation available for irrigation.

Year	Approved Expansion Limit	BRID's Allocation	Province's Allocation	DU's Allocation	Combined Allocation	Return Flow	Reservoir Evaporation	Other Losses	DU use	Available Water	Available water per acre (inches)	On-farm limit (inches)
1991	210,000	380,000	0	0	380,000	115,000	30,240	28,000	10,000	196,760	11.2	unlimited
2003	211,000	450,000	0	0	450,000	96,373	30,240	23,200	12,142	288,045	16.4	24
2004	232,000	450,000	0	0	450,000	96,373	30,240	23,200	12,142	288,045	14.9	24
2012	260,000	450,000	30,240	12,142	492,382	45,000	30,240	19,700	12,142	385,300	17.8	24
2018	295,000	490,000	30,240	12,142	532,382	46,000	30,240	19,500	12,142	424,500	17.3	24
2025	320,000	489,250	30,240	12,142	531,632	42,900	30,240	18,500	12,142	427,850	16.0	18

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 plebiscite, but changing the limit requires a new bylaw. The board has not yet determined the timeline for expansion, but it is likely that the bylaw will be approved in early 2026. Applications for new parcels would then be accepted to allow time to complete the process to add them to the assessment roll for irrigation in 2027. As noted at the public meetings prior to the plebiscite, the projects that will save most of the water to support expansion are expected to be completed in 2027 and 2028, so significant expansion should not proceed before their completion.

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.

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 2025, 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.

DO NOT OPEN PIPE 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 within 30 horizontal meters of open bodies of water owned by the district.

Activities will be carried out under approval No. 10409-05-00 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 16th, 2025, 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.

Herbicide Used

Magnacide H - PCP #10948

Purpose

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.

2025 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 6, July 11

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

-Applications on Saturdays June 7, July 12, and Friday August 8

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

-Applications on Tuesdays May 20, June 3, June 24, July 15

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

-Applications on Wednesdays June 11, July 9, August 13

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

-Applications on Tuesdays May 27, June 17, July 8, July 29

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

-Applications on Mondays June 23, July 21

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

-Applications on Wednesdays May 21, June 4, June 18, July 2, July 16, August 6, August 27

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

-Applications on Tuesdays May 27, June 17, July 8, July 29

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

-Application on Fridays May 23, June 13, July 4, July 25, August 15

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

-Applications on Thursday May 29, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 31, August 21

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

-Application on Fridays May 23, June 13, July 4, July 25, August 15

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

-Application on Friday July 18

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

-Applications on Mondays June 9, July 7

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

-Applications on Friday May 16, Mondays June 2, June 16, June 30, July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25

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

-Applications on Thursdays May 22, June 5, June 19, July 3, July 17, August 7

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 - Finance & HR. They can be sent by mail, fax (403-654-4197), or email to

Richard.Phillips@brid.ca Jessica.Robbins@brid.ca.

STAFF CHANGES

Les Olson replaced Conrad Cazemier as ditchrider. Kevin Jorgensen, equipment operator, retired after 20 years of service.

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

NEW WATER RATES PAYMENT DEADLINE

The new water rates payment deadline going forward will be November 30 each year.