



WATER INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

BRID ADDRESS & WEBSITE

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SPRING WATER TURN ON DATE

Board of Directors Policy Statement:

“If dry soil conditions are present in the District and the weather is conducive to running water, then the earliest date to be considered for canal operations is April 23rd.” Depending on the weather, the actual date could be much later than this. Most years, water has been turned on in the first full week of May, at this point in time; we expect that to be reasonable for 2009.

Once it is turned on at the headgates, it still takes a few days to get all of the laterals and pipelines filled and ready for irrigation.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

BRID’s annual meeting was held on March 10, 2009 with 16 irrigators (including directors), 9 visitors and 5 staff members present. Besides the regular reports being presented and reviewed, discussions were held on various items, some of which included:

- District expansion
- Alberta Irrigation Projects Association
- Headworks Rehabilitation
- Water Licences
- Incentives for flood irrigators to convert to sprinkler method during canal rehabilitation.

FIELD DRAINAGE

With spring here, landowners are 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.

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.

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WATER BILLINGS FOR RENTED LAND

All landlords and renters of irrigation parcels are advised that the BRID has changed the way it deals with annual water billings to landlords and renters of land.

In the past, if the BRID office had direction to send annual water billings to a renter it would do so. This has at times created confusion with the billing not getting paid on time and penalties being added.

Irrigators are hereby advised that the BRID will no longer be sending billings to renters of land. Water billings will only go to the registered landowner. It will be the responsibility of landowners to ensure the renter gets a copy of the billing if they wish to have the renter pay the bill.

WATER ORDER PROCEDURES

The BRID has installed a number of pipelines over the winter. Irrigators on these new pipelines as well as all irrigators are reminded of the following Water Order procedures:

Water Orders

- (1) All users must order their water in advance.
- (2) Once a water order is delivered, the user must take the delivery in a continuous manner until a request is made to stop the delivery.
- (3) To ensure water orders on a Monday, users are requested to put their order in on the previous Friday.
- (4) Unless excess water is in the canal system and the ditchrider is able to conveniently make the water order, users should not expect to have water orders filled on a Sunday.

Failure to Pickup Water Order

-The ditchrider shall:

- (1) Advise the water user that he has 12 hours to pick up the water and that failure to do so will result in the water being shut off unless the water user can explain the reasons for a delay and the reasons are justifiable and it is expected that the water will be picked up in a reasonable amount of time.
- (2) When the water is shut off, the water users will be required to reorder the water through normal water order procedures.

SYSTEM FLOW MEASUREMENTS

The District is continuing with its policies of tracking individual irrigator's water use. This usage is tracked using an estimated or measured flow number for each irrigation system, then recording the number of days or hours that water is delivered to each system. Irrigators are reminded to check the flow being used for their system and if you wish to reconfirm or measure that flow, we will do so.

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elections were scheduled in two areas with Glenn Logan & Walter Unruh both being returned by acclamation. Following is the current list of directors:

- Harold Unruh- Chairman- Area #6
- Ron Schlaht-Vice Chair-Area #2
- Glenn Logan- Area #1 Dennis Orsten-Area #3
- John DeVries-Area #4 Art Lanser- Area #5
- Walter Unruh-Area #7

DISTRICT STAFF

Over the last year we have been fortunate to have little staff turnover. The only change is that Steve Voortman, the ditchrider for the North Hays area left for other employment early last fall. We were able to finish the 2008 season with coverage from an adjoining ditchrider and some supervisory staff.

With the ongoing conversions of open ditches to closed pipelines in the Hays area, it was decided that we were able to make adjustments to the adjoining ditchrider areas to encompass the vacant area. Ivan Bolen, the ditchrider from south of the vacant area will be consolidating all of the irrigators east of Hays with his area while the irrigators west or northwest of Hays, upstream of Scope Reservoir, will be combined with Stan Kurek's area. In addition there will be small changes on the west boundary of Stan's area, moving a couple of pipelines to Phil Wiebe's ditchrider area.

All irrigators affected by the ditchrider changes will be notified by mail about their new ditchrider along with contact phone numbers.

Over the years, as a result of the increase in the number of pipelines and more efficient delivery and control systems, the BRID has been able to slowly reduce the number of field operators required to operate the delivery system. The number of ditchriders downstream of Little Bow Reservoir for 2009 has been reduced by one from 10 to 9. Prior to 1992, there were 13 ditchriders; in 1992 the number went to 12, in 1995 to 11 and in 2003 to 10 ditchriders. This all has happened while the District has gone from 202,000 assessed irrigation acres in 1992 to over 231,000 in 2009.

CANALS AND CANAL BANKS

The BRID does not restrict the use of canals and canal banks to District use only, however any damage or rutting of the canal banks is to be the responsibility of the person causing it.

Landowners adjacent to canals are advised to please contact the BRID, office or field staff, when performing any activity they may be doing along the canal or within the canal easement/right-of-way. This could save time and money in the event

something is located near, on or in the canal which will be required to be moved or replaced at the landowner's expense if not done to any BRID standard or condition that may be in place.

Landowners are encouraged to get any approval in writing to avoid future disagreements on conditions or locations.

LOW PRESSURE PIVOT GRANT

This article is to make sure irrigators are aware of the program Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) has that will provide funding to assist with the purchase of energy-efficient, low pressure centre pivot irrigation (LPCP) equipment, or to upgrade existing high-pressure centre pivot equipment to LPCP, to increase energy efficiency.

Irrigators may be eligible for 40% of the cost of irrigation system upgrades, up to \$4000 per irrigator.

The eligible costs for the program are the costs for low pressure pivots, pump modifications or control panel upgrades.

Equipment must be new and purchased from a licensed irrigation supply dealer, and any installation may only be done by a licensed service provider. The eligible equipment must have been purchased by the applicant after April 1, 2008. The final deadline for applications is March 15, 2011, however irrigators are encouraged to apply as soon as possible as the funding is limited and applications are to be processed on a first-come, first served basis.

For more information and clarification of program eligibilities, please contact your local Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development office.

Applications can be obtained from your ARD office, www.agric.gov.ab.ca as well as from licensed irrigation equipment dealers in Alberta. The BRID office has copies of the application form for irrigators to pick up, but we are unable to help with the application process.

INTENSIFICATION ACRES AVAILABLE

The BRID has now concluded its expansion process which was approved by the irrigators in 2004. That approval allowed for the expansion of the District

from 211,000 irrigation acres to 232,000 irrigation acres. As of March 1, 2009 the assessment roll of the BRID was 230,905 assessed acres.

The 1095 acres short was a result of some acres coming back to the District from the applicants and also the Board of Directors had held a certain number of acres for use in the future in the event the BRID did canal elimination or relocation that resulted in an irrigator needing extra acres to irrigate the old canal area.

The concept of holding back some irrigation acres has been revisited and it is felt that 200 acres would be a reasonable number to hold back, which makes 895 acres available to be sold.

This is notice that the Board of Directors has decided to make 895 acres available to irrigators who need them to fill out parcels already irrigated within the BRID.

Applications will be accepted from irrigators by the office up until 4:30 P.M. October 30, 2009 to place irrigation acres on parcels that already have irrigation acres on. Applications to place irrigation acres on non-irrigated parcels will not be accepted.

All irrigators are advised to review their irrigation practices to ensure they are within their legal irrigation limits; if not this is the time to clean up that deficiency. A number of years ago, the directors did place an over irrigation penalty of \$50 per acre plus the annual water rate on any land irrigated beyond the assessed area, this is expected to be enforced. Another way of fixing the deficiency is to see if you can move irrigation acres from another parcel you own that may have extra irrigation acres.

If the applications for intensification acres exceeds 895 acres, the Board of Directors have decided that the applications will be reviewed when complete and a fair and equitable set of criteria will be established to determine the sale of these 895 acres.

The contact person at the BRID for all irrigation area questions and to make application for more acres is Rolf Schwabe, Land Technologist.

PUBLIC NOTICES:

MAGNACIDE APPLICATION NOTICE

The BRID will be applying Magnacide H to control aquatic vegetation and algae at the following sites:

- ▶ **Travers / Lomond / Badger Lake / Enchant Area**
 - Lateral H TWP 15, 16 RGE 18 – Monday, June 1 **; Wednesdays – May 27; June 17; July 8 and July 29
 - Lomond Lateral TWP 15, 16 RGE 19 – Tuesdays- May 26; June 2 **; June 16 and July 21
 - Lateral D TWP 15 RGE 19 – Tuesday June 23 and Wednesday July 22
 - Lateral B TWP 14, 15 RGE 18, 19 – Mondays- June 15; July 6
- ▶ **Vauxhall / Circle Hill / Retlaw Area**
 - Lost Lake Channel TWP 13, 14 RGE 16, 17 – Mondays - June 8; June 29; July 20
 - Lateral B TWP 14, 15 RGE 16, 17 – Tuesdays- June 9; June 30
 - Lateral A TWP 13 RGE 16, 17 – Thursday, June 25 and Tuesday, July 14
 - Lateral H & H1 TWP 12 RGE 16 – Mondays- June 8, June 22; July 13
 - Lateral C TWP 13, 14 RGE 16 – Thursday June 25 and Tuesday July 14
- ▶ **Hays Area**
 - Lateral R below Scope Reservoir TWP 12,13 RGE 13,14 – May 21, June 4, June 18; July 2; July 16 & 30
 - Main Canal below Scope Reservoir TWP 13 RGE 13, 14 – Wednesdays- June 3, June 24, July 15

**Application only if canal is not treated a week earlier because of cold water temperatures & 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 does not apply to any of those categories. An information package about Magnacide H is available from your ditchrider. Organic growers irrigating should contact their ditchrider so they can be informed of any application which could affect organic crop certification. Our application schedule is also on our website: <http://www.brid.ab.ca/BRIDweedcontrol.htm>.

WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

The Bow River Irrigation will be applying herbicides to control vegetation in or within 30 horizontal meters of open bodies of water owned by the district. Activities will be carried out under approval No. 10409-03 issued by Alberta Environment. This approval expires December 31, 2009. 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 21st and continue until the first week of September. Affected water users will be notified before the aquatic applications begin. The weed control program is administered by licensed applicators.

<u>Herbicide Used</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Herbicide Used</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Magnacide H PCP# 10498	Control of submerged aquatic vegetation & algae.	2,4-D Amine 600 Vanquish (Dicamba) Vantage (Glyphosate)	Control of broadleaf weeds, willow, brush and poplar.
Vantage (Gyphosate)	Cattail & reed canary grass.		

The district has a No Spray Zone agreement for any organic growers or water users who do not wish the BRID to use chemicals on the right of way adjacent to their land. The landowner then becomes responsible for weed control along the canal.

If you have any questions regarding these activities please call David Cholka at the Bow River Irrigation District Office at (403) 654-2111.