



## INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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### BRID WEBSITE

Visit our website for more information on BRID at: [brid.ca](http://brid.ca)

### 2023 WATER OPERATIONS SUMMARY

This was a challenging year for water operations due to high irrigation demand and low river flow, but we have done well.

Our total diversion from Little Bow Reservoir this year was approximately 353,500 acre feet, which is the fourth highest volume on record and 33 % above the 25-year average. We diverted more in 2001, 2000, and 1988, but we irrigated over 80,000 acres more this year than in those years. Diversion from the river this year was 421,500 acre feet through October 3, and we expect to divert for at least another month, hopefully diverting at least 30,000 acre feet more. When we ended water delivery on October 2 the total usable storage in McGregor, Travers, and Little Bow reservoirs was 250,000 acre feet, so we hope to have over 280,000 acre feet stored when we stop diverting, which is over 85% of normal winter storage.

In 2001, our worst year for storage, winter storage was only 206,000 acre feet. Our internal reservoirs are at normal winter levels this year. The final return flow number is not yet available, but it will be well below the previous record low of 39,100 acre feet in 2006, and much better than recent years. Thanks to everyone who followed our water ordering procedures to reduce return flow.



## **WINTER CONSTRUCTION**

This winter we will complete construction of the BK-3 and BK-2-2 pipelines. These are two of the four pipelines required to replace the entire Lateral B/K (Vauxhall Block) system. We expect to complete the remaining two pipelines by the spring of 2028. Replacement of this system with pipelines will eliminate over 10,000 acre feet of return flow. The BK-2-2 pipeline will be pumped from Lost Lake, and will greatly reduce the volume of Lost Lake water pumped into the main canal. The water quality in Lost Lake is good for irrigation, but it has high nutrient levels which contribute to algae growth in the main canal.

## **DEADHORSE RESERVOIR**

We are proceeding with engineering, regulatory requirements, and discussions for land acquisition. If regulatory approvals proceed smoothly, construction could begin in the fall of 2024 and be completed in 2026.

## **WATER RATES PAYMENT DEADLINE**

Please note that the deadline for payment of 2023 water rates is December 31, 2023. Given that this date falls on a Sunday in 2023, the payment must be received at the BRID on or before January 2, 2024. Any payments arriving in the mail after this date will be considered late.

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 January 2, 2024.
- Payment at the office on or before 4:30 P.M. on January 2, 2024, during office hours (see holiday hours below).
- Mailed cheques must be received no later than January 2, 2024.

Penalties on arrears will be applied January 3, 2024.

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 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**

Rod Lowen retired from his position as equipment foreman after over 44 years of service.

## **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 served basis and some conditions apply. The cost is \$3,000 per acre.

Please contact Evan Blindback at (403)654-2111, or email [Evan.Blindback@brid.ca](mailto:Evan.Blindback@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 [Richard.Phillips@brid.ca](mailto:Richard.Phillips@brid.ca) or [Jessica.Robbins@brid.ca](mailto: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 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/](http://www.idwq.ca/)

## **HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

**Closed** - December 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Open** - December 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Closed** - January 1, 2024

**Open** - January 2, 2024