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A newsletter from the
Black Mountain Irrigation District
No. 37

VALLEY WATER NEWS

BMID Election Results: With the retirement of Heinz Koetz and Laurence Petch, two Board positions became available. Three nominations were received and an election was held on April 16th, 2010. Gerry Zimmerman and Al Horning were successful in being elected by the taxpayers. The District is fortunate to have these two well-respected community-minded persons who are interested in serving the residents of BMID.

BMID Drought Status: See page two

Water Supply Association of BC

In the last three months, the WSABC work has been limited to providing feedback to the Provincial Water Act Modernization process. The WSABC has asked the province for stronger centralized leadership from within the Provincial government to manage water throughout the Province. More work is being required of the local authorities which results in direct local benefits, however a fragmented approach to larger regional water issues also results. Strong centralized leadership is necessary to ensure that the right things are being done. The WSABC also believes that critical functions such as water licensing belongs with the Provincial staff.

Kelowna Joint Water Committee

BMID thanks Kelowna City Council for their efforts in requesting a common City-wide Drought Plan. The five KJWC water utilities have now agreed on common sprinkling regulations which form a part of this plan. *Odd-Even* sprinkling regulations have been adopted by all utilities. More details are provided on page two.

On another KJWC issue, the Improvement Districts have been asked by the City to review a draft report prepared by Associated Engineering. The report provides options for water filtration for the entire service area of all five local water utilities. The total installation and operating costs would triple existing water rates.

Filtration is excellent technology that is necessary throughout most of North America where most Cities are reliant on silt laden rivers. We are fortunate that we have cleaner source waters than most of continent. Mission Creek and Okanagan Lake are relatively uncontaminated sources. (Continued on next page)

RETIRED TRUSTEES HEINZ KOETZ AND LAURENCE PETCH

This article is dedicated to two long serving Trustees of BMID who retired in April of 2010 after many valuable years of service to our community.

Heinz Koetz (right in photo) was first nominated to the Board in 1973 when a position was vacated by a young Colin Day who had moved on to City Council. Heinz grew large potato crops on lands at the south end of Gallaghers Road from the 1950s through to the 1980s. He ran for the Board because of his interests in water and his willingness to serve the greater community. In 1973, the Board consisted of Fred Stevens (Chair), Harold Hildred, Jim Kitaura and Ian Hadden and Heinz Koetz.

During the last 37 years, Heinz greatly influenced the culture of the Board and staff. He always advocated that a high level of service and respect be provided to the public. Heinz is always a gentleman with thoughtful input and with a style that is never adversarial. He has been a moral compass for the District. Since retiring, Heinz is assisting us in collecting stories on the history of the District.



His awareness of the structure of the Improvement Districts and the need for BMID to be better than average has resulted in greater accountability for BMID. It has made BMID a strong and well managed service provider. Over his earlier years as Trustee, Heinz and the Board administered the reconstruction of the Belgo, Fishhawk and Graystoke dams.

Laurence Petch (left in photo) was the "L" in L & D Petch Contracting. Laurence ran the logging company for 40 years. He has an extensive knowledge of logging practices, construction equipment, the area creeks, and the watersheds. Laurence was a careful businessman. He is a patient man of few words, but those words carry a great deal of weight. Most people in the community are unaware that in 1985 near the end of the 1980s recession, Laurence sold to BMID 385 acres of land for the Black Mountain Reservoir for a very low price. Laurence believed that this was the best long-term use for the land long before the Black Mountain Reservoir project was publicly known. Prior to being on the Board, L & D Petch Contracting constructed Stevens Reservoir for the BMID in 1993. In 1995, after Fred Stevens passed away, Laurence was subsequently asked to run for the Board.

Both Heinz and Laurence were instrumental in the construction of the BMID Water Treatment Plant in 1999, the separation works for the Scotty Creek area, and the preparation work for the Black Mountain Reservoir project.

The 52 years of service on the BMID Board provided by these two men is invaluable. Their service involved thousands of hours of meeting time. Both have a wealth of experience and knowledge on water district affairs. An effective Board requires a broad range of complimenting skills and knowledge that Heinz and Laurence both provided.

We thank them for their contribution.

"The solution to our water problems is more rain." - Attributed to Mark Twain

BMID WATER NEWS

KJWC (continued from front page)

We also live in an arid climate where there is a shortfall of rain. In a wetter climate, the BMID water system would have sufficient capacity to service a population of more than 200,000 people.

A cost-benefit analysis is necessary to understand the level of drinking water protection that can be provided versus the dollars spent. Currently, the utilities that do not meet the IHA standard are working to access the highest quality source water and provide the highest level of disinfection. All of the Improvement Districts have sufficient land in place for future filtration plants. BMID will participate in the development of a realistic city-wide long term water supply and treatment plan.

Highway 33 Upgrading

The Provincial contract for the four-laning of Highway 33 from Muir Road to Gallagher's Road is on schedule for an October 2010 completion. BMID has completed the replacement of all galvanized services within the Highway right-of-way. As part of the BMID Reservoir project, there are two large 42" steel pipes crossing Highway 33 that should be installed by the Ministry contractor next month.

The Ministry of Transportation is adding a climbing/passing lane to Walkers Hill. They are widening the south shoulder, resulting in the relocation of 365 metres of small diameter water main. This water-main replacement is underway now.

We remind all motorists travelling through the construction zone to pay attention to signage and posted speed limits. There are many dangers through the construction zone for the workers, the motorists, and especially the school kids.

Black Mountain Reservoir Preparation

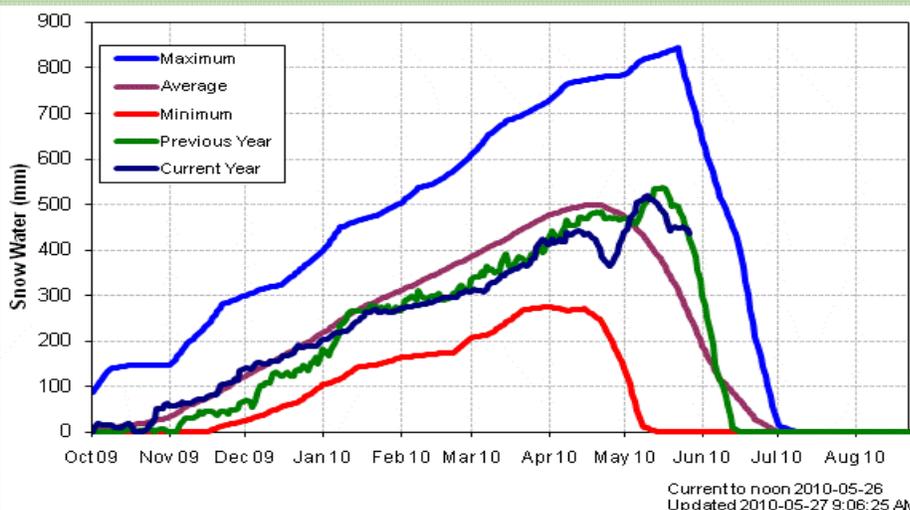
The sandblasting and coating operation for the 42 inch steel pipe is complete. Our painting contractor is now coating the 40 pre-manufactured bends. This will be complete in the next three weeks. After that, the 60 inch pipe which will be the primary conduit through the dam will be sandblasted and coated.

A visual impact assessment, environmental study, drainage study and pre-design report with more detailed costing are in the works. BMID is planning to install pipe from Highway 33 to the Ultraviolet-chlorination disinfection site this fall.

"He that has satisfied his thirst turns his back on the well."
- Baltasar Gracian -

BMID WATER MOISTURE LEVELS

BMID Snow Pack Levels: BMID relies on snow course and snow pillow information to assess whether there will be sufficient moisture available to fill our reservoirs. Our watershed includes the highest elevation lands in the Okanagan which is the Graystoke plateau. Sometimes snow does not leave this area until July. The graph below provides the snow-pillow information for the Graystoke site at May 27. As shown in the graph, this year (dark blue line), we are at above average moisture levels (purple line) for this time of year.



Graph source—BC Rivers Forecast Centre

BMID INTRODUCES ODD-EVEN SPRINKLING REGULATIONS

The *Odd-Even* sprinkling policy works with Odd number addressed properties watering on the odd numbered days of the month and Even number addressed properties water their lawns on the even numbered days. The regulation allows for extended watering times from a six hour to eight hour period. This is to allow for lower flow rates over a slightly longer period of time. Watering with underground sprinklers is now permitted from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. The watering day starts at 10:00 pm and carries on 6 hours into the next day.

The *Odd-Even* measurement is simply a management tool that does not permit residential customers to water their lawns everyday. The *Odd-Even* regulation is not a restriction until the higher stage levels of the Drought Plan are enacted. Even in mid summer, when watering every second day, there is sufficient water to meet the moisture requirements for most vegetation. **Persons not complying with the regulation are easy to identify as their lawns on the select side of the street will be damp in the morning.** Please visit the BMID web-site for sprinkling policy details.

So with the higher-than-average snow-pack, the question is why did BMID adopt *Odd-Even* sprinkling regulations? The recent OBWB basin-wide report identified that agriculture accounts for 55% of the total water use in the valley. Outdoor domestic water use was second at 24%. Only 7% of the total water consumed is being used inside the home. Standard practices, messaging and means in which we manage water use through a drought is necessary. Setting standard regulations across the City for water use is part of a common City-wide Drought Plan.

As BMID reports to the Province, BMID is obligated to be responsible and act in accordance with Provincial objectives and practices. If Okanagan Lake is not filling and drought measures are enacted by downstream utilities, the expectation is that the utilities with strong supplies, like BMID, will also use the water as efficiently as possible.

The *Odd-Even* regulation excludes metered agricultural customers who have a fixed annual allotment of water and flow rate based on their land area and soil type.

OBSERVE, RECORD & REPORT
questionable watershed activities to BMID
at 765-5169

"If man fails to honour the rivers, he shall not gain life from them"
- The Code of the Hammurabi -