



BMID WATER NEWS

BMID Trustees The BMID Trustees are Colin Day (Chair), Allen Kirschner, Gerry Zimmermann, Sukhpaul Bal and David Geen. The 3-year terms of Trustees Geen & Zimmermann expire in April, 2025. Both have stated they will be seeking re-election. BMID has had exceptional leadership and stability from our elected officials. Since 1955, some 70 years, there have been only 3 chair persons, Colin Day, Fred Stevens and Gordie Ivans. We have a very knowledgeable water board.

Annual General Meeting BMID's 103rd AGM will be held at the main office at 285 Gray Road in Kelowna at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Annual reporting documents will be available one-week before the meeting in digital-form from the website and in paper-form at the office. Please monitor our website and the local newspapers for AGM and election details.

2025 Toll Rates The construction industry has seen large cost increases over the past 5 years. To maintain the current service levels, water rates will increase by 7% (less than \$5.00/month). The 2025 Toll Bylaw, No. 739, on the BMID website provides a complete listing of all toll rates. Quarterly water rates for 2025 are:

- Single-family residence - \$ 191.10
- SF residence plus suite - \$ 286.50.

2025 Water Irrigation Tax The irrigation tax rate for 2025 is forecast to be:

- Grade A land \$158.00 / acre
- Grade C land, \$126.40 / acre

In 2024, there were extra charges issued to those Irrigators that were over their allotment. Of the 385 large parcels irrigated, only 20 were over their allotment and only 2 were 20% over allotment. The attention and care by the irrigators is appreciated. The efficient use of water allows for more water to be held in upper reservoir storage at year-end which reduces drought potential for the next years' irrigation season.

2025 Irrigation Turn-on Dates: The projected days for irrigation turn-on will be April 7 - 18th, 2025, weather permitting. Should you require that your irrigation service be turned-on early, a waiver form sign-off and fee payment is required and can be obtained at the BMID main office.

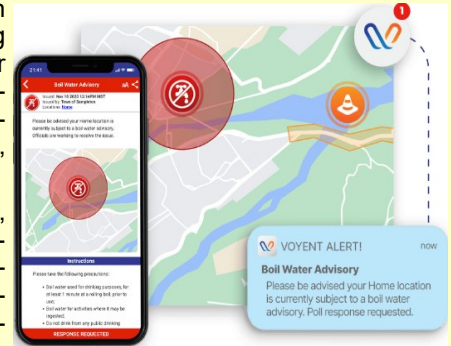
The summer of 2024 experienced some timely rainfall and resulted in a lower than average water use year. BMID's total monthly water use is provided on page 2.

COMMUNICATIONS - E-BILLINGS - VOYENT ALERT!

Voyent Alert! Notifications: With the coverage by local TV, radio and newspapers declining, BMID has been searching for a reliable messaging system to communicate water-related emergencies to our customers. The reliable old ways of communicating are inadequate and the newer forms of social media have challenges with factual content. The BMID web page is the most direct and factual venue for water information for BMID customers.

BMID has retained *Voyent Alert!*, a western Canadian based software and messaging provider, for a means to communicate to our customers. The system is specifically designed to provide immediate and direct information to the customer for emergencies, updates, and general water information.

Water main breaks, areas out of service, flushing & maintenance, water quality emergencies and billing reminders all can be provided through this system. The tool is powerful and allows BMID to notify specific geographical areas and or customer groups.



BMID has entered all contact data that we presently have for each property to the contact database. Please call the office to verify that your contact information in our database is current. Emergency notifications will be issued as and when needed.

The system allows customers the choice of how they wish to be notified.

Messaging can be auto-dial phone call, SMS (short message system) text, e-mail notification, or any combination of the above. The customer also has the choice on whether they want only emergency notifications, reminders, and/or all notifications. To verify how you want to be notified, please either email BMID at info@bmid.ca or call the main office. Make sure you have your account number and/or property address on hand. Then inform us of the method of notification, (phone, text or e-mail) and whether you want all notifications or just emergencies.

E-Billing: The recent Canada Post strike highlighted the reliance we have on our postal system. The strike resulted in the delay of delivery of many water toll and tax bills. BMID has a regular billing cycle for all accounts and there were many late payments. Staff have encouraged customers to sign up for e-billing.

In the past two months, hundreds of customers have signed up for e-billing. E-billing simply means that the bill will be e-mailed to the customer and they will not receive a paper bill in the mail. The customer can select either mailed bill or e-bill as there has been confusion in the past of double payment of the same bill.



2025 Water Use Plan—Mission Creek

In 2023, the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Province released one million sockeye fry into Mission Creek. Many sockeye are expected to return fully grown in 2026-2028. Biologists are working to determine the water flow that is needed for sufficient sockeye spawning habitat. BMID will be participating with ONA, OBWB, City of Kelowna, and the Province to develop an updated Water Use Plan for the creek. With reservoir storage in the watershed, BMID is an important contributor to this planning process. BMID's objective is to first protect the rights of our customers, and to facilitate good water stewardship.

"What vast additions to the Conveniences and Comforts of Living might Mankind have acquired, if the Money spent in Wars had been employed in Works of public utility!" Benjamin Franklin 1785



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2024 Water Usage

BMID monthly water usage for 2024 and the 20-year-average is listed. Units are in megaliters (ML). 1 ML=1,000 m³.

Month	2024	20-Yr Ave.	%
Jan-March	783	654	120 %
April	517	455	114 %
May	1,155	1,362	85 %
June	1,556	1,812	86 %
July	2,568	2,814	91 %
August	2,004	2,686	75 %
September	1,285	1,330	97 %
Oct-Dec	932	885	105 %
Total	10,800	11,998	90 %

Water usage was higher than average during the winter months but lower overall. BMID staff are actively working on reducing overall system leakage. The summer rains contributed to reduced irrigation consumption as did the lack of soft fruit crop due to the winter cold snap.

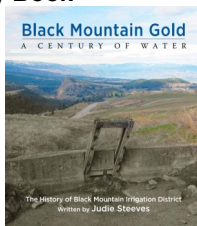
BMID 2025 Capital Projects include:

- Loch Long Reservoir Expansion - Design
- Cornish Well Refurbish for irrigation supply
- Old Vernon Rd - Irrigation water main install.
- Screen Works - Renew 8 slide gates complete
- 1,500mm main installed to McDougall Tunnel
- PRV station renewal—one to above ground
- Tower Ranch upper booster station - construct
- Belgo Canadian Transmission Main - Design

Funding Applications As an Improvement District under the Local Government Act, BMID has limited avenues in which to obtain senior government funding. BMID has made 4 applications to the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAFBC). Two were for design work on dams, one to raise Loch Long Dams was successful and one for raising James Reservoir is pending. An application to fund construction of the Tunnel was rejected as it wasn't solely for agriculture. A grant for funding 300mm dia. irrigation watermain on Old Vernon Road is pending.

BMID 100 Year - History Book

Black Mountain Gold, written by Judie Steeves, is a remarkable record of the settlers who valued agriculture and created the landscape that surrounds us. It is available at the BMID office. Price is \$25.00 cash or debit.



BMID CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE

BMID is granted its governance and operating Letters Patent through the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs. The Ministry requires that public utilities update their Capital Plans every 5 to 7 years. BMID last Capital Plan update was in 2017.

Capital plans are a strategic document designed to inform elected officials of upcoming projects, their costs, and provide the utility with a logical path for progression. A well-prepared plan provides a water utility with guidelines for financial direction, operational upgrades, and capital improvements. The plan is the basis for taxes, tolls and Capital Expenditure Charge (CECs) rates.

CECs are collected and held in a statutory fund that is assigned specifically to compensate for the erosion of water supply capacity by densification and new development. BMID management and staff, with the support of our consultants, developed a comprehensive document with 63 projects. These projects are available for implementation as the District evolves. The Executive Summary for the plan is posted on the BMID website under the "Maps and Reports" tab.

In the past two years, the Province has directed municipalities across the province to allow for densification of housing in their service areas. The City of Kelowna is allowing densification through more multi-family housing, more types and smaller housing including micro-units, and where there is room, allowing carriage houses on all single family lots. BMID is able to accommodate the densification.

BMID has several large project initiatives currently underway. These include the McDougall Tunnel Extension, water system renewal, Dam upgrades and Reservoir expansion, irrigation water to lands above Scotty Creek, projects to improve supply resiliency, Pyman Road irrigation, and water quality improvements.

The two projects of highest priority are the McDougall Tunnel Extension project and the raising of Loch Long Reservoir. The tunnel design is completed and BMID is working to obtain approvals for this unique project from Interior Health. BMID has retained an expert Technical Advisory Committee to work with Interior Health to provide assurance that the tunnel is safe to convey potable water.



Work at the west portal of the future tunnel is shown in the photo. This connection has large diameter butterfly valve in place that will allow future tunnel extension work to be carried out with uninterrupted service to BMID water supply.

Over the winter of 2024-25, R & L Excavating Ltd. was retained to replace the old 1970 concrete conduit from Hadden Reservoir to the future site of the east tunnel portal. The work had to be done in the winter months with irrigation off so that a bypass supply line could be used for supply.

The west portal work was done over 4 weeks in November 2024. BMID was reliant on water supply from Rutland Waterworks District and is very appreciative of the emergency supply and the support by their elected Board and staff.

OBSERVE, RECORD & REPORT
questionable watershed activities to
BMID at (250) 765-5169

"Man-despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication and his many accomplishments -owes his existence to a 6-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains" Paul Harvey