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February 2012

A newsletter from the Black Mountain Irrigation District No. 42

BMID WATER NEWS

BMID AGM — April 11, 2012

The date for BMID's 91th Annual General Meeting has been set for Wednesday, **April 11, 2012, 7:00 pm** at the BMID office at 285 Gray Road. Items of business include presentation of the Trustees Report, the Operations Report, Water Quality Report, and the Financial Report.

The 3-year terms for Trustees Gordon Ivans and Alfred Kempf expire in 2012. Both have informed BMID that they will be seeking re-election. Nomination forms will be available at the District office starting March 21, 2012, with nominations closing Mar. 30, 2012. If an election is required, it will be held at the BMID office from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on April 13, 2012. An early poll will be held at the office April 5 from 12:00pm to 6:00 pm.

Irrigation Turn-On

As per normal practice, BMID staff will be turning on Irrigation services in mid-April. Customers in need of water earlier are required to come to the BMID office, pay the extra service fee, and sign a waiver accepting responsibility and repair costs if the pipes are damaged due to freezing.

Odd-Even Sprinkling Continues

As per previous years, domestic customers with odd-numbered addresses may irrigate their yards on the odd-numbered days of the month. Even number addressed lots may receive irrigation on the even numbered days. The objective is to split up the hydraulic capacity of the water system so that only half of the domestic customers utilize water for irrigation each day. This sprinkling regulation does not apply to large irrigation connections.

2011 Year End Water Consumption

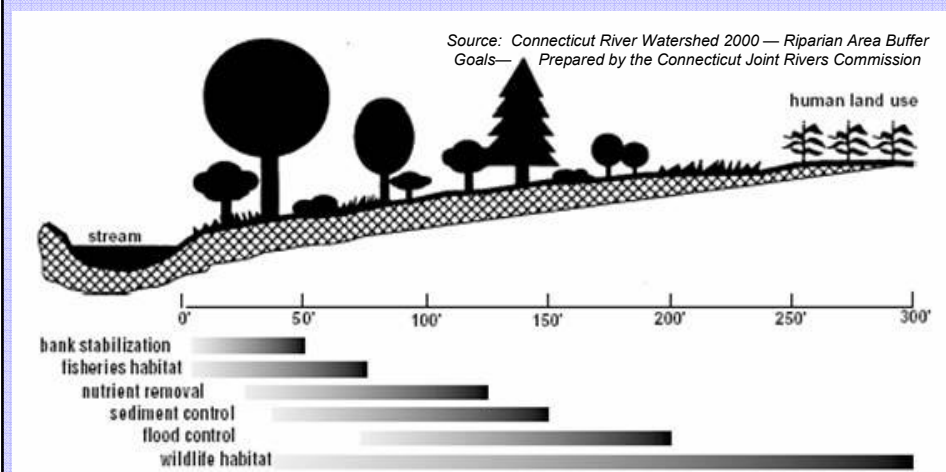
Total BMID water consumption for 2011 was lower than in previous years due to the colder and wetter weather and the late spring. The historic average consumption by BMID has fallen to 12,600 ML with total usage in 2011 at 11,943 ML (ML is a megalitre or 1,000,000 litres of water). Despite the population growth in the area, the long term trend for water consumption in BMID has been relatively constant since 1992. Less agriculture, more efficient water use and densification of housing has created the stable demand. (continued on

PROTECTION OF STREAM CORRIDORS

Nature is truly amazing in its ability to naturally reuse and recycle the materials on the planet. Unfortunately, mankind is not as skilled. We can analyze, study, and replicate some of the natural processes carried out in nature, but we simply cannot duplicate the size and magnitude of the processes that naturally occur.

Water is critical to a number of natural processes including erosion, nutrient and sediment transport, biological growth, and redistribution of solar heat to name a few. Water is naturally treated through many processes including: absorption of its contaminants by the soils, uptake of its nutrients by plants and vegetation along creeks, and evaporation and evapotranspiration of water back to the atmosphere.

One of the best things man can do is let nature do its natural work. By protecting the natural areas surrounding our critical water sources, we will reduce the impacts and pollution created by man.



One of the critical objectives named in the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy is to control pollution at its source. Water quality is directly tied to land use. By maintaining the critical riparian area buffers along creeks, we allow nature to filter and treat the water for our creeks.

In recent years, substantial improvements have been made in how the Mission Creek watershed is managed. Both private lands and Crown (Provincially controlled) lands exist in the watershed. Land use controls on the private lands by the Regional District are stringent. On the Crown lands, where Provincial Ministries have jurisdiction, some have agencies have objectives that conflict with protecting raw water quality.

BMID is lobbying the Province for more stringent management of the Mission Creek stream corridor. The financial costs for water treatment recently developed for the Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan substantiates why we must maintain and protect the Mission Creek corridor.

BMID WATER NEWS



BMID 2012 Work Plan

In addition to our normal operations and maintenance works, BMID will be working on many things in 2012:

Watershed

- Lobbying of the Province for improved controls and greater setbacks along Mission Creek;
- Completion of a Watershed Assessment for the protection of the Mission Creek water source as required by Interior Health;
- Upgraded controls for Loch Long Reservoir which is now a BMID dam;
- Updating of the District Dam Safety manuals;

Facilities

- Completion of a Cover-All building over the water treatment plant flocculation and mixer equipment. Completion—March 15, 2012;
- Securing of legal right-of-way for the BMID disinfection facilities at Scotty Creek;
- Upgrading of safety equipment and eyewash-shower stations at the chlorination facilities;
- Remote operational controls at PRV 1 and PRV 2

BMID Water Quality Improvement

- Completion of the Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan with the other four large water utilities and lobbying of Province for funding for water quality improvements throughout Kelowna;
- Completion of planting works and pathway along the large diameter main south of Highway 33 (part of Reservoir project) April - May, 2012;
- Installation of 1,000 metres of large diameter water main on Joe Rich Road from Highway 33 north to the BMID Reservoir property. Scheduled for construction in May, 2012;
- Rezoning of BMID lands to allow construction of the Ultra-violet disinfection facilities and Reservoir north of Joe Rich Road;
- Begin detailed design on BMID UV disinfection facility at Black Mountain Reservoir site

It will be a busy year for the District.

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

BMID has reprinted an article written by Capital News Reporter Judy Steeves after covering the release of the Draft—Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan. She is a water stewardship advocate and BMID is thankful for her efforts in educating the citizens of Kelowna.

USE OUR GREAT OUTDOORS WITHOUT DOING IT HARM

By [Judie Steeves - Kelowna Capital News](#)

Published in Kelowna Capital News: **December 09, 2011 1:00 AM**

We really are our own worst enemies. We log a little too close to a creek, mine gravel beside creeks or drive our bikes or ATVs through creeks, then come home and turn on the tap to find the glass of water looks like weak coffee—or worse.

The fact is, the same hills around the Okanagan Valley where we work and play supply our drinking water.

It's actually pretty simple. By removing that protective cover of plant life, whether with our tires or a larger piece of equipment, we leave the soil underneath vulnerable to erosion into the nearest waterway. Generally, that body of water then carries the sediment, petrochemicals, both animal and human wastes, organic matter and other bacteria into the nearest domestic water intake. If runoff simply rolls off the top of the trees, bushes, plants and grasses, instead of picking up bared soils, there's less chance that contaminants of concern will be included in what enters the intakes of local water utilities.



Part of the Okanagan's allure for outdoors people is the multi-use watersheds that surround the valley, yet providing those same enthusiasts with safe drinking water may be more expensive than otherwise, because of our love of the outdoors.

There were some shocking numbers released in the past week or so showing what it's going to cost us to ensure our drinking water is safe. However the biggest figure is only necessary if we don't do all we can to protect our local watersheds. The Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan warns us it will cost us \$40 million to bring all five water utilities in the city to what's called Phase 3, which would meet the minimum standards set by Interior Health, addressing all the microbiologic issues.

However, the cost to complete all eight phases is \$361 million. We may be able to avoid the last five stages if we clean up our act in our watersheds and treat them more like the domestic water repositories they are, instead of simply an industrial site or a playground. I mean, it just makes common sense.

To make it work, we have to cooperate and we all have to take responsibility for our own actions and then some for the other guy as well.

Cooperation between all levels of government is just as important as between people and groups of people. For instance, if a local government says an area is not suitable for a gravel mining operation, the provincial government needs to pay some attention instead of going ahead with it anyway. The mining, cattle and forest industries must be responsible caretakers of the land that sustains the resources they covet.

Individually, we must become more aware of the impacts of our actions when we enjoy the wilderness around us, because it's also someone's watershed. Otherwise, we will end up paying.

Judie Steeves writes about outdoors issues for the Capital News.

Water which is too pure has no fish ~
Unknown