



**BMID WATER NEWS**

**BMID Trustees** The BMID Trustees remain consistent. The group includes Colin Day (Chair), Allen Kirschner, Gerry Zimmermann, Sukhpaul Bal and David Geen. This April, the 3-year term of Allen Kirschner expires. Allen has served BMID since the year 2000 and has stated he will be seeking re-election.

**Annual General Meeting**

BMID's 104<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held at 7:00 pm on Wed. April 15, 2026 at the main office at 285 Gray Road, Kelowna. Annual reporting documents will be available one-week before the meeting from the website and in paper-form at the office. There will also be postings in the local newspapers.

**2026 Toll Rates** Water rates were increased this year by 5%. The 2026 Toll Bylaw, No. 744, posted on the BMID website, provides a complete list of all toll rates. Quarterly water rates for 2026 are:

- Single-family residence - \$ 201.00
- SF residence plus suite - \$ 301.50.

**2026 Water Irrigation Tax**

The irrigation tax rate for 2026 will be:

- Grade A land \$166.00 / acre
- Grade C land, \$132.80 / acre

In 2025, extra charges applied to those who were over their allotment. Of the 400 large parcels irrigated, only 23 customers were over their allotment. Only 2 were 20% over allotment. The care taken by the majority of our customers is appreciated.

**2026 Irrigation Turn-on Dates:**

The projected days for irrigation turn-on will be April 7 - 18th, 2026, 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.

**2025-26 Snow Pack** Snow pack is an very important form of water storage. A healthy snowpack allows the water supplier to use the natural creek runoff later into the year before having to use reservoir storage. Snow-water equivalent levels as of Feb. 19, 2026 are presented in mm.

Site	Current	Ave .	% of Ave.
Oyama	105	125	84%
McCulloch	90	110	82%
Graystoke	240	350	68%

The snowpack is low so there is concern but there is also 2 months of winter left at the higher elevations in the watershed.

**MCDUGALL WATER TUNNEL EXTENSION—CLOSER TO REALITY**

In 2018, BMID's primary water supply conduit from Mission Creek, a 1.5m diameter steel pipeline, was at risk of imminent failure. A silt bluff slope was moving in Gallagher's Canyon. By mid-summer the slope had slid more than 150mm and was of grave concern. The slope was subsequently stabilized and since 2018, the slope has been continually monitored. BMID considers this silt slope of high risk to the integrity of BMID's water supply. The Board and Staff have reviewed alternate routes. Fortunately, in the mid-1940's, the District had blasted and hand-dug a 1,000 metre long gravity water tunnel as part of the route to access water from Mission Ck.

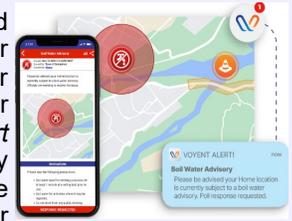
Extending the tunnel is the best solution. The existing tunnel is one of BMID's best pieces of infrastructure requiring very low maintenance. The tunnel is in a very stable, solid mass of metamorphic rock, safe for water, with an extremely long lifespan that will not have to be renewed or replaced for many generations. A Kelowna company, JDS Mining and Energy, was retained to provide the preliminary and detailed design for the tunnel. In 2024, BMID staff and advisors toured the Trans-Mountain pipeline tunnel near Hope, BC. That tunnel shown in the above photo is of similar size to the tunnel planned for BMID.



In the spring of 2025, R & L Excavating from Kelowna completed the pipe works to the tunnel portal locations where water would enter and exit the tunnel. The \$4.2M project sets up the tunnel project so that BMID's water supply will not be interrupted when the tunnel construction work is underway. The detailed design for the new \$24,000,000 -1,650m long water supply tunnel is now completed.

BMID had applied for \$12M from the Federal government Canadian and Housing and Infrastructure program, however that program was halted due to the international issues that the Federal Government is currently facing. Without funding assistance, the project is still financially manageable. BMID will be forced to utilize our statutory reserve funds and also borrow monies. To borrow money, BMID will require ratepayer approval. Please watch for flyers and for notifications of public meetings that BMID will be hosting later this spring for the Tunnel project.

**Community Alert Program** In 2025, BMID subscribed to utilize the *Voyent Alert* software service to notify our customers. With newspaper and media outlets no longer being an effective means in which to reach the greater community, alternate means are necessary. *Voyent Alert* allows for mass or selected notification to customers by either phone, text (SMS), or e-mail, or 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 visit [bmid.ca/forms-guidelines/online-forms](http://bmid.ca/forms-guidelines/online-forms) and fill out the on-line form. Customers are also encouraged to sign up for e-billing for their invoices in order to avoid mail delays and reduce BMID operating costs. See page 2 for the gift draw for those who are signed up for both services.



*"Systems fail when people with ability don't have authority and people with authority don't have ability"*  
 Amit Kalantri from The Daily Economy



## BMID WATER NEWS

### 2026 WATER DRAW 3-3-3 Voyent Alert and E-billing

For 2026, every 3 months, BMID will hold a draw for 3 months free water to 3 residential customers. To be eligible, the customer will have provided BMID with their information for the Voyent Alert notification system.

BMID will also hold a second draw for 3 months free water for 3 customers for those that receive E-bills (e-mailed water invoice). This is to reduce our operating costs. If you have already signed up, you are in the draws.

#### 2025 Water Usage

BMID monthly water usage for 2025 and the 20-year-average is listed. Units are in megaliters (ML). 1 ML=1,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Month	2025	20-Yr Ave.	%
Jan-March	705	654	108 %
April	456	455	100 %
May	1,376	1,362	101 %
June	2,496	1,812	138 %
July	2,696	2,814	96 %
August	2,370	2,686	88 %
September	1,616	1,330	122 %
Oct-Dec	925	887	104 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,640</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>105 %</b>

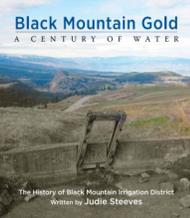
Overall water usage was higher than average, particularly during the shoulder seasons in June and September. Timely summer rains reduced irrigation consumption in July and August 2025. BMID staff are actively working on reducing overall system leakage.

#### BMID 2026 Capital Projects include:

- Dam Safety and Dam Expansion Designs at James Lake and Loch Long Reservoir.
- Cornish Well renewal for irrigation supply
- 300mm Irrigation water main from Cornish Rd. to Old Vernon Rd.
- Emergency generator and system improvements at Scotty Creek well site
- McDougall Tunnel Extension (see page 1)

#### BMID History Book

The book on our first 100 years, Black Mountain Gold, is available at our office. It is a great reminder of those who settled these lands and came before us. Price is \$25.00 cash or debit.



## CLIMATE CHANGE OR FOREST PRACTICES ?

In the past decade, the Okanagan experienced numerous weather related events including cycles of floods, droughts and wildfires. There are persons who believe that the cause of these events is climate change. There are others that oppose this view and believe that the events are a small part of a longer natural weather cycle.

BMID has monitored the Mission Creek watershed for decades, collecting flow measurements, water quality data, and has dealt with damage when major runoff events occur. The data from Mission Creek indicates that the flow rates directly correlate to the forest cover.

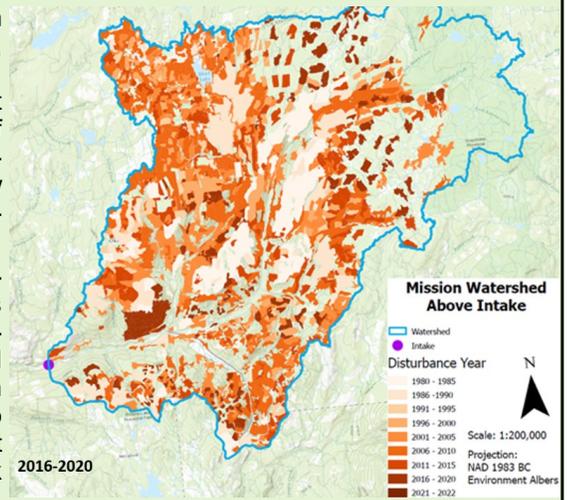
The noteworthy events that occurred over the past 30 years started with the provincial enactment in 1995 of the Forest and Range Practices Code, which permitted larger cut blocks up to 100 acres in size. With less forest cover and shade, the snow pack leaves at a much quicker rate.

By 2003, a drought cycle hit the Okanagan for several years leaving mainstem lakes at very low levels. The watershed plateaus above Okanagan Lake became drier. From 2005-08, the Pine Beetle moved into the forests. The stressed dry pine trees did not have the sap to push out the beetles. Tree deaths from pine beetle was followed by more logging in order to salvage the timber. Another drought hit in 2009. Then with wetter years returning and the disturbed areas in the watershed consisting of more than 35% of the total area, very high flows were experienced in Mission Creek. The inset figure shows disturbed areas in the Mission Creek watershed above the BMID intake from 1980 through 2020.

From 1967 to 2011, the highest recorded flow in Mission Creek was 98 m<sup>3</sup>/s. From 2012 to 2022 there were 6 years out of 11 where the peak flow was greater than 100 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The highest recorded flow at the Ziprick Rd flow station was in 2018 at 124 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The highest flows in Mission Creek typically occur when there is 50mm of precipitation that hits the watershed on the snowpack. Without a forest cover to buffer the runoff, very high flows result in the creek causing erosion and silt and sediment movement along the creek. In 2017 and 2018, water flowing in Mission Creek through Kelowna was very close to overtopping the dikes.

BMID is working to partnering with Westbank First Nation to better manage the forests in Mission Creek, allow the forest canopy to recover, and reduce the chance of flooding in areas downstream along Mission Creek.

The flooding of Grand Forks (2018), Merritt and Princeton (2021) all had 3 things in common: heavy precipitation; significant logging in the upstream watersheds and third; all three communities are situated at the confluence of two rivers.



#### WHY DO I STILL GET A WATER BILL WHEN I AM AWAY AND NOT USING ANY WATER ?

This is a common question we hear from customers who have been away from their home for weeks or months. The water utility is not a commodity like bottled water in the store. It is a service. BMID provides water year-round to all of the properties in our service area. If done well, the service is taken for granted and is out-of-sight and out-of-mind to most customers. When unavailable, it becomes of great importance. Water for fire protection services is available 24 hrs/day year-round. The provision of water consists of fixed and variable costs. The majority of costs are fixed and include staff wages, equipment costs, maintenance costs and costs for system renewal. These expenses form 90% of the total cost to supply water. The fixed costs are shared and assigned throughout the customer base. Variable costs, which form the remaining 10%, include electricity, water treatment chemicals and those costs that are due to water usage.

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

*"Customers will never love a company until the employees love it first" Harvey MacKay*