

**2024 Shareholder Meeting Information**  
**February 15, 2024**  
**6:30 PM - De Beque Fire Station**

Hello Shareholders - another year has passed and the Board of Directors are preparing for the annual meeting. This has been a big year for The Blue Stone Ditch Association. For those of you that cannot attend the meeting, we wanted to highlight some of our accomplishments -

- A large rock (think small bus) had to be removed from an area known as "The Narrows" to allow spring irrigation to begin.
- The Hayes Flume was replaced - much needed - that allows the ditch water to travel over a section of land that is a washout on the property of The Bureau of Reclamation.
- A culvert that was deteriorating was removed and was located on The Bureau of Reclamation land. This removal enabled water to flow more freely through the ditch.
- Annual maintenance, including debris removal from the ditch and brush mitigation.
- Sadly, there was a breach in the area known as the Narrows (beaver hole) that interrupted service for a few days, but was quickly fixed by JC Excavation.

At the current assessment of \$40 per share, that gives the association \$80,000 per year for operations. Annual operations include approximately \$50,000 for ditch maintenance, \$20,000 for our ditch rider, \$5000-\$10,000 for attorney expenses, plus insurance and other office management costs and incidentals. This does not leave any room for unexpected issues.

Kathy Haas, Secretary and Board member, has worked with the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado River District to secure a \$30,000 grant to have an updated engineering study completed to give shareholders an accurate picture of the current condition of the Ditch. The cost to shareholders for this study will be \$2500. An engineering study was previously conducted in 2009 and at that time, Shareholders voted against applying for grants. Currently, The Blue Stone Ditch Association is the only Ditch Company on the western slope of Colorado that has not taken advantage of the billions of dollars being granted by the state and federal government to assist ditch companies in modernizing their infrastructures.

Your input and votes are important to the future of the Ditch. If you cannot attend the annual meeting, please return your proxy form with a designated proxy before January 23, 2024. If you have any questions about the proxy or other current issues that we are facing, please feel free to reach out to any of the board members. Their information can be found on the website -

<https://bluestoneditchassociation.com/>

Sincerely,

Marvin Fender/President     John Hilderbrant/Vice President     Kathy Haas/Secretary  
Guy Herwick/Ditch Rider and Director     Zach Pigati/Director

# **The Blue Stone Ditch Association Annual Shareholder Meeting**

## **Agenda - February 15, 2024 - 6:30 PM**

- Sign in for attendees/count proxies
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes from 12/16/23
- Welcome to new members/anyone want to introduce themselves
- Financial Report (financial report will be provided by Treasurer in writing)

### **Old Business**

- Dating back to minutes from 2019, Shareholders have been asked to replace gates/fencing with 12 foot sections of swing gate and mark headgates with PVC. If these tasks are not completed by the beginning of the irrigation season, the work will be done by the Ditch Association and Shareholders will be charged for materials and labor costs.
- Work completed in 2023

### **Public Comments**

- **Policy Regarding Public Comment** - Any Shareholder wishing to make a comment must identify themselves for the records. The Board requests that each person limit their comments or provide them in writing so that the meeting can continue to move forward.

### **Officer Reports**

- Kathy Haas: Update on grants and estimated time and completion of engineering study. (Hoping rep from JUB will be here to speak and answer questions)

### **New Business**

- Ideas for a thank you/or some type of gift for Rich Livingston
- PO Box, address change, business email/emails and legal name of the Association
- Any new projects/concerns that need to be addressed regarding maintenance for 2024
- Appointment of Ditch Rider/Assistant Ditch Rider
- Election of the 2024 Board of Directors

### **Future Business**

- Have outside experts/water commissioners/other ditch companies come and speak at meetings? Thoughts on who? Who will schedule?
- FEMA - designation areas of flood plains/what we can do as homeowners