

BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION NEWS

FALL 2024

2024 DIRECTORS

Chris Clelland	District #1
John Hartman	District #2
Dan Surmeier	District #3
Piet Laan (Vice-Chair)	District #4
Mike Wagner (Chair)	District #5

BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Board Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month, at the District Office in Notus at 12:00 p.m. If that must be changed, we post a notice in the office.

2024 ASSESSMENTS

Unit #1

Spring \$39.25/acre

Fall \$35.00/acre

\$50/assessment charge per billing

Unit #2

Spring \$39.75/acre

Fall \$35.00/acre

\$50.00/assessment charge per billing

Excess water

\$20.00/acre a foot

District Idle Acres

120% of Unit #2 assessment

2024 WATER SEASON

Another irrigation season is in the books! In regard to storage, it was certainly a successful year. The District will have an average carryover roughly 60,000 acre feet of water. Demand late in the season was strong due to the prolonged heat we had; however, it was an average season for storage usage and river usage. The 399 pumps were used again this year but, we were able to run them a few weeks less than last year due to the good river flow we had.

2024 ELECTIONS

There were 3 Director Terms open this year District #1; #2 and #4. All three Directors ran unopposed. The openings were announced in the paper and were published 9/11/2024 - 9/18/2024.

BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION PROJECTS - FALL 2024 and SPRING 2025

BCID will be installing several new measuring devices on Unit 2 deliveries on the main canal this year. Also, we will be doing a lot of dredging on the main canal. BCID will be installing several new automation stations again this year as well. There will be a lot of ditching and dipping of canals this year which means there will be spoils left on some ditch bank roads. Please be patient with us as soon as they dry and we can get back in to make the roads passable.

RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

Each and every year we have right of way issues. Last year was no different with the placing of fences, plants, material, equipment, and even survey markers (please make sure that surveyors do a set back off the right of way when placing pins so they don't get destroyed). Underground pipelines also have an O&M right of way that requires that nothing is placed within them in order to allow repairs and maintenance. Please, if you are planning on doing anything next to one of our canals, ditches, drains, pipelines, or laterals, contact us first so we can provide you with the right of way information from the BOR to prevent potential problems. BCID has no trespassing signs for sale if anyone would like to purchase one contact our office.

NOTE: Please be aware that irrigation ditch banks and roads are private property. The Irrigation District has an exclusive right of way and ditch roads/banks are not for public use. If you utilize these roads for walking or other recreational purposes and are not the owner of those lands, you ARE trespassing. This is a growing problem and we are receiving an increasing number of complaints from landowners regarding trespass on ditch banks.

NOTICE TO PATRONS WITH PUMPS/MOTORS

Each year someone within the District has motor or pump damage due to water flow issues that are normally out of our control, therefore, as in the past, we continue to **strongly** encourage any Patrons with Pumps / Motors to install low water shutoff protection to prevent possible damage due to low water conditions. We normally experience power outages each and every year so please be prepared. In addition, if you install a pump irrigation system, please design them to function at minimum flows. We have had multiple Patrons design their systems to operate at 1" to the acre or more. The district cannot always deliver a full inch to the acre as it was

designed to deliver only 7/10's of an inch to the acre. When this happens, you may not be able to irrigate if your system is not designed appropriately.

BCID UPDATES

BCID has recovered the money from the embezzlement case and the criminal sentencing is finished. BCID is very happy that this chapter is behind us, and we can start to move forward. BCID wants to ensure everyone that we have implemented policies and procedures to make sure that this doesn't happen again.

The ongoing issue with the State of Idaho Department of Water Resources continues to be a top priority for us , in regards to how water is released for flood control and how it is accounted. Our applications for refill have recently been published for comment, so we can now begin working through the Department's process.

As I stated in the first paragraph of this letter one of the main challenges BCID faces annually is meeting demand due to the capacity restrictions of the main canal. Some years we are restricted to 8/10's and some years we are forced to go to 7/10's, this happens because demand is higher than the capacity of the main canal. BCID was built to deliver only 7/10's of an inch to the acre with the farming practices of the 1930's including fallowing. BCID is working to address this delivery issue on several fronts. We have put in for a grant and set some funds aside to begin metering all Emmett deliveries on the main canal. We have also begun work to determine the best way to get additional water through or around Tunnel 2 in Emmett. We are also identifying high loss laterals and applying for grants to line or pipe them in order to create savings of water within the system. All of these approaches are very costly to implement initially, however will pay dividends in water savings and increased delivery amounts for our patrons annually moving forward.

As we find ourselves with many new neighbors and more and more people who have not been exposed to agriculture in any way, BCID has been working to help educate the general public on the importance of irrigation and agriculture in general. We have created a Facebook page and an Instagram page in hopes of both keeping our patrons informed and helping to educate those who are unfortunate enough not to have had rural exposure. The more people that follow/like our pages the more it helps us to get the word out so we would greatly appreciate your help!

This year has been a great year for BCID I want to take a minute to thank Carl Hayes for his service as the manager at BCID. Carl has moved on and taken a new position at Emmett Irrigation. The board of directors has hired me, Mike Meyers to replace him. My previous role was the Watermaster of the Boise River system and my 20+ years of experience in the irrigation industry will serve me well in my new role at BCID. I want to let you know that I take this position very seriously and know that delivery of water is my top priority. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the office and we can chat.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

As the holiday season approaches, our office will be observing the following changes to our normal hours of operation:

Thanksgiving:	November 27 th	7 a.m. – 12 p.m. / November 28 th & 29 th : Closed
Christmas:	December 20 th	7 – 4:30p.m. Last day to pay bill before interest is applied
	December 23 rd – Jan.5 th	Office Closed
	January 6 th	First day to rent water for 2025

Mike Meyers
District Manager