

BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION NEWS

FALL 2023

2023 DIRECTORS

Chris Clelland	District #1
John Hartman (Chair)	District #2
Dan Surmeier	District #3
Piet Laan	District #4
Mike Wagner (Vice-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 on the main page of our website.

2023 ASSESSMENTS

Unit #1

Spring \$34.75/acre

Fall \$30.50/acre

\$50/assessment charge per billing

Unit #2

Spring \$35.25/acre

Fall \$30.50/acre

\$50.00/assessment charge per billing

Excess water

\$20.00/acre a foot

District Idle Acres

\$70.00/acre plus Transfer fee

2023 WATER SEASON

Another irrigation season is in the books! In regards to storage it was certainly a successful year as early fall rains curbed demand which allowed more storage to be carried over to the 2024 season. Demand came on early and strong as we turned on the 399 Auxiliary Pumps two weeks earlier than normal. This caused the District to reduce delivery amounts to 7/10's as happens periodically, unfortunately, due to capacity issues on the main canal. (More discussion on this under "Water Issues" on the back.)

2023 ELECTIONS

There were no elections held this year however, 1st Unit Director Adam Blank relinquished his position and the Directors appointed Chris Clelland to fill the vacancy. We would like to offer a special thank you to Adam Blank for his service. Adam was a strong voice on the Board and played a major roll in helping the District arrive at several difficult but necessary decisions throughout his time served. Thank you Adam!. In regards to Chris, he has wasted no time getting up to speed and we are glad to have him aboard!

~DELIVERY POINTS~

If you see an issue with the number of acres on your delivery points, please contact the office. We can only fix these while water is NOT running so you need to take care of these problems during the off season.

BLACK CANYON IRRIGATION PROJECTS - FALL 2023 and SPRING 2024

BCID is currently taking advantage of a grant we received from WD 65 to implement several more automation sites to help us more accurately measure water and help with timely delivery. Through this grant we were also able to purchase a new doppler stream measurement device which has allowed BCID and WD 65 to obtain more accurate measurements of the Main canal, in turn saving BCID patrons thousands of acre feet of water this year alone.

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 lateral's, contact us first so we can provide you with the right of way information from the BOR to prevent potential problems.

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

We have been diligently working through the embezzlement, having now completed the audits and selling assets acquired through the civil action with only two assets remaining to liquidate. The criminal sentencing is pending and we await the decision of the federal judge to determine the length of time that will be served. We have consulted with experts, and made internal control changes, hoping to put this unpleasant chapter behind us, moving forward with hyper vigilance of monthly financial review.

The ongoing issue with the State of Idaho Department of Water Resources in regard to how water that is released for flood control is accounted continues to be a top priority for us. 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 last year has been a significant challenge for everyone here at Black Canyon. That being said, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to recognize the people who have played such a large role in getting us through it. The employees here have stepped up, in every way working countless overtime hours, ever willing to do far more than their job should ever require to make sure that the operation of this District is not interrupted. I also would like to mention the patrons that reached out to offer a helping hand or encouraging word. It has been a humbling experience, through which we have emerged stronger and more determined. This support, outreach, and pulling together through tough times is what draws us to, and keeps us working in Agriculture. To all of our Patrons, Employees, and those in our community who lent a helping hand, kind word, patience and understanding... sincerely, **thank you.**

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

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

Thanksgiving:	November 22 nd :	7 a.m. – 12 p.m. / November 23 rd & 24 th :	Closed
Christmas:	December 20 th :	7 – 4:30 p.m. – Last day to pay bill before interest is	applied
	December 21 nd – January 1 st :	Office Closed	
	January 2 nd :	First day to rent water for 2024	

Carl Hayes
District Manager