

2023 Watermaster's Annual Report
Twin Lakes Water District 95-C
Steve Neff, Watermaster
P.O. Box 104, Rathdrum, ID 83858

AFFIDAVIT OF WATERMASTER

As the appointed watermaster of Twin Lakes Water District 95-C, I hereby certify that the information contained in this report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.


Signature

5/18/23
Date

- The 2022/2023 season started with significant runoff and precipitation.
 - Snowpack was a little lower than average. However, significant rainfall in May and June left the lake near capacity well into July.
 - Roughly 45 hours were spent measuring flows in the drainage during the 2022 irrigation season.
 - Measurements of the inflows and outflows began on July 7, and continued until October 16, with updates posted to the water district website on a regular basis.
 - Outside of the irrigation season, the watermaster regularly attended Flood Control District 17 meetings and communicated with their board in order to see that water was delivered to stock water right 95-0734 at the Sylte Ranch. Water was successfully delivered to the stock water right throughout most of the year.

- Responses to postcards sent out prior to the annual meeting last year continued into May and June. About two-thirds of the postcards sent to roughly 380 members generated a reply from the property owners.
 - Discussions are ongoing as to what approach to use for the remaining members.
 - Many members still need to update their information with IDWR.

- All users are now paying \$25 per water right holder (changed from “per water right” in 2022).
 - There were no measurements of individual diversions, as was customary since formation of the district in 1989.

- The watermaster assisted Flood Control District 17 (FCD) during the winter months again this year by offering remote control of the spillway gate.
 - The system is somewhat complex, yet only requires a couple minutes to make a change in the gate position without visiting the site.
 - FCD board members have access to a camera system at the spillway, providing immediate verification of the gate position.
 - A system was put into place to bill the Flood Control District for time spent remotely adjusting the dam. It was agreed the watermaster would not be considered a dam tender when adjusting remotely under request of the FCD.

- A \$34,000 grant for measuring equipment at the spillway was approved by the Kootenai County Aquifer Protection Board last summer.
 - The equipment was ordered and manufactured over the winter months and delivered in April. A company installer will be out to complete installation when the gate is in place in the spillway.
 - The Flood Control District has agreed to pay for the remaining installation costs, such as crane operation and gate attachment to the structure. The gate will be considered property of the FCD, as it will be a permanent addition to the structure.
 - Preparations are being made to install the new equipment once spring runoff flows diminish.
 - The new equipment will provide more accurate measurements at low flows during most of the year.
 - This will provide more accurate and transparent flow data for delivering water downstream, as well as a better gate opening to allow debris to pass without obstructing the flow.
 - Flow data will also be shared with the Aquifer Protection District for use in tracking recharge flows to the aquifer.

- There were no Advisory Committee meetings held during the 2022/2023 season.