

**2024 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 elected 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

5/16/24
Date

- The 2023 irrigation season started with nearly average runoff and precipitation.
 - Snowpack was a little lower than average, and runoff was steady throughout the spring months.
 - Flood Control District #17 (FCD17) transferred control of the spillway over to the water district on May 17, as spring flows were diminishing.
 - Roughly 40 hours were spent measuring flows in the drainage during the 2023 irrigation season.
 - Measurements of the inflows and outflows began on June 1, and continued until October 2, with updates posted to the water district website on a regular basis.
 - Outside of the irrigation season, the watermaster regularly attended FCD17 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.
- Many members still need to update their contact information with IDWR, but have been difficult to reach. The local IDWR office personnel are working to come up with a plan to reach these members in the 2024/2025 season.
- All water district members paid \$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 FCD17 during the winter months again this year by offering remote control of the spillway gate.
 - The old system is somewhat complex, yet only requires a couple minutes to make a change in the gate position without visiting the site.
 - FCD17 board members continue to have access to a camera system at the spillway, providing live views of the gate position and downstream staff gauge.
 - FCD17 shares in the expense of the Starlink system installed at the dam that provides the internet connection for the camera system.
 - The new gate system at the spillway has been set up to provide FCD17 board members with access to remote gate controls. The camera system will remain in service as a backup to gate controls and monitoring.

- Preparations began in May for the new gate to be installed at the spillway following approval of a grant from the Kootenai County Aquifer Protection Board.
 - Local fabricators were contacted for production and installation of the framework to hold the new gate. Cooper Fabrication in Post Falls agreed to perform the work.
 - The hardware was installed in late fall, while the gate installation and commissioning continued into the winter months. The gate was operational by February, 2024.
 - The new gate provides 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. A demonstration of the new system was presented to the Aquifer Protection District earlier this spring (2024).

- There were no Advisory Committee meetings held during the 2023/2024 season.