

# SBWC 2018 NEWSLETTER

South Boise Water Company - P.O. Box 6005, Boise, ID 83707

MARCH 2018

Gabriel Bishop  
Board Member

My name is Gabe Bishop and I am the new Landscape Services Manager for Boise State. I moved to Boise last April from Portland, Oregon where I was the Director of Grounds for Lewis & Clark College. My experience so far has been amazing. Being apart of the Boise State Community, witnessing a total eclipse from the Boise National Forest, riding my bike to work on the greenbelt, and really feeling welcomed to Boise. I am very excited to be engaged in the South Boise Water Company an be a part of a company that is 100 years old that is truly built and operated with a "neighbor helping neighbor" attitude. We have a few upcoming projects at Boise State that will help us manage our irrigation on campus more efficiently and I am delighted to be a part of the process.

John Roldan  
Board Member

Hello! My name is John Roldan and I was recently elected to serve on the Board at the Annual Shareholder Meeting in January. I've lived in Boise for the past ten years with my wife and four children, and feel very fortunate to be raising my kids in our wonderful community. As an avid hunter and fisherman, I have truly enjoyed all that Idaho has to offer. I was recently hired by the City of Boise as the Strategic Water Resources Manager, and as the title suggests, I am tasked with managing the City's water rights portfolio and long-term water resource strategic planning. The City irrigates many of the parks we all enjoy with surface water from irrigation districts and canal companies, which has led me to seek out board positions to take a more active role in their management and preservation. Prior to coming to work for the City, I spent my previous 20 years of professional life working in both the public and private sectors managing irrigation district operations and preparing water management studies for federal, state, municipal and agricultural clients throughout the western United States. I look forward to engaging with the rest of the Board in working through the many issues facing the South Boise Water Company and its shareholders.

Emmett Brollier  
Treasurer

In 2017 South Boise Water Company received income of \$101,616 and had expenses of \$ 83,877 resulting in a profit for the year of \$ 17,739.

The 2017 budget forecasted a profit of \$ 10,178. Our expenses ended up being under budget by \$ 7,298 and income slightly over budget.

At the beginning of 2017 your company had \$ 104,679 in total assets, consisting primarily of cash, and ended the year with \$ 122,418 in total assets. The change being the profit during 2017.

Your company's budget for 2018 anticipates a profit of \$ 4,255 with income estimated at \$ 99,355 and expenses estimated at \$ 95,100.

Bill Lloyd  
Board Member

Measurement of water flow into and diversions out of Loggers Creek is essential to proper management.

In the past two years we have rechecked and calibrated several measurement points between Chatburn and just below Larkey dam. As a result of the calibrations we are confident that the water flow in Loggers Creek and the diversions out of the creek are within design and water right objectives.

The Boise River flood of 2017 gave the Company system a serious test in upper Loggers Creek. The peak flow in the river was 9,600 CFS and there was over 3 months of flow over 6500 CFS where flooding begins. Resultant damage to the Company system was small with some bank erosion at Chatburn and this was limited by sandbagging by the City and the County. There is likely to be serious damage with future flows at 10,000 or more.

Inflows to Loggers creek directly from the river over the undeveloped park property just upstream of Chatburn were well in excess of the nominal 50 CFS that is maintained at Chatburn. The Chatburn gates were closed in early April. The Creek rose to about 4' above normal between Chatburn and the berm and this caused crawlspace flooding and some street flooding in Spring Meadow. The berm gate was adjusted to keep Loggers Creek at near normal during the flooding. The berm and the berm gate provided flood control below the berm. The City and the County have made repairs to the erosion points that damaged the walking paths and added more water into the Company system above the berm.

With the proper calibration of our diversions into Loggers Creek we expect flows in Loggers below Larkey Dam to be similar to last year. We plan to try a flush of higher water in early April. The B Drain Ditch, which enters Loggers at 200 Parkway is used to significantly increase the flow in Loggers beyond that point.

Evelyn Holder  
Secretary

This year I would like to suggest reading for those of you who like myself love history. The books are written by a former Idaho Falls High School teacher of 35 years, Afton Bitton. She has written two books the first one is "Beautiful Bonneville" and the second is "Trumpeter's Dell".

Although both are written about southeastern Idaho they give you a look at the early establishment of Idaho.

<b>South Boise Water Company 2018</b>	
President	Dustin Mortimer
Vice President	Barry Eschen
Secretary	Evelyn Holder
Treasurer	Emmett Brollier
Watermaster	Mike Harrison
	Watermaster (208) 447-8600

The Company owns 700 acre feet of storage space in Lucky Peak Reservoir. We make a yearly payment toward this purchase, which will complete in 2044. In addition we pay our share of operating costs. Operating costs are currently in negotiation. With other irrigation companies we are asking that flood control use of the reservoir pay its share of operating costs. We can lease our space to others who need the water. We have used this to provide extra income for the company. The risk is that that if Lucky Peak does not fill the following year we will not get our full 700 acre feet. We try to save 300-400 acre feet in case of drought the following year

Barry Eschen  
 Vice-President's Report  
 Water Rights

Water Rights are a continuing area of concern for the Company. The laws, precedents, and rules governing them are complex. Because water is becoming progressively more valuable, the legal theories brought forward and the laws proposed are more and more sophisticated and complex. The South Boise Water Co. has rights to divert water from the Boise River for certain periods and for certain purposes. Individual shareholders have a proportionate interest in our water rights, but this interest does not allow them to divert water from the river in their own name. The company has the right to divert and the shareholder is entitled to their portion of the diverted water.

The Company diverts water for irrigation, esthetic, fish and wildlife, conveyance, and mitigation. Irrigation water is applied to the land and thus consumed. Esthetic water is diverted and observed, but is returned to the river. Fish and wildlife water is used to provide living space for aquatic animals and drinking water for land animals. Conveyance water is diverted under another entity's right, but passes through our system, because the owner does not have the physical means to get the water directly from the river. Mitigation water is left in the river by us to make up for water used by the mitigation shareholder. Mitigation shareholders are either outside our service area or use water for a purpose other than irrigation. Those outside our service area take water that would eventually enter the Boise River, and our water left in the river makes up for the water that does not get there.

The Snake River Adjudication, initiated in 1987 and completed in 2014, sets forth our various rights. Our oldest rights are dated 1864, which means that when water is short we are reduced to 60%. Theoretically we could be reduced further, but such a drought has not occurred in the history of the company.

To further protect our diversion rights we have installed a series of gauging points in Loggers Creek. We use these to show that we are using our water and not using too much. If we do not use some water for five years, we can lose it. If we take too much, we must compensate with water from Lucky Peak. (Continued on the next column)

This year's major challenge to our rights is a challenge to our storage of water in Lucky Peak after a flood control release. It has been the practice for the Corps of Engineers to release water early in order to have space for flood water. This was very effective last year and prevented disastrous flooding during peak flows into the system. The custom has been for the Corps to then fill the reservoir as the flood runoff comes in and to then send us water per our storage contract. The challengers claim that our contract is for the first fill. Their idea is that, if the first fill is then emptied out to prevent flooding, our water is gone. The refill water would then be someone else's. We are fighting the battle legally in alliance with other companies with storage in Lucky Peak. The issue is now at the State Supreme Court level. We hope and expect to win and have a backup plan, but the decision is not in.

Mike Harrison  
 Watermaster

Well, it was quite the water season last year! There was only one other year on record that matched last years flows. From 1-1-17 through 7-31-17 the runoff in the Boise Basin was 183% of normal.

That was a lot of water flowing down the river. With those flows, erosion was substantial along the greenbelt. Part of the greenbelt was eroded next to our Chatburn head gate. Ada Park and Waterways was awarded some Federal Funds for repairs, so they took care of the repairs for us.

We are getting a jump on repairs and maintenance due to the mild weather and hope to get many things done that were not done last year because of the winter.

We are looking forward to another good water year, although snowpack is still below normal. There was a large carryover from last year so Lucky Peak is currently 57% full. This will help with our storage water.

Thank you all for your continued support and for all your help. If you see something that needs my attention please do not hesitate to call. Please feel to call me anytime, even if you don't have a problem!

"Every drop counts"