



“The Wheel Line”
The best information line
WINTER EDITION 2020

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Hello, Fellow Irrigators:

I hope this newsletter finds you well, that you are having success storing and moving your crop, and that you and your loved ones are prepared for what will be a memorable holiday season (even if it will be memorable for the wrong reasons). I pass on to all ratepayers, Season's Greeting from the Board and District staff.

The coming year will be very important for SSRID. We will have new staff join our team, we will do work on critical projects within the District, the Board will propose changes to the District Bylaws, and we will look to **YOU** to help steer SSRID towards a bright future with expanded irrigation in our great province. Please use this newsletter as a tool to have your voice heard. Your Board members and our staff are receptive to feedback, good or bad. Let us know what is on your mind!

The contents of this newsletter will update all ratepayers relative to the operations, financial standing, and future directions of the District. Should you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter, please contact the office by phone or e-mail, or contact one of the board members by phone (see the 'Contact Us' section).

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and the best in 2021!



Steve Primrose

Chairman of the Board of Directors
South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District No. 1 Inc.

CONTACT US

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Ditchriders: (off for the season)

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Board of Directors:

Steve Primrose, Chairman

Phone: 403 382 9998

Austin Ballek, Vice-Chairman

Phone: 306 867 4593

James Verwimp, Director

Phone: 306 867 3468

Ray Derald, Director

Phone: 306 867 8557

Matthew Lawless, Director

Phone: 306 867 4478

ELECTION RESULTS

On December 3rd, ratepayers had the opportunity to cast their ballot and elect two (2) of their peers to the Board. Steve Primrose and James Verwimp were both re-elected for another two (2) year term.

Sincere thanks goes out to John Bradbury and Ed Spigott, as both let their names stand in the election. The District would also like to thank Donna Smith and David Alm, who served as returning officers on the day of the election.

GEORGE KING RETIREMENT

George King, Operations Manager, officially retired in mid-November, after serving the District as a dedicated employee for 41 years. The Board would like to sincerely thank George for his many years of service to SSRID, and for providing leadership and mentorship to his crew over the years, which will enable them to carry on with the operations of the District long into the future.

The Board would like to remind all ratepayers that **Adam Knapik** has been hired into the role of Operations Manager, effective April 1st, 2021. Adam has been a ditchrider and operator with SSRID for the last 17 years, and he is looking forward to this next challenge in his career.

The District will host a retirement celebration for George once COVID-19 gathering restrictions ease.

GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE

SSRID's General Manager, **Brian Bartel**, has provided the following update. Detailed reports from our staff can be found on our website, under the 'Irrigator Information' section.

A reminder to all ratepayers that invoices for base rates, water usage fees, and custom work are due in full by December 31st, 2020. Should any ratepayer wish to discuss their invoicing, please contact me to arrange an appointment.

Bailey Meier, Administrator for SSRID, has returned to work full-time. Bailey will be working

in the office Monday thru Thursday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

SSRID will be hiring three (3) new employees for the upcoming 2021 season. The hiring process will commence in January.

Irrigation Work Management Plan (IWMP) projects have been completed and are currently under review by the Ministry of Agriculture. I anticipate no issues and we will be able to withdraw the funds from our IRP fund soon. The funds will be deposited into the District account under custom work.

SSRID is currently negotiating with the Department of Highways on all District crossings along highways SK 15 and SK 219.

KALM Mechanical & Welding is currently working on failed pieces of SSRID equipment from this past season. Failure is becoming more common due to the age of our equipment. I will be looking into budgeting for new or used units to replace the failed equipment.

Please contact the District Office at 306 867 9923 should you have any inquiries or issues to discuss with Brian.

DISTRICT FINANCES

SSRID's audited financial statements are available to ratepayers upon request. Please contact the office should you wish to look over these documents.

Our various assets are:

Savings = \$100,029.09
Chequing = \$640,617.86
IRP Fund = \$3,895,586.58
Replacement Fund = \$3,308,448.24
CIP Fund = \$7,200,660.48
Development Fund = \$771,256.29
Equipment Fund = \$118,582.82

A fully complete, detailed 2020 budget is available at our office, and can be viewed by ratepayers upon request. A copy of the budget has also been added

to our website, under the “Irrigator Information” section.

As was mentioned in Brian's report, all invoices are due in full by December 31st, 2020. Please note the following:

- The 2020 **base rate** is \$46.98 *per acre* (this includes the 2020 IRP contribution)
- The 2020 **water usage fee** is \$7.37 *per acre foot*
- The current **futures fee** is \$25.40 *per acre* (\$24.00 IRP fee plus \$1.00 levy for ICDC and \$0.40 levy for SIPA)
- The 2020 **Tweeten and 4A/4B base rate** is \$48.48 *per acre*
- The 2020 **Tweeten and 4A/4B water usage fee** is \$13.37 *per acre foot*
- Total 2020 water diversion for SSRID was 65,293.33 acre feet.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

The majority of IRP and custom work projects scheduled for 2020 were completed, and District staff had a wonderful fall season (weather-wise) to work under. Heavy snowfall early in November brought an end to outside work, and remaining projects will be completed in the spring of 2021, should the weather allow it.

The Board has moved that a high pressure pipeline be installed to replace the failing B2E canal. Preliminary work is ongoing, and the project should be out for tender in the New Year.

The District is looking to rebuild components of the 4CE2 pump station to make it operational. Brian has applied for CAP funding on this, and the District should have more information to share in the New Year.

SSRID & MACRORIE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

As was announced in our previous newsletter, on July 15, all SSRID Board Members were sent a

letter from Larry Lee, Chairman of the Board for Macrorie Irrigation District Inc (MID). The letter stated that MID felt an amalgamation between them and SSRID would be a good fit, but not at this time due to concerns they have with the SSRID Board. According to the letter, MID has lost confidence in the SSRID Board, and will only reopen amalgamation talks when the SSRID Board members have been replaced.

SSRID made repeated attempts to discuss MID's concerns, and reached out to all members of the MID Board. After receiving no feedback from MID, and upon much deliberation, the SSRID Board moved to discontinue all services (operations & administration) to MID as of October 30th, 2020. This was not an easy decision for the SSRID Board, but it would be difficult for SSRID to provide services to MID without open and honest communication.

The SSRID Board is hopeful that talks with MID will be rekindled in the future. Rest assured, though, the SSRID Board remains committed to the operation and the oversight of **YOUR** district as their **TOP PRIORITY**.

FUTURE DIRECTION OF SSRID

In the New Year, the Board will be proposing updates to the District by-laws. Any changes to the by-laws will require majority approval at an AGM, which we will host once COVID-19 restrictions ease. We will also initiate a 10-year strategic plan for the District, and we will introduce SSRID's Mission Statement.

SSRID's future direction relies heavily on input from **YOU!** E-mail ssrid1@sasktel.net or send a letter to the Board and tell us **YOUR VISION** for SSRID in 10 years. What problems do we need to address? What solutions do you propose to these problems? How can we all work together to remain profitable & sustainable in this ever-changing world?

We look forward to seeing your input!



SSRID
SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT NO.1

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