



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

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Hello, Fellow Irrigators:

I hope this newsletter finds you as well as can be expected in these trialing times. Who would have thought that 2020 would be the year when food would come to the top of everyone's mind? This may very well be the year when agriculture starts to mean more to our neighbours in urban communities. It is time to talk about *food security* in our country, and it is time to get *water* and *irrigation* at the top of our government's agenda.

By now, you have likely concluded that I, Steve Primrose, was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors for SSRID. Austin Ballek returns, by election, to his position as Vice-Chairman. I would like to welcome our newly elected directors, Ray Derald and Matthew Lawless. James Verwimp, also a director, rounds out the board.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our retiring board members, and thank them for their service. To Murray Kasper and Grant Pederson, thank you for many years of service and dedication to the ratepayers of SSRID No. 1 Inc.! Your leadership and expertise helped propel the District in a new, exciting direction. I wish you all the best in the years to come.

The contents of this newsletter will update all ratepayers relative to the operations, financial standing, and future directions of the District. We are using this medium in the absence of an Annual General Meeting, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. 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).

All the best in 2020!



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

CONTACT US

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Ray Derald, Director

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Matthew Lawless, Director

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SSRID OFFICE CLOSURE UPDATE

Effective March 23rd, 2020, the SSRID office building in Outlook was temporarily closed to members of the public, due to concerns surrounding COVID-19. The office will remain closed, except to staff and board members, until further notice. The office staff are working hard during these unprecedented times to keep the district operational.

Should you need to contact the office for any reason, please phone 306 867 9923 or e-mail ssrid1@sasktel.net, and our staff will be glad to help you!



GEORGE KING RETIREMENT

It is with mixed emotions that the District announces the upcoming retirement of George King, Operations Manager, at the end of the 2020 season. George has been a dedicated, key member of SSRID staff for 41 years. It takes real drive, commitment, and true loyalty to give 41 years of one's life to the same company, and the Board would like to sincerely thank George for his many years of service to SSRID.

When you see George out and about this coming season, please thank him in your own way. The District will plan a retirement celebration for George, once COVID-19 concerns lessen.

GENERAL MANAGER LEAVE OF ABSENCE

SSRID's General Manager, Brian Bartel, is currently on a leave of absence. The Board will make ratepayers aware of Brian's return to the office when that time comes.

Please contact the District Office at 306 867 9923 or e-mail ssrid1@sasktel.net for all inquiries, and Jill or George will be glad to help you during Brian's absence.

UPCOMING IRRIGATION SEASON

The District is well on its way to being ready for the 2020 season. Below are some highlights from the Board and from staff, with some **considerations** relative to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

- This season's supply of Mag-H was delivered on March 27th, 2020. The District will be treating for algae control on a regular, scheduled basis (tentatively June 26, July 23, and August 17 for M1 canal).
- Four new irrigation systems are going up this spring, and District staff will be busy installing structures for these systems very soon.
- District staff will also be finishing the installation of check structures in M2 this spring.
- Water will be turned **ON** in the main canals May 1st.
- Staff prefer to receive water orders via e-mail/SSRID website (best option) or text message (second choice). These orders **MUST** be received by **6:00AM** the day water is required, or the water **WILL NOT** be turned out.
- Due to COVID-19 concerns, please call the office to discuss order arrangements if e-mail/website or text message are not viable options for you.
- Should you need to contact the ditchriders, please **DO NOT** approach them in-person. Instead, phone the office or phone the

ditchrider directly on their cell phone (see 'Contact Us' section). If the ditchrider does not answer their phone, leave a message and they will call you back as soon as they can.

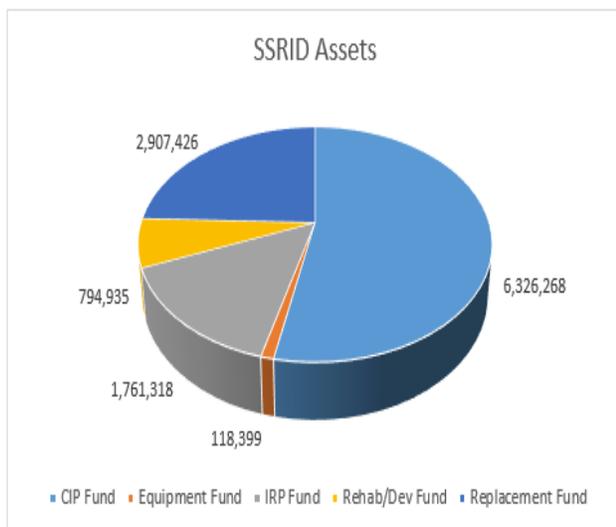
- As was the case last summer, SSRID staff will be doing rehabilitation work on District drain structures. If there is a drain in your area that you feel requires attention, please contact George or the office to discuss the situation.
- This coming fall, SSRID staff will be doing rehabilitation work to various structures that have failed or will fail soon, and have overall become unsafe to operate.



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.

The figure below shows SSRID's current assets, divided by our various accounts.



A fully complete, detailed 2020 budget is available to ratepayers upon request. Please contact the office should you wish to view a copy of the budget.

The take-home highlights of this year's budget are the following:

- The 2020 **base rate** is \$46.98 *per acre* (this includes the 2020 IRP contribution)
- The 2020 estimated 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 estimated water usage fee is \$13.37 *per acre foot*

The Board realizes the world is facing uncertain times, and this year's crop production potential and commodity prices are impossible to predict.

Therefore, the District **WILL NOT** be billing out any part of the 2020 base rate **UNTIL FALL**. At that time, the Board will review the irrigation season to determine if billing should occur in full or in segments. The ratepayers of the District are all in this together, and, united, we will all get out of this together!



FUTURE DIRECTION OF SSRID

Over the coming months, the Board and SSRID staff will be working hard to navigate the future direction of the District. This will include better communication with the ratepayers, engaging with government to get more acres under irrigation, reviewing & updating District by-laws, initiating a 10-year strategic plan, and producing 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!



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