



“The Wheel Line”
The best information line
SUMMER EDITION 2021

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Hello, Fellow Irrigators:

I hope this edition of “The Wheel Line” finds you well. Crops are emerging across the district and our irrigation season is in full swing. SSRID held its Annual General Meeting on April 30th, 2021. I want to draw your attention to SSRID's new **Mission Statement** and **Vision**, which were introduced at the AGM.

Mission Statement

To be a leader in Saskatchewan irrigation and foster growth, efficiency, prosperity & sustainability in our district.

Vision

- Strive to convey the cleanest water possible at a fair price.
- Establish positive relationships with district consumers, governments, and the broader community.
- Secure a shared revenue-stream from local, provincial, and federal sources, to enhance the viability & longevity of the district.
- Increase irrigable acres in our district by 20,000 before the year 2030.
- Replace failing canals with pipelines, wherever feasible.
- Rely on local personnel, businesses, and manufacturing, wherever feasible, to fulfill the operations & maintenance obligations of the district.

The Board and SSRID staff will continue to work diligently to bring our new mission and vision to fruition!

All the best this growing season!

Steve Primrose
Chairman, SSRID No. 1 Inc.

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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 Bailey or Adam will be glad to help you during Brian's absence.

SSRID AGM 2021

The **Annual General Meeting** of SSRID members was held virtually on Friday, April 30th, 2021. Thank you to Bailey for setting up our first virtual meeting and for helping ratepayers and guests with technical difficulties.

Hon. David Marit, Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Saskatchewan, brought greetings to start the AGM. SSRID greatly appreciates Minister Marit taking time out of his busy schedule to discuss irrigation expansion and other investments/developments that are taking place across Saskatchewan. Other guests in attendance included Tom McKenzie (accountant), Josh Opheim (investments), Jason Drury & colleagues (Ministry of Agriculture), Aaron Gray (SIPA Chairman), and Donovan Balas (lawyer).

Important topics of discussion included district finances, district investments, the 2021 operating budget, operations & maintenance updates, presentations from the Ministry of Agriculture, and updates from SIPA. Meeting minutes will be made available to all ratepayers soon.

NEW SSRID BY-LAWS ADOPTED

After discussion at the AGM, SSRID ratepayers voted to adopt the proposed by-law document that was sent to all members on April 9th. The document was written jointly by the Board, staff, and Donovan Balas. The new bylaws bring greater clarity to governing the district and are completely compliant with the *Irrigation Act 2019*.

A copy of the by-laws are available on our website for your reference. SSRID and its members must comply with these by-laws as of April 30th, 2021.

SSRID WEBSITE UPDATED

The SSRID website has been updated, with some minor improvements still ongoing. We are happy to inform you that multiple water orders can be entered at the same time using the order form on the website.

Fill out the first sections of the form as you normally would, indicating that you want water turned **ON** for a specific **DAY**. In the "Quarter Section" and "Turnout" boxes, enter the first quarter section and turnout on your list. Then, in the "Message" section, list all the remaining turnout numbers you wish to order water for that day.

Orders must be submitted by **6:00AM** the day you want the water at your turnout. Staff will confirm all orders as normal. Please contact the office if you have any questions or difficulties ordering water online.

Multiple turn off requests will be accepted following the same procedure noted above, if you indicate to turn the water **OFF**.

ONGOING COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please be reminded of the following **considerations** relative to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- Staff prefer to receive water orders via e-mail/SSRID website (best option) or text message (second choice).
- If visiting the office/shop, please wear a face mask and follow all rules posted.
- 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.

DISTRICT FINANCES

SSRID's audited financial statements are available to ratepayers upon request. Financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 2020 were approved by ratepayers at the AGM in April. Please contact the office should you wish to look over these documents in hard-copy form. The audited financial statements are also available on the district website.

Account balances as of June 2021 are as follows:

Chequing- \$506,982.63
Savings - \$347,370.25
Replacement Fund - \$5,654,378.76
Rehab/Development Fund - \$646,844.07
Equipment Fund - \$118,682.20
IRP Fund - \$2,811,610.23
CIP Fund - \$7,481,706.91

A fully complete, detailed 2021 operating budget is available to ratepayers upon request. This budget was approved by ratepayers at the AGM in April. Please contact the office should you wish to look over a hard-copy of the budget. The budget is also available on the district website.

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

- The 2021 **base rate** is **\$45.37 per acre** (this includes the 2021 IRP contribution)
- The 2021 water usage fee is **\$6.42 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 2021 Tweeten and 4A/4B **base rate** is **\$46.87 per acre**
- The 2021 Tweeten and 4A/4B water usage fee is **\$12.42 per acre foot**



SSRID EARLY PAY SCHEDULE

The Board is pleased to announce that **discounts** will be offered on your **2021 assessment** if you choose to pay base rates in full, as per the following schedule:

- **Pay by June 30th = 3% discount**
- **Pay by July 31st = 2% discount**
- **Pay by August 31st = 1% discount**

Ratepayers who have already submitted payment, in full, on their 2021 assessment will be given the 3% discount as a **credit** towards their 2022 assessment. Should you have any questions, please contact the office.

TENTATIVE MAG-H SCHEDULE

Operations staff are proposing the following **tentative** schedule for applying Mag-H in the M1 and M2 canals.

M1: June 11, July 8, July 28, and August 18
M2: June 23/24, July 6/7, July 27/28, and August 17/18

The above schedule is subject to change based on weather and weed/algae growth. Adam and Bailey will keep ratepayers informed of changes to the schedule as they arise. All laterals will be treated as needed, much like the last few seasons.

FOR SALE BY TENDER

SSRID is calling for tenders (**last call**) on its 2003 **McCormick MTX 110** tractor. The tractor is currently not running and will require work.

- 116 horsepower, 6.0L 6-cyl Perkins turbo charged engine
- 5,616 hours
- 540/1000 PTO
- 5 hydraulic remotes, 3-pt hitch
- Tire life approximately 50%
- Front-wheel assist
- **As is, where is**

Tenders are to be submitted to the SSRID office by e-mail or regular mail, no later than June 30th. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.



CAP PROGRAM

The CAP program will be coming to an end in January of 2022. There is still time to apply for funding for projects!

Please contact the office for more information, or if you require help/guidance in the application process. We are here to support you and the District!

CLEARWATER SELF CLEANING SCREENS

The District has a number of Clearwater self-cleaning screens in inventory. These screens can be used to combat algae and debris issues at your pivot intake. A screen is on display at the office for your reference.

Please contact us if you are interested in purchasing one of these screens. **Special pricing** for ratepayers is available until the end of July.

FUTURE DIRECTION OF SSRID

In the coming months, work on a 10-year strategic plan will commence. All our plans and our 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

“The Wheel Line”

Vol. 2 (2021) No. 2

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