



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

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Hello, Fellow Irrigators:

I hope this edition of “The Wheel Line” finds you well. Crops are in the bin across the District, and we are all fortunate to have experienced exceptionally nice weather for harvest and fall field work. Mother Nature was overdue in giving us all a break, after countless days of record heat and unrelenting wind experienced this past growing season.

Two words come to mind when I think about the irrigation season of 2021 – THANK YOU! To Adam and his operations team - for keeping record amounts of water moving throughout the District safely and efficiently, for treating with Mag-H quickly and accurately, & for responding to infrastructure needs and custom work orders with haste and professionalism. To Bailey - for running the office with the highest of standards, & for following up on a record number of phone calls and e-mails relative to water demand and the straw drop initiative.

THANK YOU to irrigators for being understanding, cooperative, helpful, and community minded. Your efforts to make SSRID a great place to live and work do not go unnoticed.

And finally, THANK YOU to the staff and senior leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Water Security Agency, who work with SSRID on a regular basis; for their time, expertise, and cooperation. SSRID is wholly committed to partnering with government to develop and improve irrigation in this District, thereby creating wealth, opportunity, and food security across this great province and beyond.

Steve Primrose
Chairman, SSRID No. 1 Inc.

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IRRIGATORS ARE COOPERATORS

SSRID has been faced with challenges over the years. Water supply in 2021, and just how irrigators responded to this challenge, will be remembered for some time to come.

In the latter-part of the summer, conversation across the District was dominated by the low water level in the Broderick Reservoir, and rumours swirled of an imminent irrigation shutdown. However, the SSRID Board and staff were not prepared to allow a full shutdown to occur at such a critical time for irrigation and crop maturation/yield potential.

Adam and Steve communicated with the Water Security Agency on a daily basis, relative to the water level in the reservoir and total SSRID usage. In an effort to avoid a shutdown, the Board asked all irrigators to use their water sparingly, and turn off for a few days, if possible. Irrigators responded to this request in the truest “neighbour helping neighbour” display of cooperation and compassion.

Pivots were shut off across the District as irrigators who could spare water for a day or two passed their water down the canal. Shared pipelines were no longer running at full capacity, as neighbours swapped water from one field to another. As a result, the water level in the Broderick Reservoir started to slowly rise above its critical level. Most importantly, though, a total irrigation shutdown was avoided.

THANK YOU, irrigators, for cooperating and showing leadership, foresight, & compassion at such a critical time. SSRID is working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Water Security Agency to steer clear of critically low water levels in the reservoir in years future. An example measure is increasing the pumping volume at the East Side Pump-station by whatever means necessary.

SSRID BOARD VACANCIES

Please check the local Outlook newspaper and SSRID's website in the coming days for a **Notice of Nomination Period**. Three (3) vacancies on the Board of Directors will be open for contest. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the election or nomination processes, please contact Bailey at the District Office.

SSRID WEBSITE UPDATES

The SSRID website is being updated by Bailey on a regular basis. Information relative to applying for CAP funding has recently been added. If you are considering a new development/project and want to apply for CAP funding or inquire about eligibility, please visit the District website to access the necessary information.

Our website will continue to support the submission of multiple turn on/off requests at the same time in the 2022 season. We apologize for the inconvenience experienced toward the end of the irrigation season, when technical difficulties did not allow operations staff to view service requests coming through our website.

Moving forward, the Board has decided to use an alternative e-mail server, which will better support the incoming service requests from the website. In addition, Adam and his team ask that irrigators always look for a confirmation e-mail in response to their water service request, before you turn on your pivot. If you do not receive confirmation by 7:00AM on the day you request water, please phone the area ditchrider.

ONGOING COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

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

- If visiting the office/shop, you are required to wear a face mask and follow all rules posted.
- Mandatory masking will remain in place, as per provincial health order requirements.

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 October 2021 are as follows:

Chequing- \$148,999.35
Savings - \$426,199.37

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**



STRAW DROP INITIATIVE

The drought experienced this year across Western Canada took a toll on feed production for cattle and other livestock. In an effort to help the ranching industry, the SSRID Board asked irrigators to consider dropping straw at harvest time for baling. Once again, irrigators answered the call with compassion and leadership.

More straw than was ever anticipated was dropped and baled. THANK YOU irrigators for supplying our ranching neighbours with much needed sustenance for their livestock. Your bales of roughage may very well help some family farms survive the upcoming winter.

CAP & IRP PROGRAMS

The current CAP program will stop accepting new funding applications in January of 2022. If you are thinking of developing, just remember, “**do not hesitate – IRRIGATE!**”

The Board is now in discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture on what the “next CAP” program will look like. The Ministry and the Board both appreciate that supply issues (i.e. pipe) and pricing may dramatically impact projects approved under CAP. The Board will work closely with the Ministry and look at projects on a case-by-case basis, ensuring funding is available even if supply/price issues affect your ability to bring your project to fruition with immediate haste.

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!

As you are all aware, the current IRP agreement that SSRID has with the Ministry of Agriculture will expire in 2023. Talks have begun between the Board and government, relative to what the “next IRP” will look like. Lengthy discussion will take place this coming winter.

In 2023, SSRID irrigation sign-up fees will increase to **\$300.00 per new acre**. This fee is, of course, subject to change at the discretion of the Board, based on the outcomes of “next IRP” negotiations.

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!



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OUR MISSION

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

OUR 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.