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“The Wheel Line” ***The best information line*** **FALL EDITION 2022**

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 this year.

I would like to thank the SSRID staff for their hard work, support, and dedication this season. Thanks to Adam and his operations team for keeping water moving throughout the District safely and efficiently and for responding to infrastructure needs and custom work orders with haste and professionalism. Thanks also to Krystine, who in her very first season, has been running the office with the highest of standards and demonstrating the care, attention to detail, and organization that was much needed in our office.

Of course, thanks goes out to you, our 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 remains wholly committed to partnering with government in developing and improving irrigation in our District to create wealth, opportunity, and food security across our great province (and beyond).

All the best in the days ahead!

Sincerely,

Steve Primrose
Chairman, SSRID No. 1 Inc.

STRAW DROP INITIATIVE

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

Thanks to all irrigators who dropped straw to supply 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.

The efforts put into the straw drop by SSRID and local irrigators were recognized across the province. The straw drop was mentioned in an article by the Western Producer and received air time on Country 600 CJWW. Most importantly, though, the initiative was supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, and recognized by Hon. David Marit, Minister of Agriculture, in a letter of appreciation he wrote to the District.

UPCOMING BOARD ELECTION

An election will be held on **Monday, November 28th**, for two (2) director positions on the SSRID Board. The current term for Steve Primrose and James Verwimp is coming to a close, and both will re-offer their names in the upcoming election.

Nominations will be open from **8:00AM on Monday, October 31st until 5:00PM on Monday, November 14th**. Nomination papers can be picked up at the office and returned in-person or by e-mail to Krystine, during the nomination period.

Official notice of the election and nomination period will be given in the local newspaper, per the District's election policy. All SSRID ratepayers (irrigators and those paying futures) are eligible to sit on the board and cast a vote in the election.

SSRID WEBSITE UPDATES

The SSRID website is being updated/maintained by Krystine on a regular basis. Information relative to

applying for CAP funding is still available. 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 in a given area (South, Central, or North) at the same time in the 2023 season. This method of ordering has proven to be most efficient for irrigators and District staff.

DISTRICT FINANCES

SSRID's audited financial statements are available to ratepayers upon request. Financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 2021 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.

A fully complete, detailed 2022 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 2022 **base rate** is **\$42.28 per acre** (this includes the 2022 IRP contribution)
- The 2022 water usage fee is **\$5.92 per acre foot**
- The current **futures fee** is **\$22.40 per acre** (\$21.00 IRP fee plus \$1.00 levy for ICDC and \$0.40 levy for SIPA)
- The 2022 High Pressure Line **base rate** is **\$45.28 per acre**

REMINDER that all payments for base rates and water usage fees for this season are due by **December 31, 2022**. Ratepayers with overdue accounts will accrue interest and other penalties, as per the District bylaws.

UPCOMING SIPA/ICDC CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the 27th annual Irrigation Saskatchewan conference held December 5th-7th at Dakota Dunes. Register at:

<https://www.irrigationsaskatchewan.com/SIPA/conference/>.

Save \$50 if registered by November 15th.

New this year: breakout rooms on innovations in the industry; a producer panel on lessons learned in developing irrigation in the province; and Keynote speaker, Sheldon Kennedy, will present on Making Change Happen in Saskatchewan Irrigation.

CAP & IRP PROGRAMS

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

The Board is currently in meetings 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 swings will 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 winter.

In 2023, SSRID irrigation sign-up fees will increase to **\$300.00 per new acre**. This fee is

subject to change at the discretion of the Board, based on the outcomes of “next IRP” negotiations.

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.



“The Wheel Line”

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