



**“The Wheel Line”**  
***The best information line***  
**WINTER EDITION 2023**

**FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN**

Hello, Fellow Irrigators:

I hope this edition of “The Wheel Line” finds you well. Another irrigation season will be on before you know it! The SSRID Board and staff are busy getting ready for the up coming irrigation season. We plan on having our AGM in April. The date is yet to be finalized by the Board, but you will receive adequate notice . Our AGM is a chance to come together to discuss important District matters, including the 2023 budget, operations, maintenance, finances, investments, IRP Program, and expansion. I sincerely hope you will block off some time to participate in this very important meeting. I would like to send a thank you out to the staff and senior leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Security Agency: for their time, expertise and collaboration. SSRID remains committed to partnering with government in developing and improving irrigation in our District, creating sustainability opportunities, and promoting food security across our great province (and beyond).

All the best in the days ahead!

Sincerely,

**Steve Primrose**  
Chairman, SSRID No. 1 Inc.

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James Verwimp, Director

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Ray Derald, Director

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Matthew Lawless, Director

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## ELECTION RESULTS

This past November, both **Steve Primrose** and **James Verwimp** were re-elected to the Board of Directors by acclamation (two nominees for two open positions).

Congratulations, Steve and James!

During the 2023 season, **Steve Primrose** will continue to serve as **Chairman** of the Board, and **Austin Ballek** will continue as **Vice-Chairman**.

## DEMONSTRATING LEADERSHIP IN WATER MANAGEMENT

*“At the end of the day, IT WILL BE ALL ABOUT THE WATER!”* --- Steve Primrose ---

With the ever changing climate, now on our door step, the SSRID and its irrigators realize just how important water is! Communication and acting on ways we can conserve water is a step in the right direction.

One small way of moving in that direction is changing your old sprinkler system to a newer, more efficient option. Some funding is available from the Ministry for sprinkler upgrades, under the **Efficiency Program**.

If you move forward with a sprinkler upgrade, or if you have upgraded in the last number of years, please let Krystine know the change in the gallons per minute on your impacted pivot(s). More efficient sprinklers mean less water usage, which means the District will have to divert less water to you and you will see savings on your water bill!

## WATER ORDERS

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, for the 2023 season. This method of ordering has proven to be the most efficient for irrigators and District staff.

## DISTRICT FINANCES

A friendly reminder to all irrigators that, per District bylaws, all base rates and water usage fees are to be paid to the District by **December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year**. Any accounts left unpaid after December 31<sup>st</sup> are subject to **interest** at a rate of **2% per month** until the entirety of the arrears have been paid. Invoices for **custom work** are due within **thirty (30) days** of the date first noted on the invoice.

In addition, any irrigator with an account left unpaid after **January 31<sup>st</sup>** shall be charged the upcoming season's **base rates**, which must be paid (in addition to all arrears) **in advance of any water being turned on for that irrigator**.

SSRID's audited financial statements are available to ratepayers upon request. Financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 2022 are currently being prepared, and will be presented at the upcoming AGM in April. Please contact the office should you wish to look over financial statements in hard-copy form.

The 2023 operating budget is under consideration by the Board and will be presented to ratepayers for their approval at the AGM in April. Please contact the office should you wish to look over a hard-copy of previous budgets.

## IRRIGATION SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE 2022

SIPA and ICDC would like to thank all those who attended the 2022 **Irrigation Saskatchewan Conference** at Dakota Dunes this past December. Attendance for the conference was phenomenal, setting the **all-time record high** for its entire 27-year history.

At the accompanying AGMs, ICDC and SIPA members **voted unanimously to amalgamate** and become **Irrigation Saskatchewan**. Work on this amalgamation will be ongoing during 2023. Two of our SSRID Directors also allowed their names to stand for election at the AGMs. **Austin Ballek** was elected to the SIPA Board, and **Matthew Lawless**

to ICDC.

**New highlights from the irrigation conference included:** breakout rooms on innovations in the industry; a producer panel on lessons learned in developing irrigation in the province; and Keynote speaker, **Sheldon Kennedy**, presented on “Making Change Happen in Saskatchewan Irrigation”.

## **IRP PROGRAM**

As you are all aware, the current IRP agreement that SSRID has with the Ministry of Agriculture will expire in March. Over the last year, the Board has participated in several meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture to negotiate another IRP agreement.

The following will be proposed (for your approval) at the upcoming AGM in April:

- Ministry of Agriculture contribution of \$41.00 per acre, each year.
- Irrigator contribution of \$21.00 per acre, each year.
- 2:1 cost share, similar to previous IRP.
- Five (5) year term (2023 to 2027 inclusive).

The Board recognizes some frustrations associated with paying into the IRP program, but at the same time, consideration **must** be given to the declining condition of District infrastructure (which we all own, together). Investing now while managing funds properly, with government as our partner, will place the District in a **somewhat self-sustaining** financial position for many years to come.

Steve Primrose will present a comprehensive plan at the upcoming AGM in April, illustrating how our funds will be managed and how monies will be spent to improve the District (ie replacing lateral canals with pipeline) in the most efficient way possible.

## ***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.



**SSRID**  
**SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT NO.1**

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