



**“The Wheel Line”**  
***The best information line***  
**SPRING EDITION 2021**

**FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN**

Hello, Fellow Irrigators:

I hope this edition of “The Wheel Line” finds you well, with your cropping preparations underway and strong hopes for good weather this planting season. SSRID is well-prepared to operate for another year under the cloud of COVID-19. Please make note of the COVID-19 considerations outlined in this newsletter - you will recognize many of them from last year.

I want to draw special attention to a by-law document all ratepayers will receive by e-mail and/or regular mail, no later than April 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board has spent a great deal of time refreshing the District's by-laws, bringing new ideas, clarity, and better organization to them. Please review the document, as the Board will ask ratepayers to adopt the new by-laws by resolution at the AGM in April.

The remainder of this newsletter will update all ratepayers relative to the operations, financial standing, and future directions of the District. Should you have any questions or concerns, 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 the days ahead!



**Steve Primrose**

**CONTACT US**

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## 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](mailto:ssrid1@sasktel.net) for all general inquiries, and Bailey or Adam will be glad to help you during Brian's absence.

Steve Primrose is SSRID's *Acting* General Manager until Brian returns. Please contact Steve directly at 403 382 9998 if you have any **management** questions or concerns.

## SSRID AGM 2021

The Board invites you to attend the 2021 **Annual General Meeting**, to be held virtually on Friday, **April 30<sup>th</sup>**, 2021. Start time will be **10:00AM**. All ratepayers will receive an official invitation, complete with virtual sign-up instructions, by mid-April.

Important topics of discussion at the AGM will include the financial standing of the District, a review of the annual operating budget, details on upcoming rehabilitation/maintenance projects, a resolution to update SSRID's by-laws, and reports from government officials on irrigation expansion in Saskatchewan.

We hope to see you all on April 30<sup>th</sup>!

## SSRID WEBSITE UPGRADES

The SSRID website is currently down for upgrades. We anticipate the website will be

live again after the Easter weekend. We appreciate your patience and understanding while the website is down.

The upgrades to the website will make it more user-friendly and easier to navigate. The Board and staff will use the new website much more than the old website was ever used, as a tool for communication and advertising.

## UPCOMING IRRIGATION SEASON

The District is well on its way to being ready for the 2021 season. Below are some highlights from the Board and from staff, with some **considerations** relative to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- This season's supply of Mag-H was delivered on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The District will once again be treating for algae control on a regular and scheduled basis (**tentatively** June 25, July 23, and August 17 for the **M1 canal**).
- Multiple new irrigation systems are going up this spring, and District staff will be busy installing structures for these systems very soon.
- Water will be turned **ON** in the main canals on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- As was the case last season, 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.
- 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 Adam or the office to discuss the situation.

## 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 audited financial statements will be reviewed during the AGM, and will be posted to SSRID's website soon.

A fully complete, detailed 2021 budget is available to ratepayers upon request. Please contact the office should you wish to look over a copy of the budget. The budget will be reviewed during the AGM, and will be posted to SSRID's website soon.

The 2021 **base rate and water usage** fee will be announced by the Board at the AGM.

## FOR SALE BY TENDER

SSRID is calling for tenders 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 April 30<sup>th</sup>. 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!

### **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 May.

### **FUTURE DIRECTION OF SSRID**

Over the last year, the Board and SSRID staff have been working hard to navigate the future direction of **YOUR** District. This included the creation of “The Wheel Line” for better communication with ratepayers, engaging with government to get more acres under irrigation, reviewing & updating District by-laws, and producing SSRID's Mission Statement and Vision.

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](mailto: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! We have received a number of letters, and one irrigator in particular gave us many good ideas and a quote the Board would like to share with everyone.

**“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”**

~ **John F. Kennedy** ~



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

“The Wheel Line”

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