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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023



### A LETTER FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGER

RRVID's crew and staff are working hard to prepare our district for the upcoming water season. Both the main canal and all of the laterals have been cleaned and are ready to run water for the 2023 season. We have decent snowpack this year, which I am hoping equates to more water in the reservoirs. We are still well below average on storage, but we are ahead of where we were last year at this time. I believe that we will have stream flow this year that I can take advantage of early in the season, and I won't have to rely so heavily on the water that we have in storage quite so early in the season, like we have had to do the last several years. I am hoping that we will be able to pull off a "close to normal" irrigation season for 2023. I won't go so far as to say we will get all the way to October, but I believe that I can get us close.

That was the good news. Now for the not so good news.

On March 10, 2023, the Klamath Tribes made a water call on all tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake for a lake level claim, junior to a 1908 water right. Within that call, RRVID is subject to this regulation and the tribes have made the call on Fourmile Reservoir, which sets in Klamath County, with a 1910 water right.

So, what does this mean for us?

This year on March 10, between RRVID and Medford Irrigation District, (whom we share Fourmile Reservoir with), we have 3,990 acre feet of water stored in the reservoir. As I understand it, we have the right to that water at a 1/3 - 2/3 split. 1/3 of that water goes to RRVID and 2/3 goes to MID or 1,330 acre feet available to RRVID and the rest going to MID. Any *more* storage that Fourmile may accrue after March 10<sup>th</sup> will be subject to regulation and released to Klamath and will be regulated by OWRD (Oregon Water Resources Department) and will not be available for RRVID to use, as it has been, for over the last 100 years. At full storage, Fourmile holds 15,600 acre feet of water, so that means that the Rogue Districts have the potential of losing 11,610 acre feet. I am not saying that Fourmile will fill this year, *I am just saying that the potential of losing that much water is there.*

We began to hear rumblings of this happening about a month prior and we were active with a lot of "what if" scenarios. Once the final order for regulation came on March 10<sup>th</sup>, we have been very engaged with our legal team, as well as our Southern Oregon delegation, both Democratic and Republican Representatives and Senators, trying to navigate the best path forward in fighting off this call on the water. The Klamath Tribes have the most senior water right, which is known as Time Immemorial, and our RRVID holds a March 31, 1910 water right, so we are junior to the Tribes and it has been determined that they do have the right to make the call.

Just because the tribes have the right to make this call, does not mean that it is a good or valid call, and that is where we are going to make our case. Many of the issues that we will be raising are Attorney Client Privilege and therefore I am not at liberty to discuss this in depth at this time. I am more than happy to talk with you about it, but please understand ahead of time, that if you call me, I am limited in what I can discuss and what questions I can answer, due to our legal strategy.

How does this affect us going forward? In the years to come, it will depend on when the Klamath Tribes make a call. If the tribes make a year-round call, we may never see stored water in Fourmile again. If Klamath Lake fills, then the water call is not good and we go back to enjoying the storage that accumulates that year or we come up with a legal solution that allows us to use the water even if the tribes make a call and Klamath Lake is not full.

We are in the early stages. I do not have all of the answers, but please be assured that myself, as well as your Board of Directors, our legal team and the other 2 districts, MID and TIO, are doing everything we can to protect the water that the Rogue Valley Irrigators have enjoyed for well over 100 years.

Please stay tuned. I will do my best to keep our website up to date with the latest happenings in our district. In closing, my hope is that we all have a very successful year and we continue to get snow in the mountains and rain in the valley.

Sincerely,

Brian Hampson  
District Manager

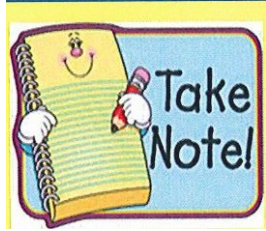


### HELPFUL OFFICE INFORMATION

Our office is open Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We are sometimes closed during the lunch hour from 12 to 1. Please call us to make sure we are open if you are planning to come in during the lunch hour. To speak with your Ditch Rider please call our District office at 541-773-6127.

### KLAMATH ADJUDICATION

The Klamath Basin Adjudication is still on-going which requires numerous hours of work on behalf of the RBWUC legal counsel to find a resolution to contested water right issues. Now that the Adjudication process is in the court system in Klamath County, it is anticipated that it is going to be a very long and expensive process, considering the numerous parties involved in the resolution process.



### 2023 RATE INCREASE

The District has made a small increase to the per-acre charge, from \$72.78 to \$75.69. All other fees will remain the same for 2023.

### SINCE YOU ASKED!

We accept credit & debit card by phone and in the office, for your convenience! The fee is based on your payment amount. It is .016 for debit and .026 for credit.

### RRVID WEBSITE

Please remember to go to our website! Our website is always updated with important information about District news, letters from our manager, Teacup Diagram water levels, water season start and end date, photos, projects etc To view our website go to [rrvid.org](http://rrvid.org)

### REMEMBER!

If you switch your Irrigation to Water Conservation Equipment aka Sprinklers, you cannot go back to Flood Irrigation.



### PLEASE REMEMBER

#### TO LET US KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE:

- ◆ Sold your property
- ◆ Have a new mailing address
- ◆ Have a new phone number
- ◆ Have not received your bill for theyear
- ◆ Any other changes to your account that you would like us to know.

Its easy to keep us informed > You can email [pam@rrvid.org](mailto:pam@rrvid.org) to update/change this info or call our office!!



### RECLAMATION REFORM ACT (RRA)

ANY LAND OWNER WHO OWNS AND/OR LEASES IRRIGATED LAND TOTALLING 40.1 ACRES OR MORE MUST ANNUALLY (OR MORE OFTEN) FILE RRA FORMS WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE PRIOR TO RECEIVING IRRIGATION WATER.

Please contact Laurie at our District Office before March 1st to request the appropriate form(s).

The Bureau of Reclamation requires that RRA forms be on file prior to any water being delivered to the property of owners who own and/or lease irrigated land totaling 40.1 acres or more. If your landholdings change in any way during the irritation season, which includes moving your property into a trust or the passing of one or more of the property owners, it is imperative that you contact the District office to update your RRA forms.

The District makes every effort to help landowners comply with the RRA regulations, but it is absolutely the land owner's responsibility to understand the law and make sure that the correct forms are filled out and on file. Please remember when you make any changes in your landholdings that put you at 40.1 acres or more owned and/or leased, to contact the District office for the necessary RRA forms. If a landowner changes their ownership in any way, during the irrigation season and receives water without a new form on file, the landowner will be fined by the Bureau of Reclamation.

*For any questions or information regarding RRA's, please contact Laurie at our District office.*



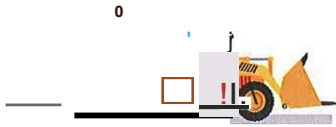
## **DROUGHT RESOURCES**

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) provides technical assistance and sometimes financial assistance for water conservation and adaption, both in ag and residential spaces.

To find their website go to > <https://www.jswcd.org/>  
For Drought information go to > <https://www.jswcd.org/drought>  
For technical and financial assistance info go to > <https://www.jswcd.org/services>

Here is a general overview on the website. Keep scrolling on this page for the many different programs offered.

<https://www.jswcd.org/water-conservation-and-adaptation>



## **2023 MAINTENANCE SEASON**

Canal, road and right-of-way maintenance is underway at RRVID. Please remember to remove all debris, obstacles, pipeline, bridges, walk boards etc, in anticipation of our equipment coming your way. Each Fall after water has been shut off, the silt and vegetation needs to be removed from the canal. RRVID typically puts this material back across the canal road or uses it to level the road from damages caused by human and animal traffic during the Spring. RRVID's Easements and right-of-way's are for District access, operation and maintenance only. The Easements are not for public right-of-way. Entering these areas may constitute trespassing on the underlying landowners property. RRVID does the mowing of the canal banks during Fall and Spring. RRVID uses flail mowers that mount onto out tractor to mow blackberries and brush. We request that our water users please limit the use of canal ditch roads during off season which can cause damage to the roads and make more work for our maintenance crew.

*Thank you for our help and consideration in this matter!*



If you have an email address you would like us to add to your account, please email [Pam@rrvid.org](mailto:Pam@rrvid.org) We never give out your personal information. We will only use your email to contact you regarding RRVID related information when we cannot reach you by phone or if email is your preferred form of contact!

## **RRVID MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Rogue River Valley Irrigation District is to deliver water equitably and efficiently with the least amount of cost to its water users, keeping in mind the need for long range planning and environmental impact.

## **BOARD MEETINGS**

The District Board Meetings are usually held at our office at 1:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month and they are open to the public. Please notify our office in advance if you wish to attend. Remember that meeting dates and times are subject to change. We will post meeting info on our website one week prior to the meeting.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Bryan Baumgartner  
President

Larry Martin  
Vice President

Gerald May  
Director

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Orville Eary  
Barry Hoffman  
David Wolff

## **DISTRICT STAFF AND CREW**

Brian Hampson  
District Manager

Laurie  
Office Administrator

Pam  
Administrative Assistant

Jeff  
Head Maintenance

Lee  
Water Operations Supervisor

Chris  
West Side Ditch Rider

Hagen  
East Side Ditch Rider

For 2023 ~ RRVJD WILL BE CLOSED ON THESE DATES:

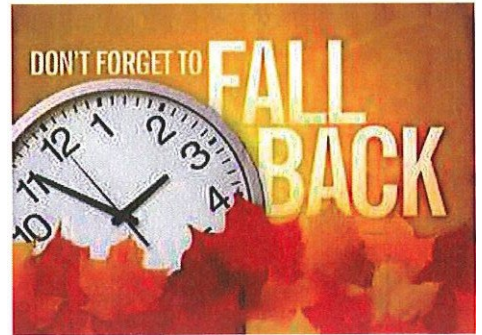
CLOSED ON:

IN OBSERVANCE OF:

- ♦ JANUARY 2
  - + FEBRUARY 20
  - + MAY 29
  - + JUNE 19
  - + JULY 4
  - + SEPTEMBER 4
  - + NOVEMBER 10
  - + NOVEMBER 23 & 24
  - + DECEMBER 26
- NEW YEARS DAY
  - PRESIDENTS DAY
  - MEMORIAL DAY
  - JUNETEENTH
  - INDEPENDENCE DAY
  - LABOR DAY
  - VETERANS DAY
  - THANKSGIVING
  - CHRISTMAS



Sunday, November 5, 2023



INFORMATION FROM OUR ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

RRVID operates on a calendar year. Assessments are mailed out the 1st week of January. To have uninterrupted water delivery, please pay your bill in a timely manner.

We give our patrons an interest free grace period which ends on February 28th.

Interest is added to all accounts on March 1st and is retroactive to January 1st.

If you wish to set up a payment plan, you must have a signed payment agreement on file in our office for the current year. Please email Pam@rrvid.org or call the office to set up the plan.

- + A \$25.00 late fee will be added on April 1st to all accounts that have not signed a payment agreement or paid their account in full.
- + In July, the District must file a Lien on the property, with Jackson County, for all unpaid Irrigation fees, plus interest and the Lien Fee of \$325.00.

To assure water delivery for the 2023 Water Season: 1) your account must be paid in full or 2) you must have a signed payment agreement on file in the District office and be making your monthly payments.

TEACUP DIAGRAM: US Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific NW Region. Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek Basins. This Diagram is as of 03/22/2023. For more information or to view the most current Teacup Diagram, go to <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/roguetea.html> or visit our website to find the link.

03/22/2023

