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Reynolds Creek Dist. 57R 2011 Water Masters Diary

WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

March 1, 2011 – Tuesday, annual district meeting 1 PM at Owyhee County Courthouse, Murphy, Idaho. I reported that I had received an updated delivery schedule from IDWR, the first update that I had received since 1984. I asked for the name of the contact person for each lateral users group. We talked about lateral maintenance and the occasional need for locks. I reported that having an assistant water master for the district was working out exceptional well. Present at the meeting were Richard Brandau, Jerry Hoagland, Connie Brandau, Kelly Clemens, LaVar Young, Jackie Benson, Tom Benson. The advisory committee for 2011 is Dean Young and Lou Sanchez. The water masters budget will remain the same as last year, \$5,000.00. Compensation for the water master and assistant was set the same as last year at \$70.00 per day and \$.40 per mile. Compensation for the position of treasurer was set at \$12.00 per hour, \$.40 per mile and out of pocket expenses for office will be reimbursed. Connie Brandau elected water master for 2011. Gary Penny appointed as assistant water master and Connie Brandau will be the treasurer. The next annual meeting will be held on either the 1st Monday or Tuesday of March 2012.

April 6, 2011 – Richard Brandau put stock water in the RID lateral, just enough for stock water. He had burned the weeds out of the ditch to the Stone Quarry on the 4th and on around to Idaho Power property on the 5th.

April 9, 2011 – 9am to 10:30am - I was called on to do a “preliminary check” on 57R. The creek has been (and still is) running high. I called Gary Penny, Lou Sanchez and Dean Young and asked them to accompany me to check for damages to diversions, measuring devices and to see who is irrigating. Tentatively scheduled for next Monday or Tuesday. I made a call to the ARS to request emails of weekly weir measurements. RID and West Reynolds have scheduled McCoy to haul material for diversion dam maintenance. I looked up high flow rights; 57-11516 / 15 CFS if for 30 acres in the Macks Creek drainage ONLY, 5-11510 / 5.87 CFS if for 83 acres on the Cemetery Place.
Maximum diversion rate to Storage in the East Side reservoir is 4.6 CFS.

April 12, 2011 – I called the BLM Marsing office and told them that I needed to establish the criteria for Sections 19 and 23 regarding the Land Use Permit, Water Permit and protocol. I was told that there was to be no irrigation on Sec. 19, 2S, 3W or on Sec. 23, 2S, 4W and they could send a tack out with a GPD unit to identify the land area if needed. He also asked why we were going out today and I told him that it is our regular cursory inspection of the 57R system with the assistant water master and the advisory board. Jason Muller, ditch rider, called and said that the ditch has been cleaned and burned all the way to the 7Hi settling pond and he is ready for water. I opened the head gate five turns – estimated 70 to 80 inches of water. Gary Penny, Lou Sanchez and I did a preliminary run of the lower reach from 1-3pm then left to over the upper reach at 3pm and got back at 8pm. I took about 80 digital photos of damages to diversions, weirs and ditches caused by the high flows this spring. The diversions that were “armored” by Chris Hansen withstood the high flows better than the earthwork or straw dams.

April 15, 2011 – At 11am Jason Muller called and wants to turn the “creek ditch” up some more (RID lateral). OK'd.

April 28, 2011 – Jerry Muller came up to pay his bill in person so he could put water in the West Reynolds lateral.

May 5, 2011 – RID lateral board had a track hoe up resetting the ecology blocks displaced by January 17th high water. Ditch rider turned more water in.

May 7, 2011 – GM Penny called at 7am and said that there is water to their house coming from somewhere. When I went to check I noticed that the creek was up higher than it had been on the 5th. The water was coming through Jeff Theis property. They had allowed trash, tires, pallets, tin and other junk to be placed in or over the ditch and had floated down the ditch restricting the flow of water through the 4 foot culvert on Rocky Top lane. This caused the water to overflow at a place where Theis' had been "fording" or crossing the ditch with vehicles that had worn the bank down by at least one to one and a half feet. I took photos, went back to the head gate and shut the water down. Then, since it had cut across a county road (China Ditch Road) and run down and washed out about ¼ mile of a private lane (Wilson Cemetery Lane) I called the Owyhee County Sheriffs Office, the Owyhee County Road District, the Reynolds Irrigation District ditch rider Jason Muller, the 57R advisory board and a county commissioner. The ditch is to be cleaned and encroachment by Jeff Theis on the ditch easement (for access maintenance and cleaning) addressed and RESOLVED prior to putting water back into the lateral.

May 13, 2011- Assistant GM Penny went out to measure.

June 8, 2011 – GM Penny called and is going out to measure today.

June 17, 2011 – I got a letter from Owen Orndorf's attorney stating that he was withdrawing his application for "transfer" of water right in regard to Section 19 and the BLM LUP.

June 24, 2011 – GM Penny took photos of Junayo's Macks Creek outlet weir when he went out to measure today. It was put in so late this year that we never got a reading over it.

June 27, 2011 – Last Ditch users were working on tightening up their dam and waste gate today. There was still a little water going past State Highway 78 to the river.

July 12, 2011 – GM Penny measured today.

August 1, 2011 – Theron Hook called me out to measure and adjust water tomorrow. He said that he has no water and that there is still water being diverted into the High Ditch.

August 2, 2011 – I called Hoaglands to give them notice that I will probably be shutting down, or off, some of the junior rights. Due to ditch loss it takes about 40 inches to get water through the High Ditch, so if there isn't at least that much to divert I will determine it is a futile call and send it on down the creek. He said there is no water at the Dobson today but they will probably turn it on this morning. Their measuring device is by the road above the corral, about 200 feet below their diversion. It has been in for over three years but hasn't had water in it when I've been out to measure. There is still water at the Bridge and the Barn diversions.

August 4, 2011 – Tony Richards called and left a message. He had heard that I had been called out on 8/2 and wanted to know “what priorities were being served?” I called him back and left a message that Hooks (priority #1) should have 1.60 cfs coming, Junayo’s (priority #4) was not being used because they were haying, so the balance of the water available at the Community Ditch diversion, 1.00 cfs, should be going to him.

November 27, 2011 – Gary Penny requested review and payment of his assistant water master bill.

December 13, 2011 – I received a call from a district patron asking about water rights on Cottle Creek. The only rights that I know of are theirs. I told them that they should probably call IDWR with their concerns. I heard back from them later in the day. They said IDWR said they should probably take some pictures for documentation. They don’t have a camera and asked if I could come up and take photos, which I did.

December 15, 2011 – I received a letter from Bensons which stated in part, “I noticed that Orndorff is putting in new fields across the road from us. So I called Water Resource to ask them if he had water rights on Cottle Creek or even storage rights. And they told me that he did not have any water rights or storage rights on Cottle Creek.” Her question was “I guess I want to know if or what Reynolds Creek 57R is going to do about it?”

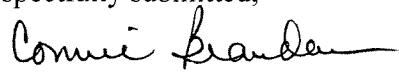
January 12, 2012 – I hand delivered a packet to IDWR, with copies going to Dist 57R secretary, in response to the Jan 11, 2012 email I received from IDWR which stated in part “As soon as I get your photos and the complaint file from the effected property owners I will discuss it with John Westra our regional manager and map out a plan to address this issue and contact you with the results.” The packet included the letter of complaint I had received, Google Earth historical data photos, a CD of photos I took on Dec.13, 2011 and a copy of the email.

January 13, 2012 – Spent the day updating and finalizing the Water Master records for the year 2011.

I’ve spent two weeks during the past month trying to get people to update their water right ownerships, take care of splits and bring my water delivery books up to date. I have contacted: Dennis Agenbroad 57-2094F about his property sale and splits to Mick Lathrop, Eric Fritzler and J and M Cattle; Dean Young about their purchase of Esther Keith 57-2007A property, the William Tincher 57-2093B property and subsequent partial resale and split thereof, Walter Smith 57-2094H change of ownership, changing ownership of J LaVar Young rights to Youngs Rivers Ranch; Theron Hook about Hook Family Limited Partnership 57-11776 & -11778 sale to Kevin Smith who has never transferred those rights; Dan Muller about IDWR records showing that Tom Hook is the owner of record for the water right 57-278 but Dan claims does not own the property; Karla Chester needs to split the Sam Pitman right 57-2006B between herself and J and M Cattle and update ownership; Paul Jesenko needs a change of ownership on 57-10839 Dan Hall (died over 40 years ago); Richard Brandau 57-10847 about the Brandau Subdivision, name change and place of use.

I also discovered a water license 57-2093 for District 57-J for Catherine Hurley that IDWR said should probably be removed from their records. Mrs. Hurley died many years ago and there has been NO application for or use of water since that time for that right.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Brandau". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned directly below the phrase "Respectfully submitted,".

Connie Brandau, Water Master
Reynolds Creek Dist. 57R