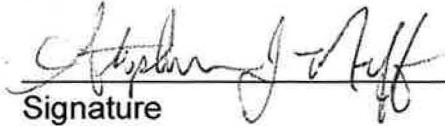
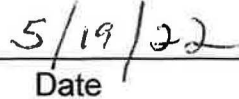


**2022 Watermaster's Annual Report  
Twin Lakes Water District 95-C  
Steve Neff, Watermaster  
P.O. Box 104, Rathdrum, ID 83858**

**AFFIDAVIT OF WATERMASTER**

As the appointed watermaster of Twin Lakes Water District 95-C, I hereby certify that the information contained in this report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

  
Signature

  
Date

- With help from the treasurer, we had a list of roughly 380 property owners paying an annual assessment through their Kootenai County property tax assessment for the 2021/2022 fiscal year.
  - The majority were paying \$15.70 per water right, while some were paying partial amounts on properties shared by several owners. Discussions were made on whether to begin charging one minimum assessment per water right holder, as is customary in other parts of the state.
  - There were no measurements of individual diversions, as was customary since formation of the district in 1989.
- The 2021/2022 season brought drought conditions to the drainage.
  - Efforts to minimize outflows at the dam were already underway prior to the annual meeting on May 20, 2021.
  - Snowpack was lower than average, and the spring runoff was much more gradual than usual. Outflows were reduced by the Flood Control District in April in an attempt to bring the lake level up to 10.4 feet.
  - The lake level topped out at 10.2 feet when the Flood Control District transferred control of the dam to the watermaster in early May.
  - Roughly 80 hours were spent measuring flows in the drainage during the 2021/2022 season.
    - Weekly measurements of the inflows and outflows began before the 2021 annual meeting, and continued throughout the irrigation season, with updates posted to the water district website on a regular basis.
  - High temperatures and low precipitation greatly reduced inflows. Inflows at Fish Creek were just below 7 cfs by July 2, falling to about 3.5 cfs at times by mid-August.

- By late July, there was no longer available inflow on Fish Creek to fulfill water right 95-0734 at the Sylte Ranch.
  - By late August, several water users upstream from the Syltet Ranch were notified that water was no longer able to be delivered to their diversions. The inflows were down to roughly 4 cfs, and were no longer sufficient to overcome the significant losses in a 400 foot section in the property downstream from the Miller's section of Rathdrum Creek.
  - Outflows were reduced to a minimum flow of about 1.5 cfs for the remainder of the season. This was sufficient to fulfill the water rights along the Miller properties, but flows ended there.
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- The priority to contact water right/license holders around the lake continued, as available GIS data made it clear many of the water rights/licenses had significant discrepancies. Owners had not corrected their ownership or location information in many years.
    - A contact form was added to the water district website.
    - Road signs were designed and approved before being placed at main entrances to the lake.
    - The watermaster spoke at the annual meeting of the Twin Lakes Improvement Association. Information was gathered on cards available at the meeting.
    - Many properties were visited and door hangers were placed.
    - Once efforts proved to be ineffective for various reasons, signs were removed and the project was postponed until the spring of 2022.
    - In the spring of 2022, postcards were designed and approved, then mailed to those being assessed. After a second notice was mailed out, a little more than half had responded prior to the annual meeting.
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- As precipitation arrived in late fall, the watermaster was reminded of the responsibility to deliver available inflows to the stock water right (95-0734) all year long.
    - Efforts were made to minimize losses along the channel, as the Flood Control District voiced concerns about refilling their storage rights should drought conditions continue.
    - The watermaster worked closely with the Flood Control District to minimize outflows and deliver only what was absolutely necessary to fulfill water rights.

- The watermaster assisted the Flood Control District during the winter months by offering remote control of the spillway gate.
  - The system is somewhat complex, but takes only a couple minutes to make a change in the gate position without visiting the site. This allowed for more timely adjustments to be made, sometimes several times during one day.
  - Discussion is underway concerning how this responsibility should be managed in the future.
- The measuring/gate equipment at the dam continued to be inaccurate and unreliable throughout the season.
  - The system was offline for weeks in late spring, and other short periods during the year, requiring reliance on the camera system for monitoring and controls. No data was collected online during those periods.
  - Due to the wide and thin design of the gate opening, debris and fish needed to be flushed at times in order to maintain desired outflows.
  - After acquiring cost estimates, the watermaster applied for a grant through the Kootenai County Aquifer Protection Board to cover the cost of new measuring and control systems at the dam. The project would include new gate equipment to be shared with the Flood Control District. As of April 2022, the funding was tentatively approved by the board with the intent of providing accurate and reliable flow data for tracking of recharge flows to the aquifer.
- There were no Advisory Board meetings held during the 2021/2022 season.