

WATERMASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

From: March 15, 2023 To: March 14, 2024

Water District No. 45-F

Water District Name: Marsh Creek

Name of Watermaster: Alan Lloyd

Mailing Address: 939 S. Parke Ln.
Albion, ID 83311

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DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

AFFIDAVIT OF WATERMASTER

As the appointed watermaster of water district no. 45-F, I hereby certify that the information contained in this report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Alan Lloyd
Watermaster signature

2/20/24
Date

Pursuant to Section 42-606 Idaho Code, this Watermaster's Annual Report shall be filed prior to the end of the watermaster's appointment for the current year, and kept in the office of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). The Watermaster's Daily Diversion Records should be attached to this report if those records are not submitted electronically to IDWR.

Marsh Creek Water District 45-1 Water Master's Annual Report 2023

2/20/24

As anticipated, the 2023 irrigation season was exceptionally good. Deliveries were up significantly from 2022 and the irrigation season was extended markedly for most water users. There were, however, some strange trends to the year, as discussed below.

Many laterals were drifted with snow and ice such that most water calls were delayed by a month or more from the previous couple of seasons, but with little or no adverse impact due to high soil moisture and Spring precipitation. Also, despite a huge volume of runoff and available water, many users simply did not need the water for much of the early season due to the saturation and some timely precipitation events. When streamflows did begin to drastically diminish during the second week of July, many irrigators were caught off guard, but had still enjoyed an excellent irrigation season. Considering the runoff, billable water deliveries were surprisingly low owing to low average demand throughout Spring.

Again carrying ahead the same budget amount as the previous three years for 2024, David and myself did not request any increase in compensation. Apportionment of \$5.238 per unit last season, based on the five-year average, will be only slightly higher at \$5.533 for 2024.

Like 2023, snow pack looks very promising for the irrigation season ahead. Above average snowpack, coupled with rain-on-snow events have again increased the stored moisture both in that snowpack and valley soils.

Large storms with high winds continue to pile snow in canyons and draws, although there is now way of knowing how the later runoff will occur. Winter runoff is observable around the valley, but hopefully, continued high elevation snowfall, valley rains, and gradual Spring runoff will lead to a season as good as last year.

2023 was free of major mishaps and conflicts with the minor exception of Merriman's new measurement device on Spring Creek washing out. To the best of my knowledge, water users have worked together as needed to maintain laterals and diversions in decent condition. Disturbance by cattle and saturated conditions did present some challenges on the Vaughn Ditch. I do not know the status of any '23 post or '24 pre irrigation season maintenance on the Vaughn which might avoid delivery issues in the coming season.

IDWR reached out to me last season with a watermaster training opportunity which I was unable to attend. Depending on timing and ability, I will make every effort to take part in future such trainings.

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As Table 1, "Five Year Totals and Averages" illustrates, 2023 billable water deliveries were roughly 18 % higher (853 24 Hr sf) than the previous year. Deliveries are expressed in 24-hour second feet (1 cubic foot per second over a twenty-four hour period), equal to 1.9835 acre feet. The proposed budget divided by the five-year-average yields an apportionment factor of \$5.533.

Table 1.

[illegible]

Marsh Creek Water District 45-F
Water Master's Annual Report 2023

Referring to Figure 1, "3/1/24-2/28/25 Proposed Budget Water District 45F", the proposed budget is outlined below.

Figure 1.

3/1/24-2/28/25
PROPOSED BUDGET
WATER DISTRICT 45F

WATERMASTER EXPENSE:

COMPENSATION:	\$24,256.00
TOTAL WATER MASTER:	\$24,256.00

SECRETARY EXPENSE:

COMPENSATION:	\$ 1,650.00
COUNTY BILLING:	\$ 150.00
TOTAL SECRETARY:	\$ 1,750.00

INSURANCE:	\$ 1,739.00
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<u>MEETING HALL RENT</u>	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
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TOTAL BUDGET:	\$27,845.00
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Marsh Creek Water District 45- Water Master's Annual Report 2023

Every season seems to present new challenges and surprises related to water distribution around the district. 2023 had very few in any conflicts among users and I hope this trend will continue. Please share my phone number with those water users who need. To avoid delays or miscommunications, please do not hesitate to contact me via voice or text at 208.312.2920, or by email at aklloyd@atcnet.net with questions, concerns, or for water delivery requests.