

# **Watermaster's Annual Report**

## **Water District 55B – Jordan Creek and Tributaries, Within Idaho**

**Watermaster: Justin Shearer**

**From June 21, 2022 – March 23, 2023**

In Water District 55B's inaugural season Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) offered their services to help establish the district and get things up and running. As a result, in the first annual meeting the water users elected Water Resource agent Justin Shearer (me) from IDWR's western regional office as their Watermaster.

Throughout the irrigation season following the first annual meeting and my appointment in June of 2022, my primary focus was on gathering inventory of users' diversions and gaining a further understanding of the Jordan Creek drainage. In several visits out to Jordan Valley throughout July and August I met with multiple users on the system and inspected their diversions, made note of installed measuring devices, and coordinated with users who anticipated making calls for water in the future by providing guidance on IDWR's measuring device installation requirements.

As the season progressed into the hotter and drier part of the season, I fielded calls from and stayed in touch with several of the water users who kept me informed of the water situation as the flow in Jordan Creek diminished. Because many users were still working out the details necessary to get properly installed measuring devices on their diversion systems, no calls for water were made. It was observed that by mid-August, I was receiving calls from several of the users in the "lower valley" that water levels in the creek were dropping rapidly. Additionally, it was made to my attention that some of the junior users were shut off, while other junior users were continuing operations as normal, even though water levels were insufficient to satisfy senior users in the lower valley. It is expected that as more senior users will have measuring devices installed by the start of the 2023 irrigation season, there will be priority calls for water when similar conditions arise in late summer and junior users will be curtailed to satisfy senior water rights.

The adopted budget for WD 55B for the 2022 fiscal year was set at \$2,000 with owners of water rights for irrigation mining purposes being assessed as a \$50 per owner flat fee. However, it should be noted that because the establishment of the district and its respective annual meeting took place somewhat late in the season, it was determined that fees would not be assessed in this first season while we worked to get a bank account established for the district. As a result, I anticipate the proposed budget and assessment fees for the 2023 season to remain the same as in 2022 and collection of assessments to begin following the annual water district meeting on March 23, 2023.

**SCANNED**  
**JUN 09 2023**

### AFFADAVIT OF WATERMASTER

As the appointed watermaster of water district no. 55B – Jordan Creek, I hereby certify that the information contained in this report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

X Justin Shum 3/21/23

Watermaster signature

SCANNED  
JUN 09 2023