

**2025 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 elected 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

5/15/25  
Date

- The current watermaster was elected in May of 2017. Since that time, there has not been an assistant watermaster for more than a couple months.
- The 2024 irrigation season started with below-average runoff and precipitation.
  - According to local SnoTel sites, the snowpack was about 70% of average.
  - Flood Control District #17 (FCD17) transferred control of the spillway over to the water district in early May, as the chances of flooding had diminished by that point.
- Roughly 19 hours were spent measuring flows in the drainage during the 2024 irrigation season.
  - Measurements of the outflows at the dam were no longer needed, as the new equipment installed in 2023 proved quite accurate. Measurements were taken downstream of the spillway a couple times with the in-stream measuring equipment in order to verify the new gate's accuracy.
- By late July, available flow no longer fulfilled water right 95-0734 at the Sylte Ranch, due to significant losses along Rathdrum Creek. By late August, outflow was limited to 3 cfs, an amount that would fulfill the water right to the Miller residence, upstream from the Finman property, as flow could not reach another active diversion downstream from this location. This condition lasted until late November, when winter precipitation arrived. This situation occurred in two prior irrigation seasons.
- Outside of regular irrigation season duties, the watermaster regularly attended FCD17 meetings and communicated with their board in the off-season in order to

see that water was delivered to stock water right 95-0734 at the Sylte Ranch when sufficient inflows were available.

- Time was also spent on maintaining and installing upgrades to the equipment at the dam.
  - As has always been the case, the watermaster submits a detailed timesheet to the treasurer, with a detailed description of duties performed, in order to be compensated. The current treasurer also presents a timesheet to the watermaster, and payroll checks are signed by the other party, not by the payee.
- Many members still need to update their contact information with IDWR. We are hoping to find a way to reach those that have not responded to previous notices.
- A list of water right/license holders is produced and submitted to the county each July for billing through the county property tax system. This assessment is a fee, not a tax. Most water districts have their own billing system, adding to the overall cost and hassle to run the district. We appreciate the county's willingness to continue this service at no cost to the water district.
- All water district members paid \$20 "per water right holder" again in 2023, rather than "per water right". This was a change made in 2022 after discussion about whether water right holders were receiving any additional services by holding more than one water right in the district.
- There were no measurements of individual diversions, by meter or otherwise, during the irrigation season.
- The watermaster assisted FCD17 during the winter months again this year by offering remote control of the spillway gate.
  - FCD17 board members continue to have access to a camera system at the spillway, providing live views of the gate position and downstream staff gauge.
  - FCD17 shares in the expense of the Starlink system installed at the dam that provides the internet connection for the camera system.
  - The new gate system at the spillway has been set up to provide FCD17 board members with access to remote gate controls. The camera system, as well as all the older equipment, will remain in service as a backup to the new gate controls and monitoring.
- There were no Advisory Committee meetings held during the 2024/2025 season.

- Information about Twin Lakes Water District, the annual meeting documents (including this report), and regular updates on flow measurements and lake levels observed as far back as May 2019, can be found on our website, [twinwaterdistrict.org](http://twinwaterdistrict.org). The site was built by the watermaster in 2019, and is updated and maintained by the watermaster, as well.