

Westra, John

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**From:** Brandi Horton [watermaster67@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 15, 2012 12:50 PM  
**To:** Westra, John; Lester, Steve  
**Subject:** FW: East Fork Water!

Hi Guys!

I know how much you love hearing from me, so here's so more excitement for you! East Fork Ditch is calling into question how the Lost Valley Reservoir operates. I've explained in the following email how I was taught to do the job. But as you'll read, I've spoken with LVR board members, and there seems to be confusion as to what the bylaws actually say about it. I get different answers from different board members. I want to have a meeting with LVR board members, EFD directors, and one of you. Once I get my hands on the LVR bylaws (if that's possible, they're having trouble locating them) I'll schedule it. I'd like to handle this as soon as possible, since it's been recommended to the EFD that they bring their complaints to the District's annual meeting as well as the LVR's annual meeting. The problem with that is the more people you have there with no actual involvement in the case, the more volatile this may become. I'll speak with you soon!

Take Care!

Brandi Horton  
Watermaster-District 67  
2297 Snapp Ln.  
Midvale, ID 83645  
(208) 550-0313



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**From:** watermaster67@hotmail.com  
**To:** ahahorse@ctcweb.net  
**Subject:** RE: East Fork Water!  
**Date:** Wed, 15 Aug 2012 13:40:23 -0500

Hi Dick,

When I took on the job it was explained to me that the water is to be delivered on a 60 day release rate. It became necessary to start releasing water from LVR at the end of June, and the demand for water will be over by the end of August and we'll be closing the gate at the reservoir to conserve all the water we can. That's 60 days. Each share in the reservoir is equivalent to 0.22 inches per minute. You take the total shares owned by the shareholder, and multiply that by the share equivalent and deliver that much water to them. For example, East Fork Ditch has a total of 660 shares.  $660 \times 0.22 = 145.2$  inches per minute. I've given you 150 inches for reservoir shares. This is how I was told to do the job and is how I have done it. Think back to 2007...the last really hot, dry year we had. The East Fork Ditch was down to 300 inches at the end of July that year as well. Many other water users throughout the district were shut off completely by then because they had junior water rights and no reservoir shares. It's the same situation this year.

I spent yesterday with a man from the IDWR measuring natural stream flow in all forks of the Weiser River. There is a total of 3,514.8 inches of natural stream flow available in the Weiser River drainage. To fill all water

rights on the Weiser River and it's  I need 40,057 inches. To fill only the  senior rights (completely curtailing all junior rights) I still need 8,934.5 inches. Give you some idea of what I'm up against?

The method of delivery of the reservoir water is decided by the reservoir company itself, since they own the water. When the reservoir company was formed and the reservoir built, they wrote bylaws and articles of incorporation which governs how they operate. I never asked to see them. I was taught how my job was to be done by Bosco, which is how he was taught by Jerry Myers, which is how he was taught by the watermaster before him and is how it's always been done so far as anyone knows. However, on speaking to different LVR board members, there seems to be confusion as to what the bylaws and articles say, as well as where they are located. I'm doing the leg work now to get that information, and will be organizing a meeting with LVR board members, EFD directors, the IDWR, and myself. I've got to get everyone on the same page. You know, it makes me wonder why EFD has suddenly decided to start asking questions this year, when this has been going on for over so many years. In fact, Jerry informed me that when he was watermaster, not only did he repeatedly have to reduce your water in dry years, but for 2 years straight you had to be shut down completely. Bosco has told me he had to reduce your water several times as well. Why is the EFD reacting this year as if this has never happened before? Curious...

I'll be contacting you when I get this meeting scheduled. In the mean time I've spoken with some senior water users on the river who are planning on finishing irrigating in the next few days, and as those diversions are shut down I'll be able to deliver more water your way. I hope this helps you some, and I'll be contacting you soon. Hang in there Dick, this irrigation season too shall pass.

Have a Good Day,

Brandi Horton  
Watermaster-District 67  
2297 Snapp Ln.  
Midvale, ID 83645  
(208) 550-0313

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Date: Tue, 14 Aug 2012 14:02:05 -0600  
From: ahahorse@ctcweb.net  
To: watermaster67@hotmail.com  
Subject: East Fork Water!

Good afternoon Brandi. I'm trying to continue my education of our water operations. Concerning Lost Valley Reservoir, is there a way to measure discharge? Do you keep a log of the changes you make to Lost Valley discharge? I understand that we have C and B shares of Lost Valley water. I also understand that when the reservoir is full, that is "C" water. As the reservoir is drawn down, "B" shares are used. Our "B" water is "paper water", at least for us, because we can not obtain it. Instead we, or you send it down river so we can keep diverting our 16 cfs. on the East Fork. If I do not understand correctly, please correct me. Also, who by law is responsible for setting releases from Lost Valley Reservoir. If there is a state statute or administrative rule, I will appreciate having the citation. Lastly, what class of our shares are you now releasing from Lost Valley Reservoir, and what is the discharge?

Thanks for your help. I have had a lot of explaining to do since you reduced us, and I feel I have not been able to explain the operations well enough.

Regards,

Dick Thompson,  
President  
East Fork Ditch Company, Ltd.