

# Memorandum

**To:** File, Water District 13T

**From:** Tim Luke *TJL*

**Date:** November 16, 2000

**Re:** Response to IDWR Letter about Well Production Problems near Warren Lloyd Well

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A letter dated October 20, 2000 was sent by IDWR to four water users in Water District 13T who operate wells in the immediate vicinity of Warren Lloyd. Our letter inquired whether the users experienced any water shortages from their wells during the 2000 irrigation season. I received one written response and three phone calls concerning our inquiry.

The written response is from Ben and David Lloyd, representatives of Keith Lloyd. A copy of this letter is attached. This letter describes general production problems in the Keith Lloyd well since about 1980. The letter indicates they have had problems with this well every year but manage to irrigate a full crop by supplementing their use with canal shares. The letter also indicates that canal water will not likely be available to them next year and that they may make a call for water. The letter ends with a request of forms for making a delivery call and criticizes the Department and the watermaster for not being more responsive to their shortages.

The rest of this memo documents the comments or responses from the three remaining users who contacted me by phone.

1. Curtis Stoddard – October 29, 2000, 11:30 a.m.

Stoddard operates the well north of Warren Lloyd's well that was formerly owned by Calvin Lloyd, Warren's son. Mr. Stoddard reported that he did experience pressure loss in his well starting in late July of this year. He explained that it was a gradual drop in pressure that required him to shut down to operating just one pivot instead of the two pivots that he normally runs. Stoddard normally has his mainline valved down a little bit with the two-pivot operation and runs at about 65 psi. When pressure began dropping this year, he adjusted the valve by opening it up. This action got the pressure back up but only briefly. He made further adjustments until he shut down to just one pivot. He said this situation was not a big problem for him overall because his crop mix and demand did not really require that he run two pivots much after the pressure reduction occurred. He said he was able to manage the problem without detriment to crops.

Stoddard also said that he did not contact the watermaster concerning his problem because he was aware that either Keith or Warren Lloyd had already contacted the watermaster. Stoddard

*Jim E.*

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SENDER'S E-MAIL ADDRESS: randy-b@racinelaw.net

October 17, 2000

Karl J. Dreher, Director  
Norm Young  
Idaho Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

**RECEIVED**

**OCT 19 2000**

**Department of Water Resources**

*Re: Bancroft-Lund Ground Water Management Area  
Warren Lloyd - Water Right No. 13-0213*

Dear Karl and Norm:

Thanks for meeting with Warren Lloyd, Lloyd Sorensen and me while you were in Pocatello October 12. We appreciate the Department's commitment to further investigate and study Warren Lloyd's well as well as the other wells nearby of Keith Lloyd, Curtis Stoddard and Chad Neibaur, all of whom are experiencing shortages, in an effort to determine well relationships and reasonable pumping levels.

Prior to the next irrigation season, Warren will make the necessary alterations to his well to provide the Department with necessary access so that the depth and output can be measured. The objective is to help determine if the shortages experienced by Warren since at least 1977 result from interference from junior wells; or, result from well problems. In the meantime we will continue to pursue an exchange of water, possible change in the point of diversion and other solutions that may be feasible to help mitigate Warren's shortfall.

*mailed 10/17/2000*

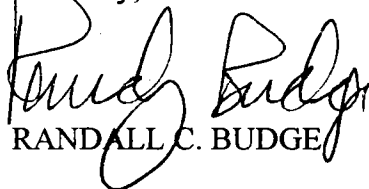
I'd appreciate receiving a copy of the 9/9/2000 IDWR memo from Shane Bendixsen to Bob Sutter indicating that water levels in the aquifer are stable, being highest in the fall rather than the spring, apparently as a result of irrigation recharge tending to indicate a well problem rather than aquifer problems.

Karl Dreher  
October 17, 2000  
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The involvement, help and concern of the Department are greatly appreciated. Any further thoughts or suggestions you may have would be welcome.

Sincerely,



RANDALL C. BUDGE

RCB:rr

cc: Warren Lloyd  
Lloyd Sorensen

further explained that this pressure problem was the first that he experienced over the three years that he has owned the well. He experienced no problems during the first two years, 1998 and 1999. Stoddard was not certain if the flow meter on his well is still working. I advised that he should make certain that it does work so that he can document any flow shortage problems next year or subsequent years.

Stoddard asked me some questions regarding the water district and watermaster duties. I believed I addressed these questions to his satisfaction. I measured the water level in the Stoddard well on November 8, 2000. See attached sheet for updated water level measurements and comparison to measurements from previous years.

2. Chad Neibaur – October 31, 2000, 10:30 a.m.

Chad Niebaur of Gem Valley farms also called me directly. Neibaur owns three wells in the immediate area of Warren Lloyd's well, plus several other wells a little further west, south and north. Shad said he was not aware of any problems in any of these wells. He did say that two of the three wells in the immediate area, Paul's well and the Home Place well, may have both had a slight reduction in pressure during the season but that the reduction was not significant and/or was not a problem. He said he might he may have adjusted the valve a little on the Home Place well and that such adjustment resolved any problem he might have had at this location.

Chad also explained that Warren Lloyd had discussed his pumping difficulties with Chad this season. Specifically, Warren said to Chad that the pressure in his well was down and that he could not get the proper amount of pressure and water to his mini pivots. Lloyd's lessee, Mr. Sorensen also confirmed with Chad the pressure and flow problem. Chad said that Sorensen told him that he pretty much had to run all of Lloyd's pivots together to make things work. The reason for this was not clearly explained.

3. Phil Yost – November 16, 2000, 11:30 a.m.

Phil Yost did not write or call me directly. I called Phil on November 16 since I had not received a reply. I spoke with Mrs. Lisa Yost, Phil's spouse. Mrs. Yost agreed to discuss the matter with me since she is involved in the farming with Phil. The Yost's own two wells west of the Warren and Keith Lloyd wells. She said that they had not responded to my letter because they experienced no problem with either of their two wells this year. She further explained that since they have owned the farm just west of Lloyd's, they experienced pressure problems only one year, the first year they operated there. She said that Phil converted from wheel lines to low pressure pivots (drop down nozzles) the following year and that they have not had problems since (note, Yost still operates one wheel line with the pivots). She also mentioned that the one odd thing that they are aware of is that one of the two wells (the one to the east on Hegstrom Road) has a significant mineral composition (she described as soda water). (Note: As per my experience in the area, I am aware of at least one other well with this same problem, one of the old Smith wells to south now owned by Carl Jorgensen).

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NOV - 8 2000

Department of Water Resources

Lloyd Farms  
October 23, 2000  
1917 Lund Road  
Bancroft, Idaho 83217

State of Idaho  
Tim Luke -- Water Distribution Section  
Department of Water Resources  
1301 North Orchard Street  
Boise, Idaho 83706 P.O. box 83720 - 0098

Dear Sir: Re: Irrigation water shortage In response to your letter.

We are sending with this letter copies of some of the letters that were previously sent to the water Department explaining our water problems. These problems started when in 1980 and 1981 several more wells were drilled in our area. From that time we have been short of water.

In about 1988 the well was so bad that we totally abandoned thirty acres of grain and the other 180 acres were severely damaged. The following Spring in desperation, because we got no help from the water board, We bought a new pipeline and another pump so that we could use canal water. We transferred water from our farm in Turner and we put it into the North Extension Canal. We also rented water from a neighbor who had his land in the C.R.P. Program to supplement the well. With this additional water we were able to get by until we could get a water master in the valley. With the help of the Water Master and by managing our water carefully, we were able to get along using supplementary water. That is until this year.

This year we started having water problems by the middle of June and by the 1st of July these problems were severe. We complained to the water master and he said that he could not do anything about it but that he would report it.

We had about 110 acres of grain and about 110 acres that had been rented out for potatoes. We no longer could transfer our canal water from Turner into the North Extension Canal because of new ruling from that canal company to not put any additional shares of water into its system. We could not rent additional water from within the canal system. The man we rented from before had taken his land out of the C.R.P. But we were lucky. This year we had rented the land to a man who already had water shares in the North Extension. This year there was a good supply of water in the canal system and he did not need all the water he had and he was willing to transfer that water to us. If he hadn't had water in the North Extension, our grain crop would have been hurt and he would have lost his potato crop.

If next year the water in our well does not improve greatly we will not have nearly enough water to irrigate. Also, because of the restrictions put on by the North Extension Canal Company we will not be able to transfer water. We will have no available option to obtain additional water.

We feel a deep resentment against the water Department for not trying to enforce the laws. Our water permit is 1962.

Page Two  
Re: Water Problems  
Lloyd Farms  
1917 Lund Road  
Bancroft, Idaho  
83217

There are other farmers in the valley who are short of water but they are willing to wait and see if Warren Lloyd can't take the blame and do the fighting, and when he wins they will have their water again and they won't have had to take a stand against their neighbor.

We have tried hard to be a good neighbor and up until now when we had an emergency we have been able to find alternate water but that does not seem to be an option any longer. It is difficult to consider calling for our water but that seems to be our only option. Therefore; will you please send to us the necessary paper work to call for our water.

Maybe this could have been avoided if the water master had been allowed to check and see where the water was going. As it is, it is almost a joke to have a water master. His hands are tied. He can't do his job.

Please send us the forms necessary to call for our water.

Sincerely,

David Lloyd  
Ben Lloyd

Keith Lloyd  
March 18, 1989

*This farm is now  
Lloyd Farms*

Director  
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources  
150 Shoup Avenue  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Dear Sir:

The protest letter we sent concerning the application for water rights for Permit No. 13-07458 to water 272.0 acres for Dwain K. Christensen was rejected because it was received late. We, therefore, would like to send this letter to intervene in the proceeding for the following reasons:

1. The quantity of water to satisfy prior existing water rights is limited.
  - a. Wells drilled ~~in~~ <sup>approximately</sup> 1980 and 1980 have cut the amount of water we have be able to get. With each pumping season we must cut the amount of lines we can run as the season gets near it's end. This last year we had to cut much sooner and finally abandoned 30 acres of irrigated land. Since we did not fall plow anyone this spring can check this field if evidence is needed to verify the above statement.
2. We do not seek relief for our loss but we feel that it is not in the public interest for more wells to be drilled.
  - a. More wells in the area could cause our well and others to go dry.
  - b. Someone spending a large amount of money to drill a well might have to abandon it because of the shortage of water to be had.

Sincerely

Keith Lloyd

C: R. Keith Higginson, Director

Keith Lloyd  
Box 2040  
Bancroft, Idaho 83217  
July 1, 1989

Director  
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources  
150 Shoup Avenue  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Dear Sir:

We have protested the petition for two irrigation well permits for irrigation purposes this year. One on February 20th for Dwain K. Christensen and one on April 18th for the Lloyd Brothers. We received a letter from you stating that we should be prepared to show proof the allegations that our well has been affected from the existing wells. Therefore, we request that you send a field representative to check our well during this irrigation season so that we can present proof that our well is affected by existing wells and let you see the problems that we face with our well. Our well permit was completed about 1965.

At the first of this year's pumping season (Like it has been other years) our well has had plenty of water. As the season progressed, and more wells were turned on, our well began to cut back. At the present time we can't run our pivot with the pressure it should have and we can run it only about eight hours out of the twenty-four hours in a day. The rest of the time the well has to be turned off to regain enough water to run again. This is about 1/2 of the water we should be able to use.

This problem is not new. Last year we ran short of water and had to abandon about 30 acres of irrigated land. Because of this problem, last fall we bought a pivot so that we could get over the land quicker and with less water. This has helped but we still wonder if we will again this year have to abandon some of our crop. Our well, if it continues to do what it has other years will continue to get worse as the season progresses.

We feel that if proof is necessary to show that our well is affected, that you should send a field representative this next week and again the following week, but that you should not wait until the other irrigators shut their systems off for the season. It only takes about two days or less for the water level in our well to return to normal when their systems shut off, but by the time they do the pumping season is over and it is too late to save a grain crop.

Sincerely,

cc: R. Keith Higginson, Director



1917 Lund Road  
Bancroft, Idaho  
83217

April 5, 1991

Dept. of Water Resources  
1301 North Orchard Street  
Statehouse Mail  
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Sir: Re: Request for a Water Master in Lund-Bancroft-Central Area

I am writing to request a water master to control the use of water in the Lund-Bancroft-Central area from irrigation wells and also to protest permitting any further wellspermits from being issued.

In the years of 1977 and 1978 too many wells were drilled and the existing water was not enough to take care of these new wells as well as the wells already in use withwith earlier permits.

We have been hurt for the last ten years:

1. Financially from the loss of water for our crops
2. From having to hire lawyers to try to protect the water we have had left. (Last year during the peak of the irrigation season we had only 1/3 of the water we should have had.)
3. From stress as we watched our crops burn when we should have had water to irrigate.

We feel that it is important that a water master be assigned for the 1991 growingsseason:

1. Our well and at least eight other irrigation wells did not have enough water last year. Most of these wells have early permit dates.
2. This area has a critical water shortage during the peak irrigation season (About from 7th of July until around the 1st of August.)
3. This area has a fast recharge and a fast draw-down. We do not have a large reserve of under-ground water.

Sincerely,

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Keith Lloyd

Keith Lloyd  
1917 Lund Road  
Bancroft, Idaho 83217

June 27, 1991

Director  
Idaho Dept of Water Resources  
150 Shoup Avenue  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Dear Sir:

On April 5, 1991, I wrote to you and requested a water master for the Lund-Bancroft-Central area and I also protested permitting any future well permits from being issued.

Again I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A WATER MASTER!!!

We have been hurt with our irrigation well for the last ten years.

1. Financially from the loss of water for our crops
2. From having to hire lawyers to try and protect the water we have left
3. From stress as we have watched our crops burn when we should have had water to irrigate

AGAIN: We feel it is critical we have a water master.

This year we have water only if some of the other wells have been shut down. We can irrigate for only a few hours at a time before we suck air. We have about 1/6 percent of the water we should have.

What steps must we take and how long must we wait before action is taken?

Sincerely,

Keith Lloyd

Sawcreek, Idaho  
83217

Sept. 18, 1995

Director  
Dept. of Water Resources  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Dear Sir,

This letter is to protest the water application to transfer water from a well owned by Bem Valley Farms to a different well for the following reasons.

1. This is a deep well and seems to be the one that hurts our well the most.
2. Our well, which has an earlier water permit, can only be run a few hours a day and it is worse when this well is being run.
3. By transferring water they will be watering more acres than they have in the past.

Sincerely,

David Lloyd

Transfer #  
T4705

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SEP 25 1995

Department of Water Resources  
Eastern District Office

COPY