

Diary of Notes and Entries

2004 57-R Watermaster: Connie Brandau

March 1, 2004 57-R meeting and elections in Muphy, Idaho. I was elected watermaster and accepted with the provision that if I couldn't perform my duties because of cancer treatments the advisory board would appoint an assistant watermaster. Pay will be \$50 per day and \$.35 per mile and reimbursed for out of pocket expenses. Jan Shirts is to see if she can provide me with an updated list of 57R water rights by priority date. (IDWR was not able to provide me with a simplified list of only 57R irrigation water rights by priority date.) The following people attended the annual meeting and were elected to the position of: Rich Brandau, Chairman; Jerry Hoagland, Secretary; LaVar Young, advisory committee; Tom Hook, advisory committee; Connie Brandau, watermaster; Dan Muller; Jackie Benson; Tom Benson; Judy Henderson; Mike Henderson; Brad Huff; Jason Muller; Jerry Muller; Forrest Stimpson. Jan Shirts and Kimberly Brown represented the IDWR.

March 4, 2004 I called Zane Cram at ARS to request Tollgate and Outlet weir readings on a weekly basis. He made sure that I was aware of the ARS disclaimer that the faxes I would receive were "unprocessed and estimated information."

Tom Hook brought up a paper from the New Mexico State University Co-op Extension Service titled "A Low Cost Water Measuring Device." It is called a circular flume and it measures in gallons per minute which is then converted into CFS. He will provide me with a conversion chart.

March 14, 2004 Sunday Dan Muller came up to ask about the Last Ditch weir. He is working on the ditch itself and says that the weir box is "just about shot." He was wondering if it should be moved closer to the head of the ditch if he rebuilds it. We discussed the size needed and different types of weirs. They have a four foot cipolletti blade. He asked if a "pipe like Toms" (circular flume) would work. He said he would prefer to find a four foot cement "check box" type of bulk head to put the blade in. Owyhee Sand and Gravel - Chuck and Bill Maxwell - may be able to make one.

March 15, 2004 Tristan Hook called and wants me to meet him before noon today to see where their weir should be placed -for both West Reynolds and Last Ditch laterals. There is enough drop and bank stability to place a weir within 100 feet of the Last Ditch headgate. The place that Tristan and Tom picked for the West Reynolds circular flume has almost to much drop/get-away, has a lava bed rock base and not much soil. Tris has used an old car hood as a face for the pipe (which does not fit tight enough to keep the loose dirt behind it in place) and the pipe is so short (less than six feet) that it looks like it may not hold. -But the location was ok with me as it is within about 300 yards of the headgate.

March 16, 2004 I went back up to look at West Reynolds new pipe weir. It had washed out during the night and Tristan was just putting it back in. He had moved it up the ditch a little further to a little more secure location.

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March 29, 2004 LaVar Young came up to the house. They have finished burning out the Reynolds Irrigation District (RID) lateral and want to put water in it sometime this week. Someone (unknown) had opened the headgate last week and that water was going down to Hendersons ditch. When I called and told them about a possible increase in the water in RID lateral they said they hadn't put the water in and knew nothing about it, and would prefer it was off.

April 15, 2004 Thursday Dan Muller was up. He said the Last Ditch was out of water. The nights have been real cold and it is freezing up above. He wanted to know if he could make a call on the Macks Creek water (see if live flow is getting through the reservoirs). I contacted Rex Evans and we made arrangements to meet at Junayo headquarters at 10:30 AM tomorrow to measure Macks and Cottle Creeks live flow that should be coming through the storage facilities. We will also check the East Ditch and reservoir.

April 16, 2004 Out from 9:45 AM to 4 PM. Met Evans at 11 AM at Junayo Ranch. We estimated about 5 minor inches (.10 CFS) in the streambed below the main Macks Creek Reservoir. We measured a depth of 5.5 inches of water through a 2 foot rectangular contracted weir at the Macks Creek measuring sight = 2.09 CFS. The total of these two sites equalled 2.19 CFS and Junayo has water rights for 2.26 CFS at this time.

We went to Cottle Creek. There is no weir at Cottle, just 2x4's checking up the water through a culvert pipe. Estimated 50" or 1 CFS in Cottle and .30 CFS of tail water off of McKees reaching the streambed and Macks Creek reservoir. I determined that there was approximately .37 CFS difference between Junayos water right and the amount of available water they were using. Therefore I determined Mullers request for Macks Creek water a futile call.

At the Junayo East Ditch diversion the headgate was wide open and the water measured 1.3' x 2' Parshall Flume = 12.2 CFS. I closed it down to run enough pressure to maintain 6 CFS at this time (.83' x 2') and told Rex they should not be storing ANY water at this time. Then we went to the Potato Patch (west side) diversion. It is running pressure at 1.22' x 9" PF = 4.16 CFS (208"). NOTE: about 120" or 2.40 CFS is going into the East reservoir and about 150" or 3.00 CFS is coming out of the reservoir (92 sprinkler heads = 46" + 80" below res. + 25" bull pasture gated pipe = 151") so they are using more than is going into the reservoir. As of this afternoon no water is being stored by Junayo.

I ran the rest of the creek this afternoon and noted that there is about 230 inches of water in the High Ditch, Jaca is not using water yet, the Community ditch has water in it (but I don't know who is using it) the ZX home place has one head on water turned on, and the Seven High home place is not irrigating yet.

When I got home Rich said that Dan Muller had been up to call me out as watermaster. I phoned him to let him know that there would be about 300 inches of water coming down from my adjustment at Orndorffs. Jerry Muller came up to pay his water bill and told me

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he was going to take more water. I advised him not to right now (he was already running more than his decreed right) as I had been called out.

April 17, 2004 Saturday Dan Muller called and said not to go on as watermaster. He is also the ditch rider for West Reynolds Irrigation Dist. and was told by Jaca and Benson that they are not using creek water out of the WR lateral and to just fill Jerry Muller and Tom Hooks rights.

Hendersons have not turned on any water yet. Rich Brandau has about 100 inches at the W7 and about 150 inches at V ranch. Tony Richards phoned and said that he would be turning water on (out of Community ditch) in a couple of days..

April 19, 2004 Jerry Hoagland called to let me know he is getting ready to turn water on at the Seven High home place in the Bridge diversion.

There is still quite a bit of snow at the head of Reynolds but it is freezing at night. There was a little rain this morning - the first since mid-February. The ARS weir readings today were: 20.77 CFS at the Outlest and 29.32 CFS at Tollgate.= 50.09 CFS which should go part way through priority #23, Gary Stollers right.

April 20, 2004 7AM Elias Jaca called. He is starting water at Reynolds today.

April 23, 2004 7 PM LaVar Young called. He wanted to know "what is the water situation?" They have "no water, well about 100 inches" in the Boise Trust ditch. I told him that I would go out tomorrow. He asked if I could "squeeze the RID a little to get water to the Boise Trust ditch (he has rights out of both ditches). I will call Forret Stimpson, RID ditch rider, and do it in the morning.

April 24, 2004 9:30 to 10:30 AM I called everyone to let them know I was officially on:

Stoller	-1121	Gary
Dan Muller	-2807	Rose
LaVar Young	-1133	needs to put weir blade in Boise Trust ditch
F. Stimpson	-2317	needs to put weir blade in RID lateral
Hook	-2712	get a legible table for your flume weir readings
Brandau	-2529	put weir blade in at V
T. Richards	-2331	left message on machine about measuring/location of use
Hoagland	-2810	he is using out of only two ditches - house and high ditch
Jaca	-2570	466-8801 Inez
Hook, Theron	-2863	Wendy
Hook, Tristan	-2395	message
Evans/Junayo	-2667	Belle
Henderson	-2194	message
Muller, Jerry	-2819	message

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April 25, 2004 9:43 AM Henderson left a message that they are putting about 40-50 inches of water on the lower end of their place today. Tom Hook left a table of measurements for his weir at our house.

April 26, 2004 Jaca called and said that his guys just got the water turned on this week. Note: 448.86 GPM = 1 CFS = 50 Idaho Miners inches of water (miners inches per CFS can vary from state to state)

As of today the 2004 unpaid water bills are:

Winston Goering	23.24
Paul Jesenko	16.47
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Junayo Ranch	97.32
Junayo Ranch	33.81
Junayo Ranch	139.78
Gertrude McMahan	16.47
Sam Pitman	36.78 (Pitmans sold part of their property to J. Mortenson/J&M)

This was my first day out to officially measure water. 11 AM to 1:30 PM on lower reach and 2 PM to 10 PM on upper reach. 11 PM to 12 midnight figuring where measurements should be. There were gazillions of Mormon Crickets at the head of Reynolds above Jacas. They were so thick that the ground looked like it was moving... creepy.

April 27, 2004 I spent day calling to let everyone know where they should be with their water measurements at this time.

Tristan: Jerry Mullers right at the WR flume weir = 2.06 CFS = 924.5 GPM = 11 inches of depth on their staff gauge. Tris wants 50" / 1 CFS of his right in that ditch so that measurement will be 3.06 CFS x 4.48.8 = 1373 GPM = 13 inches of depth on staff gauge.

I need to tell Rex to:

Shut down to 1.96 CFS on Junayo Lower place; put 1.28 CFS over weir below Macks Creek - 3 1/8 inches x 3 foot rectangular contracted weir; shut down to 1.40 CFs at Cemetery place; put weir in at Cottle Creek; pay 2004 water bill before I go out next time or I will shut off their water.

If Hook takes all of his water at Reynolds: 3.47 N Bar + 2.74 WR + .90 LD = 7.11 CFS and they are using 7.56 so they need to shut down .46 CFS. There should be 7.33 in the Community ditch if Jerry isn't taking any (3.85 Hook + 2.08 Tony + 1.40 Rex).

Rex called back at 4 PM. He told Owen payment is due now. He is keeping the water on the Fire House side .6' x 9" = 1.40 CFS. He shut off the Potato Patch. He put the East Ditch to .4' x 2' = 1.93 CFS. He will talk to Tony about the Ram Field ditch. I told him to leave the Macks Creek situation as is until I can get up there with him to go over it. He is going to the "trees" to see who has what in the Community Ditch.

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At 2 PM I adjusted WR down per Hooks instructions (WR is having conflicts within there district with lateral payments, maintenance, ditch rider, measurements and lack of weirs etc.) to 13" on their flume weir = 3.06 CFS.

By 3 PM the WR adjustment had brought Brandau V measurement up to 8.5" x 1' cipolletti = 2.12 CFS.

At 3 PM I called Young - the Boise Trust ditch should be up by 2.45 CFS by this evening (4.05 CFS on 4/26 + 2.45 CFS today = 6.50 CFS by tomorrow)

4:30 PM I left message at Jacas that their weirs are set OK and they do not need to make any adjustments. Rex called back at 5 PM with the weir measurements at the Trees and we determined that the Community dtich need to be shut down by 2.74 CFS to 7.11 CFS. I left message for Tony Richards that he will be the only one using out of the Ram ditch.

Jerry Muller came up and was irate. He wants to be able to use all of the West Reynolds lateral water rights on his place. He ranted that "They can't take water out of my ditch and use it up above." I told him I would check with IDWR. I reached Scott King 334-2190 x 106 at 5:15 PM. Mr. King stated that if a water user doesn't take his water it should go down to fill the next junior right. He said that one user cannot claim both his and anothers rights for use on a single property, and also that if one wanted to use a water right on ground different than that which it was appropriated one would need to file for a transfer (ei: using lower rights in upper valley). Emergency drought relief may address that issure this year. I re-checked the water right reach totals and determined that I was properly distributing the water. Dan Muller (Jerrys brother and the West Reynolds ditch rider) came to the house at 6 PM. I explained my position as best as I could. Gladys Muller (Jerrys wife) called while Dan was here. I explained to her IDWR position on water delivery and gave her IDWR phone number to call for verification. Dan said that Jerry wasn't getting all the water that he was entitled to, so we went back down to WR lateral headgate and weir. The water had gone down a little this evening (to 12" on gauge) so we adjusted it back up to 13".

April 28, 2004 8 AM The water in the creek is up to the top of my "marker rock" this AM. I will let it settle today and probably go out tomorrow to measure again.

10-10:30 AM I sat down and worked out a delivery schedule which took into consideration the unpaid water bills and water for which a call is not being made. By not delivering the unpaids (5.66 CFS) and no calls (8.21 CFS) the water I measured on Monday 4/25/04 should go part way through proripority #37.

I received Junayo Ranch payment in the mail this evening. There is no water going past the hiway today.

April 29, 2004 It was cold last night - mid 30's here. The creek is down a little looking at marker rock. I will go out today and measure the whole creek.

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There was a total of 58.48 CFS measured. There are still some Mormon Crickets at the head of Reynolds valley - about 1 inch long now.

April 30, 2004 9 AM The creek does not show any changes yet at my marker rock from my adjustments yesterday. It was cold again last night (mid 30's) and hot in daytime (80's) so the creek is up and down a lot. We are having beaver problems at some of the headgates. They plug them off at night.

May 1, 2004 I had a doctors appointment yesterday afternoon, so did not get the lower reach adjusted after the water from 4/29 got here. I will go out and measure the lower reach today and adjust it on the way back up if needed. Everyone up above should be running pressure on their headgates now, except for Hook at the Bench ditch (it is an open ditch out of the creek directly to the weir - no headgate or any type of control device).

West Reynolds has their river pumps on - but Jerry Muller is not receiving pump water because his District pump bill has not been paid. RID has their river pumps on. They commingle their river and creek water. Does Boise Trust users (Young and Stoller) have their pumps on yet?

May 5, 2004 5AM the creek is way up and muddy for first time this year. Back to a "free for all." I called Richards, Mullers, Hoagland, Clemmens, Jaca, Stoller, Hooks, Stimpson, Hendersons.

May 20, 2004 Creek is back up to the top of my marker rock this morning. It had been half way down past the top.

May 21, 2004 Creek was up again this morning. It had rained up above. Dan Muller called at 9 AM, he shut the water out of the Last Ditch because everyone is haying.

May 29, 2004 It has been raining off and on since the 21st and the creek is up. Water started going past the highway to the river yesterday. It has settle back down to the top of my marker rock this morning. The Mormon Crickets are down here of the flats now - horrible creatures. The creek is funneling them directly down the canyon. The RID lateral still has water in it and is preventing them from direct access to the farm ground. APHIS is providing bait for property owners to use.

June 16, 2004 Gladys Muller called at 11:30 AM to see why Jerry didn't have any water. I told her the creek had been going down and to check his headgate for trash or beaver plugs. If I need to I can shut off RID lateral - or adjust it down. Rich had to build dam at V ranch yesterday - it was down to about 30-40 inches.

I got back at 2:30 PM from measuring lower reach.

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July 14, 2004 Rich Brandau is done haying and turned water back on. There was 8" on the staff gauge at WR flume weir before Rich turned water back in his ditch. Prior to that Jerry Muller had been the only getting any creek water below the canyon, except for LaVars 50" in the Boise Trust ditch. There are beavers at the V, RID and WR diversions. Hendersons have not turned on any water at all this year. I called Jerry Muller and left a message that Richard Brandau had been haying and has just turned his water back on today. I told Jerry that I didn't know what he'd had for water, but if it took a big drop that was probably why.

8PM Theron Hook called and asked me to go out and measure and adjust tomorrow. He claims the High Ditch is full of water. The 7/11/04 ARS report showed 1.37 CFS at Tollgate and 4.18 CFS at Outlet.

July 15, 2004 I called Jerry Hoagland this morning. He said that the Dobson has some water - not much - and there is stockwater in the High Ditch for Tony Richards cattle in the Babbington Field. He said what water there is in the ditch is not making it to McCabes. He said there is also some water at the Seven High home place in the corral ditch.

I stopped to talk with Tony Richards. He said it was OK with him to shut off the High Ditch and verified that he had been using it for stock water where it went through his BLM allotment. He will have to move his cattle. I verified that none of the water was making it to the decreed point of use. I found Jerry Hoagland and told him that the High ditch needed to be shut off - he will do it this evening. I stopped and told Jacas to be sure that their water stayed at .5' x 9" or below to satisfy Theron Hooks call. Theron was not in so I stopped and told Tom Hook what had transpired and that the water would probably be there at the Timothy Field diversion tomorrow, IF it makes it there at all. There is lots of "water loss" in the creek now (subs away and comes back up in the low places).

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