

LITTLE WEISER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

c/o J. WAYNE BURKHARDT
2410 LITTLE WEISER RD.
INDIAN VALLEY, ID 83632

RECEIVED
MAY 30 2012
DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

May 25, 2012

Mr. Jeff Peppersack
Chief, Water Allocation Bureau
Idaho Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098

Dear Mr. Peppersack:

In response to your letter of 5/17/2012, the Little Weiser Irrigation District Board appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Petition for Appointment of a Lateral Manager for the Grays Creek Ditch. This matter is, in the Board's opinion, important to the fair, lawful and peaceful delivery of irrigation water on the Little Weiser River, both adjudicated and reservoir water rights.

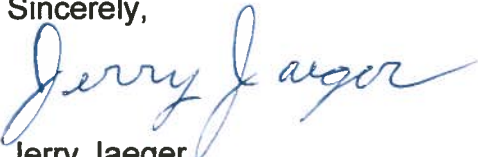
The Grays Creek Ditch delivers irrigation water from the Little Weiser River to 29 water right owners and is the largest lateral on the system. There currently is an adequate lockable headgate and weir at the point of diversion where Grays Creek Ditch takes water from the river. Beyond that point, there are no weirs and few controllable headgates. Consequently, virtually every year for many years, there have been conflicts on this ditch over water delivery. Recently the disputes have escalated, eventually leading to the petition for a lateral manager.

The Little Weiser Irrigation Board believes it is necessary that the Department appoint a lateral manager to referee the coming irrigation season. We also believe that headgates and weirs will be required for the lateral manager to satisfactorily perform the job.

The Board recently interviewed Ms. Norma Ratcliff as an applicant for this lateral manager position. She previously has been water master on an irrigation system in Adams County and in our opinion is well qualified. We recommend she be appointed as lateral manager on the Grays Creek Ditch.

We appreciate the Department's assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jerry Jaeger
Chairman
Little Weiser Irrigation District

