



Casper Alcova Irrigation District (CAID)

P. O. Box 849 | 755 Connie St

Mills, WY 82644

Office Phone: 307-234-8690 | Fax Number: 307-265-5859

This newsletter is a long time coming since the last one I sent back in August/September.

As you may recall, I started with CAID on August 1, 2023. I was excited about the challenges of taking over as district manager. I was aware before coming on board many of the issues the district was currently facing.

These challenges include:

- Election lawsuit
- Frustrations of the increase of water assessment fees
- Frustrations of past relationships and performances of prior employees/management
- The approval of the budget
- Lack of communication

We are making progress in cleaning up the mess from prior management. It has been a long tedious process. I do apologize that communication has been slow in coming. Through getting things organized and by implementing new procedures, things are improving. I ask for your continued patience, understanding, and support to allow Tony Jensen, our field manager, and I to continue our forward progress in getting things straightened out that have been neglected for a long time. These changes include:

- Compliant with Wyoming State Statutes. These are laws enacted by the legislative body
- Compliant with the Wyoming Department of Audit with our financials and required commissioner/employee certification training
- Financial reporting
- Updating accounting and payroll software so it is streamlined and more user-friendly
- CPA audit review
- Audit of our STORM system. STORM is what we use to keep track of all landowners and their irrigable acres. Our irrigable acres do not match the State Engineer Office and they should.
- Many canal, lateral, repair projects, and road work have been completed. We will have an in-depth presentation at our annual meeting.

Updates:

- Lawsuit - Mr. Bentley is now on the board. There was no ruling the election was fraudulent. A summary judgment will be entered and signed by the judge. As soon as we receive it and the final transcripts, you can come to the office to view if you would like.
- Due to discoveries from the election lawsuit, we have taken verifying irrigable acres in our STORM system a step further and are verifying every single landowner and the irrigable acres they have within the Casper Alcova Irrigation District boundary. We are narrowing it down even further to the Commissioner District Subdivision Areas 1 through 5. This has been a long and tedious project, but necessary so we have the correct voting credentials and assessment rolls.

- Maintenance
 - Operations continues on recommendations from BOR
 - Canal cleaning at major check structures with GPS excavator
 - Upgrading nonfunctional automation sites to streamline control of water levels throughout the system
 - In-depth presentation at the annual meeting
- Upcoming Major Repairs
 - Patten Siphon has many leaks and issues with encroachment of trees

Upcoming Events and Topics:

- The annual meeting/election is coming soon. Normally scheduled for the second Friday in February, the date will be confirmed at our board meeting on January 11, 2024.
- Mapping issues with Commissioner Subdivision Areas 4 and 5
- Correspondence will be sent electronically unless notification is received to have notices on paper or in special occurrences, a phone call.
- Responsibilities of becoming a board member
- Who is CAID
- Funding resources for irrigators

Reminders:

- Annual assessments were due first half on November 10, 2023, and second half May 10, 2024, or full payment due on December 31, 2023. Last year's assessments were mailed out late and due dates were pushed back because CAID was waiting for amended budget to be approved. We have gone back to aligning our due date with the county assessor's as shown above. Since notice was not given in advance, we will honor the January 15, due date for your first half payment. However, if your first half of the assessment is not paid by the January 15, due date, a late penalty will be applied. The second half due date will be May 10, 2024. Please note for future assessments, the due dates will be as posted above.
- If you are in need of maintenance repairs, please get on our list. We have maintenance request forms at the office and on our website. Please fill one out and return it to the office.

I would like to hear from you! I know there are a lot of rumors going around. Please stop by the office with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to growing and moving forward.

Joan McGraw
 District Manager
 Casper Alcova Irrigation District



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