

Mark your calendars!

The petition concerning Subdistrict Areas 4 and 5 boundary change goes before Judge Kerri Johnson **Monday, March 4, at 3:00 p.m.** at the Townsend Justice Center 115 N Center Street
This is open to the public, please attend if interested.

Canal Tour on **March 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.**

Annual Meeting/Election will be held **on March 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**
Agricultural Resource and Learning Center
2011 Fairgrounds Road
Casper, Wyoming

Petition of Boundary:

The annual meeting and election have been delayed due to the discovery that the current boundaries for Subdistrict Area 4 and 5 were changed internally circa 1970, and do not match what was filed with the court in April of 1960. The petition is to file the boundaries with the court to keep Subdistrict Area 4 and 5 as they currently are and have been for the past 53 years. At the January 2024 board meeting, the board unanimously voted to move forward with this petition. Ric Herman, Commissioner for Subdistrict Area 5, recused himself from the vote as he is the current commissioner and will be running again.

If the judge approves the petition, we'll move forward as normal. If the judge does not approve the petition, then we would go back to the boundaries as they were filed in 1960 for Subdistrict Area 4 and 5. The impacts of this change will take time to verify our credentials for Subdistrict Area 4 as well as reverify some landowners affected by this change in Area 5, as their irrigable acres would be split into both areas. This will further postpone our election process and cause us to miss our election deadline as well as disrupt our sequence of elections, which was also filed with the court.

This petition has received only one objection filed through the court from a landowner not in Subdistrict area 4 or 5. The objection was filed too late for CAID to respond. However, I have taken the time to respond to squelch any of the misinformation being passed along. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop by the office.

Canal Tour:

CAID would like to invite you to attend a tour of our canal system. This will include some of the automation/operations, aging infrastructure issues, current projects, and completed projects. This will be on March 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. More information will be coming soon.

Annual Meeting/Election:

The annual meeting and election are later this year due to the petition of boundary change explained above. The meeting packets will be mailed out on March 6, 2024. In addition to the normal annual meeting topics, there will be a presentation on projects that have been completed this past year, an accounting of expenses for projects, including detailed cost comparisons on the GPS unit and the work that has benefited from it; and photos/videos of before and after on projects. If you are interested in running for Subdistrict 5 Commissioner, please call or stop by the office by 5:00 p.m. March 5.

Communication:

I hope you are finding communication is improving. I've implemented a texting program where I can send out messages regarding meetings or other updates. The text program is limited on how large a text message is. I have also been sending out more detailed messages, newsletters, etc. via email. However, I recently discovered that the emails I have sent have not been received by many of you due to the system not allowing an email to be sent to a large number of recipients. I am working on fixing this.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Ric Herman, Commissioner of Subdistrict 5 and Vice-President of CAID! Ric received the Wyoming Headgate Award at the Four States Irrigation Council's annual meeting last month for his vision and work to form Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts (WAID), a valuable organization to help with the unique challenges that irrigation districts deal with every year. WAID currently has the following committees: **Water Rights Committee** to protect district water rights from abandonment as well as getting them out from under infrastructure and onto irrigable lands; **Protect Irrigated Farmland Committee** from subdivisions and other threats; and the **Wyoming State Statutes Committee** works with legislators to review and amend state statutes as necessary.

Here's a CAID Tidbit:**Assessment Roll and Credential Roll:**

There is a difference! The assessment roll lists every landowner and their total irrigable acres owned regardless of what Subdistrict area their land is in. The credential roll breaks out each landowner that owns land within that Subdistrict boundary and the irrigable acres allowed to vote within that boundary. This was the main issue last year during the election. The assessment roll was mistakenly presented showing the landowners total acres.

Credential Verification:

As you may be aware, it was discovered during the election lawsuit that some of our irrigable acres do not match the State Engineer's Office (SEO) records. We have been verifying every landowner and every irrigable acre they own in our system with the SEO. Currently we are focusing on Subdistrict Area 5, since this area is up for election. Our current database has not been updated with these changes and will not be until every irrigable acre is confirmed with the landowner. The commissioners cannot approve credentials until the changes are made.

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.

As always, I want to hear from you! I know there are still rumors going around. Please stop by the office or call me with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to growing and moving forward.

Joan McGraw
District Manager
Casper Alcova Irrigation District
307-234-8690
joan.mcgraw@caidwyo.com