



DITCH DIRT

March 2022 Volume 2022, Issue 1

GID'S ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 16th. GID will be hosting its Annual Meeting with a roast beef dinner provided by The Cozy Corner Café. . It will be held at Noon at the Fairfield Community Hall. Door prizes, as well as raffle items will be available. During the Agenda portion of the meeting, you will have the opportunity to hear from the candidates that are running in this year's election, as well as the opportunity to ask them any questions that you might have afterwards. Information will be provided on what to expect for this year's upcoming water season, water predictions, as well as this year's budget and upcoming projects. An introduction of several new staff members will be made, as well as employees recognized for their years of service at GID.



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COMMISSIONER ELECTION NEWS

This year incumbent Commissioners Tim Brunner, Precinct #3 and Bill Norris, Precinct #5 are up for re-election. Tom Cummings has filed to challenge for the Precinct #5 seat, while Russ Pearson has filed to challenge for the Precinct #3 seat. The election will be administered by the Teton County Election Administrator and will consist of a mail-in ballot which will be mailed out on April 13th. GID water users will be allowed one vote per assessed acre that they own, subject to the 960-acre limitation, or those acres that have been allocated to them by the landowner. For land held in multiple names, corporations or trusts, a voter authorization form must be on file with GID. Those are due back by March 24th. Election Day will be held Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022.

Sun River Watershed Group Update:

This Spring, the Sun River Watershed Group is working on a few projects in the area. In April, we will be reinstalling a stream gauge on the Upper Muddy Creek to replace the one that was lost in 2018-2019 in high water. Our consulting team continues to work on the Muddy Creek Master Plan, which will be complete this June. The Plan will be posted on www.sunriverwatershed.org once it is done. SRWG is also working with Cascade Conservation District to hire an engineering team to develop a plan to address river avulsions around Fort Shaw and Adobe Creek. This team will be hired and begin design work this month. SRWG has several events coming up, including the Annual Weed Whacker Rodeo on July 9th and the Bashin' Trash river clean up on August 20th. For more information, please visit our website.

Teton County Conservation District News—

The TCCD, in partnership with the USDA NRCS, invites the public to a Natural Resource Issue- Local Working Group meeting on March 14th, 2022 from 7:30 to 8:00 A.M. at the Cozy Corner Café . A resource concern involves soil, water, air, plants, animals and energy. Local Work group attendees should have an interest in agricultural and natural resource issues existing in Teton County. Call the office at 406-466-5722 Ext. 103 with questions or comments.

GID to Develop & Implement a Post-Season Drain Water Policy:

As many of you are aware, it has come to our attention that an official Post-Season Drain Water Policy needs to be implemented, in order to assure that usage is being handled democratically and that there is a firm set of rules to adhere to. On January 25th, GID hosted a Work Session for water users and management to put together some of their thoughts. Water Master Dale is working to organize a draft policy with those thoughts in mind, as well as with some further numerical data determined. Your input is appreciated and encouraged. Watch for more details to follow.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

As you all know, the 2022 water season will shortly be upon us. There are a few things that you should keep in mind to ensure that you are ready and able to receive water this Spring.

- Make sure that you complete your Irrigation Plan, as well as your 960-acre limitation certification, if you are asked to.
- Make sure that you have removed all fences and obstructions from GID's easement so that ditch riders are able to access your ditches, turnouts, etc.
- If you have any delinquent real estate taxes or outstanding invoices owed to GID, you will not be able to receive project water until those are paid in full.
- Please remember that all on water orders are 48 hours and off orders are 24 hours, unless previously arranged with your ditch rider.
- Water order cut-off time is 4 P.M.

MEET THE CANDIDATES



PRECINCT 3: Incumbent Tim Brunner– Pres.—I attended high school in Power and went on to attend college at Northern Montana University and Vermillion IC in Minnesota. I am the past Commander for the Power American Legion and have been a Power School Board and GID Board Member for many years. I have lived in the Fairfield area since 1952. I have 3 daughters, the oldest teaches in Shields Valley, the middle daughter farms and ranches with me and the youngest now lives in Amarillo, TX. The assets that I feel I have that help me to be a successful GID Commissioner include: the knowledge and experience of dealing with rules and regulations, not only dealing with GID, but also with the Bureau of Reclamation and the State. The main reason that I am choosing to run for re-election is that I have always believed that the Board’s main goal is to protect our water right. To follow the rules and regulations set-up, not only locally, but also state and nationwide, is very important. Especially now that we are involved in a major drought. We have to protect that right, and then the distribution of water and services to our water users, as equally and fairly as possible. I feel that our current Board, Manager and Staff put this as the top priority. The Board has to look at the District as a whole, when making decisions and not change policies that would favor only a few operators– everyone pays the same assessment per acre and should be treated as such. Thank you for your consideration in voting for me to continue to serve you as a GID Board of Commissioner .

Russ Pearson– I attended high school at Fairfield High. I have been a Board member for the Hay Export Company for 8 years and am the Director of Acquisitions. I was born and raised in Fairfield, and my Grandfather homesteaded here. I have been farming for the past 7 years. I have been married to my wife for 31 years, and we have 5 children and 9 grandchildren. The assets that I possess that I feel would help me to be a successful GID Board Member include: Honesty, ability to remain calm, willingness to serve and protect GID water users’ rights. I am running for the position of GID Board Commissioner because I believe that GID needs change, new management and transparency in its operations.

PRECINCT 5: Incumbent Bill Norris– Vice Pres. - I attended high school at Fairfield High and attended MSU from 1965 to 1969 where I earned my Bachelor’s Degree. I have been a GID Board Member for the past 15 years, a FSA Cascade County Committee Member for 13 years, a Sun River Valley School Board Member for 13 years and a member of the St. Ann’s Parish Council for 3 years. I have lived in the area all my life with my wife and 3, now grown daughters who have blessed me with a number of grandchildren. Assets that I believe have helped me to be a successful Board Member include: Experience, I am a team player, I have available time to serve and have a positive attitude. I am running for re-election because I want to see projects that GID has started to completion. It is also important to me that we preserve and protect our water rights and that we work to keep GID viable and operational for future generations.

Tom Cummings– I attended high school in Cheney, Washington and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Sciences from WSU. I am currently serving as a Board Member for the Cascade Fire Fee Service Area Board. I have lived in the area with my wife, Nada and two children, Lindie-11 and Kassidy-9 for approximately 9 years now. Assets that I believe that I have to be a successful GID Commissioner include: I am a patient person who is able to listen and consider different views. I am young enough to have fresh ideas, yet old enough to have common sense. I am able to complete tasks timely and am fiscally responsible. I am a problem solver. I am running for the GID Board because agriculture is vey important to my family and I. It’s my life and I’m passionate about what I do. Water and water rights are becoming more important, as we move into the future, so we must protect and improve upon what we have in the District. I feel that I can represent the landowners to reach a common goal of irrigating and raising the best crops that we can.

2022



1st Edition of "Ditch Dirt"



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