

August 30, 2006

Irrigation Updates

We have reached the time of year (much earlier than usual) where many of the farmers are out of water or just finished with watering whatever crops they salvaged. What that means is that we are having a difficult time with our call for water because many times there is not a 100" minimum for the ditch rider to open the gate out of Ish Reservoir. We have seen this happen on weekdays mostly but I fear we will start having more trouble on weekends soon. So your best option would be to watch the sign up sheets for Sat. or Sun. when there is usually more interest in watering. If we have enough to take 100" ourselves than we can still get water even if no one else has called for water. I am letting the ditch rider know of our interest as soon as I pick up the sign up sheets and than he lets me know if anyone else has a call in for water. If not than I try to get those interested to all go on the same day to try to meet the 100" minimum. Last year the first weekend in October was the last opportunity we had to run water before the Ish Board shut it down. I do not know if we will have that long this year or if it will be shortened. This has not been an easy year!

The same problem that we have had with crawdads blocking our gate out of the main irrigation ditch when we run minimums (20" to 30") the ditch rider is having with the valve he opens out of Ish Reservoir when he runs the minimum of 100". The water flow usually starts out good but starts dropping off by evening and for those higher up on our piped system may completely stop by morning shut off time. By next season we should have our third and final screening installed at the main ditch's 21" valve which will prevent any blockage at that initial entry point to our weir and our piped system. At this time I do not know what the Ish Board can or will be able to do to prevent this blockage from occurring on their Lake side of this issue but once our final screen is installed the affect on our call for water should be minimized as we are one of the first gates the water from the lake passes as it heads down the main concrete ditch.

Several ideas for addressing the meters that have had problems have been successfully tried. The Irrigation committee and any other volunteers who would like to help will work on these after the irrigation season when the piped system has been drained. The changes made to place the electronic portion of the meter on a post above ground before this season started have been a tremendous help. The additional adjustments and fine-tuning we make after this season should make for an even better year next season.

Daryl Musser
Irrigation & HOA Board Member