

May 12, 2008

Irrigation updates

Ken Huson, Paul Simpson, John Prock, Derk Mewes, and Daryl Musser attended the annual meeting of Ish Irrigation Members in January. The allocation amount of Irrigation water per share was set at 40" with the probability of an additional 15" to come later. Here are some reminders as to how a call for irrigation water is to be made with the ditch rider:

- The minimum call for water is 40 inches.
- The call should be for consecutive days.
- The amount of water should be uniform for those days.
- Lease and transferred water must be in writing with July 1 as the cut off date.
- The last day to call for water in the season will be Sept. 30th.
- Call for water to the Ditch Rider is by one designated person with one back up person.
- Minimum 100 inches for the Ditch Rider to open main gate out of Ish Reservoir.
- Water runs for Approximately 24 hours.

The Irrigation Committee has met. Meters and valves of those lots typically using irrigation water have been checked. Two leaks checked and addressed. The lines have been filled. We are ready for the irrigation season to begin this Friday May 16!

Sign up -- Available days to sign up for water will be Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. As you sign up please note whether the 40" min has been met for a specific day.

We realize that with the average call for water at 10 to 15 inches it may be difficult to be uniform from day to day. Last year I was able to move people that could be flexible on the day they took water so that we ran most weeks at the uniform rate requested. Please mark on the sign up sheets if you could also run on an alternative day. **Please call me if you would like to be on a short notice list again this year. I did not have to use it last year but I need to know who I can call if it is necessary. (Daryl Musser 532-2053)**

If you want to run water on a Tuesday or a Thursday you would be responsible for matching the amount run on the other days and it would still have to be consecutive days. (The Monday or Friday would have to be part of the run already.)

The water requests will continue to be picked up on Wed. by 6:00 pm, tallied, and turned in to the Ditch Rider the day before the requests start. (Thursday if Friday start, Friday if Saturday start, etc.)

Maintenance -- The irrigation committee would like each homeowner to be responsible for checking the batteries and for cleaning the paddle wheel assembly each year to make sure it is working properly. Opening the valve at your access point to drain at the end of the season (leaving it slightly open) and then closing it again before the season pipe filling would also be very helpful. Irrigation Committee Members can show you how to do this properly. It is not hard but the paddle wheel assembly does need to be inserted properly.

Other problems that may occur during the season may be caused by low water flow into our piped system and air pockets that prevent a full pipe of water from reaching the paddle wheel.

If the water has dropped off during the day check the water level coming into the box on 2E and the screens on the exit points out of the box. Clean the screens if necessary with a brush. If the amount of water coming into the box has dropped, check the 2 screens at the weir. Before cleaning note the water level on the measuring gauge on the side of the weir. After cleaning note if the water going through the weir runs higher on the gauge.

To check for an air pocket at your flow meter loosen the black threaded ring collar slowly that holds the paddle wheel assembly onto the 4" pipe but do not loosen it all the way. When water starts coming out rather than air retighten ring collar.

Courtesy -- Start and Shut off times are **6:00 am** but they are also dependent on when the box at 2E is full. If the level in the box is between the top of the 2 exit pipes and the bottom of the overflow hole on the east wall than you can be sure you have a full pipe system and the maximum water pressure on the gravity side. **Do not start watering until the box is full.** It makes it more difficult for others watering the same day if you do not adhere to the times and the water level at the box so please check the box. It is also imperative that you check the box water level several times during your 24 hour run. If there is a drop in water level that cannot be corrected than **everyone** running that day will need to adjust their flow down so that everyone still shares in the available water. It is **everyone's responsibility** that is watering that day to make sure that water is available to all!

Those that are running water using the pump at the box at 2E need to watch for any drop of water. The start and especially the shut off times are critical to the pump. We should not have to worry about the pump running dry or burning out the motor as we are having a low water level automatic shut-off switch installed this Friday May 16. But we do not want to blow out the pressure release valve on the pump by leaving it running and having everyone's access valves closed. Again please work and communicate with your neighbors to allow the system to work well for everyone.

Problem Meters – The first time you water for the season write down how many turns on your valve it takes to equal 5", 10", 15", or 20" of water or what ever your call for water may be. Then if there is a problem later you will have some idea of where the setting should be. This will vary throughout the neighborhood depending on your access point's elevation in relation to the box at 2E. Your neighbor next to you will probably have the closest setting to you if you need another checkpoint. If you mark with paint one of the knobs on your valve it will make it easier to identify the amount that you open your valve.

Reminder that before anyone will be allowed to order water you must:

- 1) Have attended an information/training on the irrigation system. Contact a member of the Irrigation Committee to schedule a time.
- 2) Turn in your notarized completed Easement agreement to Daryl Musser or any Board Member.
- 3) Be an HOA Member in good standing. (Paid up on any dues or other debts to the Association).

Additional Water is also available to lease. Let me know if you are interested at 532-2053.

Questions or Concerns call any Irrigation Committee Member.

Daryl Musser 532-2053	Ken Huson 532-1932	Mike Dower 532-4353
Mark McGee 532-5903	Dennis Nevins 532-2843	Derk Mewes 532-0387
Jim Young 532-3200	John Prock 532-3564	Bill Vaughan 532-2090

My email address is: dvmusser@hotmail.com. You may go to the HOA Web site and click on newsletters to see this information and updates. That address is: <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/berthoud/rglen/>

For the Irrigation Committee,

Daryl Musser 532-2053