

TFCC Ditch Writer

Twin Falls Canal Company
PO Box 326 Twin Falls, ID 83303-0326
www.twinfallscanal.com

SPRING 2022

**24-Hour
Emergency
Number
208-733-6731**

Business Numbers
Twin Falls office-
208-733-6731
Buhl/Castleford office-
208-543-4264

Aquatic Herbicide Notice

TFCC must control aquatic weed growth within its canals and laterals to ensure water delivery and canal safety. As part of its control procedures TFCC applies aquatic herbicides such as Aquatic Weed Killer/Teton/ Cascade/copper sulfate, on a limited basis to certain canals and laterals throughout the irrigation season. If you have questions about an aquatic herbicide application, including the time and location of applications contact the Twin Falls Office. Applications to canals and laterals vary depending upon conditions, including air temperature and weather, and the presence of weed growth in the canal system.



Meander Point

2021 WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

Over the past two years the Twin Falls Canal Company has been working on two specific water quality projects. Last year we wrote about the O-Coulee Project (Alvin and Anne Allen Ponds) and the Lateral 43 Project

(Meander Point). Both of these ponds were constructed in the 2020. But in order to satisfy

the requirements of the Water Smart agreement, flow monitoring stations needed to be installed. The Twin Falls Canal Company has been working on getting these remote monitoring sites installed and operational. Each site will have the capability providing a more accurate flow measurement. These measurements will assist in operations and water quality understanding.

Along with the installation of these monitoring sites, late last year the lower ponds near Auger Falls were completed. These ponds will help provide for more settling of sediment from irrigations returns before entering the Snake River.

Involvement in water quality issues is important as southern Idaho continues to change. Water quality stewardship will continue to take involvement of the Twin Falls Canal Company and shareholder.



Auger Falls Water Quality Ponds

Managers By-Line

By: Jay Barlogi

TFCC Manager

2021 proved to be a very challenging year and 2022 looks as though our challenges are not behind us. Never before can I remember snow covering the ground for so long. Unfortunately, it was all from a two-week period in late December and early January. The very dry spell that we have seen since that time has not been good for the water shed or for the prospects for the 2022 irrigation season. With the reservoir system at very low levels and a dismal snow pack the prospects for drought recovery seem unlikely. In Late March the upper Snake River system reservoir capacity was at 55% capacity. The Snow/Water Equivalent in the basin above American Falls was 70% of median. Reach gains below Blackfoot last season were at near historic low due to the drought and that condition is not expected to improve over the course of the 2022 season as drought conditions persist.

Water is expected to be in short supply for the 2022 season and TFCC will begin the season with a 5/8 of an inch per share delivery rate and Water Users can likely expect diversions to be reduced to 1/2 inch per share at some point in the season. TFCC Watermasters, Ditch Riders, Management and crews will be working closely with water users to manage our water supply throughout the season.

As always, the TFCC crews have been busy this winter working on canal maintenance, headgate replacement and in general preparing for the 2022 irrigation season. This winter the crews installed a canal liner in the Low Line Canal Directly downstream of the Low Line Siphon. The Low Line Canal flows parallel with the Rock Creek Canyon for right around 1100 feet with a very narrow bank between the canal and the canyon. In recent years crews have worked during the irrigation season to repair sinkholes as they have appeared in this reach. Concerns have grown as these persistent sink holes continue to expose themselves making it very important to do something to pro-actively to avoid the possibility a canal break during the season. Crews removed material from the bottom and sides of the Canal to prepare for the installation of the liner. Once installed, the material was replaced back into the canal to cover the liner. The job went very well and we are excited to have the project (and the sink holes) behind us.

Work and planning continue in our on-going effort to meet FERC requirements as we operate and maintain Milner Dam. In recent years The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has heightened their focus of Dam Safety and have identified some potential projects and their need to be addressed. Plunge Pool erosion, Piezometer maintenance, the Bridge decking over the emergency spillway, and the rehabilitation of the emergency spillway continue to be on our project list. We have worked closely with Idaho Power, FERC and our Milner Dam Inc. partners in that planning process to ensure that Milner Dam is maintained and operated as safely as possible.

As always, Water Quantity, water quality, and ensuring the stability of the canal system are at the forefront as we make plans and develop project for the future. In 2022 we are working on projects and putting together grant applications through the Bureau of Reclamation and DEQ. These projects include, a proposed new water quality facility on the L-Coulelee south of Twin Falls, a new Rubicon Slip Meter on the Mainline Canal south of Hansen, and our next canal liner project on the Highline Canal south and east of Twin Falls.

operational standards. Recently, Jacobs presented repair options for the service spillway at Milner Dam to help both organizations plan for future maintain and repair requirements.

The Twin Falls Canal Company and the Northside Canal Company continue to prepare for future by preparing and planning.



**Crew working near the
Low Line Siphon
Liner Project 2021**



Management Team Changes



Welcome Eddy Griggs

We are happy to announce that **Eddie Griggs** has been promoted to the West End Operation and Maintenance Supervisor position. Eddie started working for the company in 2001 as a ditch rider south of Twin Falls. His skills were quickly realized and he was transitioned to the O&M crew in 2002. Eddie's development didn't stop there as he continued to grow his skill set to become a very valuable member of the crew and an expert excavator operator. From 2017 -2021 he was utilized as a lead man on the crew and was groomed for a position on the

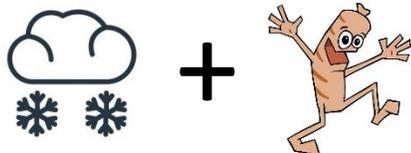
management team. Upon Doug Howards retirement he was named West End O&M Supervisor. We know Eddie well enough to know that his skill development will not stop there. Eddie has an excellent repour with fellow employees and stockholders and we are excited to have him as part of the Management Team.

Doug Howard Retires

Longtime employee and West End Operation and Maintenance Supervisor **Doug Howard** has decided to take things a little easier these days after working for the company for 37 years, and has retired. Doug started working for the company in 1984 as a member of the west end crew. He quickly worked his way up to become an equipment operator and honed his skills to evolve into one of the best excavator operators the company has seen. In 2009 Doug was named Castleford Watermaster and served in that capacity until being named West End Operations and Maintenance Supervisor in 2012. Doug's work over the last 37 years has left an indelible mark on the company and his footprints are found throughout the west end of the tract. Best wishes to Doug upon his retirement and many thanks for all the years of hard work.



Phil Blick Retires



After 23 years of serving on the Twin Falls Canal Company board of directors, **Phil Blick** is retiring. Phil was first elected to the board in 1999. Throughout his tenure on the board Phil has remained a huge advocate for the protection of the company's water rights, rights-of-way, and employees while continuing to support conversion from gravity to sprinkler irrigation and addressing the

needs and concerns from the water users throughout the TFCC tract. Phil's time on the Board has included some great water years as well as some bad ones including the persistent drought from 2000 to 2007. That prolonged drought exacerbated the conflicts between surface water and ground water users and led to the TFCC joining other canal companies and irrigation district to file a water call in 2005, and later the SWC/IGWA Settlement Agreement in 2015. Phil's list of accomplishment is far too long to address in this article but one of his favorite endeavors has been his annual "Snow Dance", promoting snowfall within the TFCC watershed. With Phil's retirement he assures us that his dancing days are not over. Many Thanks to Phil for all of his time, efforts, and dedication

Gary Reynold has been appointed by the Board to fill the remaining two years of Phil Blinks 3-year term.

Gary is a long-time farmer in the Castleford area and though it is no small task he looks forward to the challenge of filling the big shoes retired by Phil.



CHECK OUT

WWW.TWINFALLSCANAL.COM

for current water information



Milner Dam Spillway

By: Jason Brown

Field Supervisor

Milner Dam is the focal point of agriculture in southern Idaho. Milner Dam diverts water for the Twin Falls Canal system, the Northside Canal system, and the Milner Gooding Canal system. It also pools water for the Milner Irrigation Company to pump irrigation water for agricultural needs. Milner Dam was first constructed in 1903 under the Federal Desert Land Act (Carey Act of 1894). In 1992 in partnership with Idaho Power, the dam underwent a major renovation. Over the years, the Twin Falls Canal Company, the Northside Canal Company, and Idaho Power have performed regular maintenance activities on the Dam. Over the past year, Twin Falls Canal Company and Northside Canal Company jointly hired Jacobs Engineering Group (Jacobs) to help study the dam's service spillway in order to better understand future cost and repair needs. Jacobs was also retained to assist in working with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to continue to work through the requirements of the FERC



Service Spillway in Operation (March 21, 2017)

Midway Power Plant

By: Louis Zamora

Midway Power Plant Engineer

Of course, just like usual, when you pay something off it breaks and you have to put money back into it. The Midway Power Plant paid off in December and with that came some repairs on the runner blade in the turbine and some repairs to the bypass gate. These repairs went smoothly and the plant is ready to go for the upcoming season. Power production from all the plants was down last year due to the water reductions. Midway has filed an amendment to its power purchase agreement which will allow us to better predict its monthly power production. Currently we have to predict the kilowatt production for a specific month 90 days ahead of the month. The amendment allows for this prediction 5 days ahead of the desired month. This reduces the risk of receiving penalties. On another note, long time power plant assistant Ron Kondraki retired at the end of last year's season. Ron had been at Midway the day we started running and was dedicated taking the evening readings seven days a week in run season for the last 15 years. We thank him for all his years of service.



Midway Power Plant

Clover Irrigation

By: Jason Brown

Field Supervisor

The Twin Falls Canal Company has been assisting the Clover Irrigation Pump Company work on updating their pumping facilities. The Clover Irrigation Pump Company started in the early 1900's to pump Twin Falls Canal Company shares to the high side of the canal system. Since this time, in late 2020, Clover Irrigation Pump Company with the assistance of the Twin Falls Canal Company applied for a Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) funding opportunity. In mid-2021 Clover Irrigation Pump Company was awarded this funding opportunity to help upgrade the pumping lift station over the next several years.



Clover Main Pump House

Ditch Rider Phone Numbers

24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER -208-733-6731

Business Hours – Phone Numbers

Twin Falls Office	208-733-6731
Buhl/Castleford Office/Yard	208-543-4264
Twin Falls Yard	208-733-6731

All orders for water deliveries MUST be given to YOUR DITCHRIDER 48 hours in advance.

**** TFCC NO LONGER HAS A DISPATCHER OR RADIOS****

Ditch riders are available to receive calls at their listed telephone numbers between 7:00 AM & 7:30 AM Monday through Saturday. If you are unable to reach your ditch rider you can leave a message or send them a text message. If a water emergency arises contact the Twin Falls Office.

Twin Falls Area- Call Twin office

Office and Yard	208-733-6731
Manager- Jay Barlogi	208-326-4714
Engineer/Supervisor- Jason Brown	208-969-1092
TF Watermaster- Troy Jones	208-490-2221
TF O&M Supervisor- Clay Robinson	208-308-6251
Power Plant Eng. Tech- Louis Zamora	208-731-6851

Murtaugh – Milner

Milner Dam- Doug Ping	208-432-5423
Murtaugh Lake- Darby Linares-Gebauer	208-421-4903

Twin Falls – Kimberly – Hansen

Hansen- Jon Crane	208-293-6824
N&E of Kimberly- Austin Hafer	208-280-9401
Kimberly- Andrew Fracher	801-722-8038
Lowline S of Kimberly- Alex Anderson	208-550-9830
Highline S of Kimberly- Scott Ross	208-308-4901
Twin Falls City & NW- Drew Jones	208-308-2553
SW of Twin Falls- Mark Makin	208-404 9444
Airport Area- Jake Fordin	208-316-7454
LL- Curry Area- Walt Taylor	208-539-3120

Buhl Area

Buhl/Castleford Office & Yard	208-543-4264
LL Watermaster-Quintin Cammack	208-969-0061
HL Watermaster- Wayne Burgemeister	208-539-1942
O&M Supervisor- Eddy Griggs	208-308-3090

Filer & Buhl Ditchriders

North of Filer- Santiago Alvarado	208-934-6996
Filer & Peavey- Felix Chavez	208-316-2168
Peavey Area- Josh Huett	208-316-1199
E of Buhl- Michael Blome	208-613-8744
Buhl City Area- Bob Bowman	208-490-1039
SW of Buhl- Jim Ramos	208-308-8478
Lucerne Area- Tim Denton	208-320-3259

Castleford Ditchriders

HL W of HWY 93- April Snyder	208-539-6659
Clover- Mike Ihler	208-734-7930
S of Buhl- Becky Oatman	208-308-1516
HL E of Castleford- Jessica Robinson	208-543-5815
SE of Castleford- TerriLynn Jordan	208-490-6419
S of Castleford- Tracy Vulgamore	208-308-0935
Castleford Area- Connie Cunningham	208-630-4514

Board of Directors

Filer- Roger Blass	208-326-5129
Castleford- Gary Reynolds	208-537-6724
Murtaugh-Hansen-Kimberly	
Dan Shewmaker	208-423-4507
Twin Falls- Dave Patrick	208-734-7153
Buhl- Rick Pearson	208-731-6233

Twin Falls Canal Company
PO Box 326
Twin Falls, ID 83303-0326

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buhl, Idaho
Permit No. 15

Reminders

***Keep glyphosate products off Ditch Banks**

With all of the Roundup-Ready crops now grown in this area, it is very tempting to just hang the spray boom over TFCC ditch banks while spraying your crops with Glyphosate products. That will destroy the sod that maintains the integrity of the ditch bank and ultimately lead to a much larger erosive ditch that will only grow obnoxious hard to manage weeds. Grass is really our best friend in maintaining ditch banks both for stability and controlling weeds. Please spray carefully only to the edge of your cropland and avoid spraying the ditch bank.

*****It is prohibited by Idaho State Code to plant trees or otherwise obstruct a TFCC right of way. *****

Need water now?

You can now pay your assessments over the phone or in the office using a credit/visa card. For any credit/visa card there is a 3% surcharge added. You can also use our online payment process with an electronic check as well at www.twinfallscanal.com just look for the Pay with e-check at Paystation.com link.

