

# SWCD 2022 News

**Santiamwater.com**

Santiam Water Control District

## ***Important District Billing Change***

In past years the District has collected its assessments under the irrigation district ORS 545 statutes as an allowed option. The Board of Directors determined that method was no longer the best for the district and for 2022 and future years we will be collecting assessments under our native water control district statutes. You can view the Oregon Revised Statute 553.540 for further legal detail.

The primary difference is that the annual assessment roll will now be recorded with Marion County and thus will constitute a lien against the lands assessed. The district will record satisfaction of liens from time to time as assessments are paid. The change will appear the same, except that if a title search is performed such as may occur during a loan or other mortgage activity, the amount due will be identified.

District O&M assessment rate set at **\$31** per acre for the 2022 season.

McKinney assessment rate set at **\$2.20** per acre for the 2022 season.

Statements will be mailed between Feb 15<sup>th</sup> - March 15<sup>th</sup> and are still **due April 15<sup>th</sup>**. A 12% Interest rate will begin accruing April 15<sup>th</sup> on any balance not paid.

## **2- System Piping Improvement Plan**

Santiam Water Control District (SWCD or the District) partnered with Farmers Conservation Alliance with support from Energy Trust of Oregon to complete a System Improvement Plan (SIP). The purpose of this SIP was to evaluate SWCD's water delivery system and provide a plan for modernization to reduce water loss via seepage and evapotranspiration, mitigate operational spills, decrease operations and maintenance costs, provide pressurized deliveries to patrons, and generate in-conduit hydroelectricity. System piping is the primary method proposed for achieving the District's goals. The Plan will go before the board for review, and we have already received a grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service to complete the next steps of the approval process both NEPA and historical and cultural review. These steps must be completed so that federal grant funds can be used on the phased implementation.

## *Manager's Corner*

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Boy what a year, I really want to give praise where it is due and earned! The staff of SWCD carried the district through a historical heat wave and a devastating winter ice storm, ensuring you had minimal impacts to water delivery. While this effort alone was a huge task, the work was done while navigating through new rules and laws governing pandemic protections, and heat exhaustion. In addition, we have 2 new team members, Morgan joined us as the office manager and Austin is handling our computer mapping and water rights information. It is never an easy task to operate a district in today's climate, it is an accomplishment worthy of your and my praise. I would also like to thank those patrons that assisted and cleaned up their own ditches! We couldn't have done it without your help!

*Thank You Brent*

503-559-2695

## 2022 season

We will be actively continuing the winter storm clean up. The District had 54 miles of canals impacted. John and Ben have cleared about 75% of the debris but we have an estimated 700 truckloads left. FEMA working with Austin, John, and Ben have estimated that 28,284 cubic yards of tree debris fell into district ditches. The Board will likely be working on policy to address this in future years, and areas we pipe will not have this issue either.

The district has received a grant and will be developing a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) watershed plan. We will be performing NEPA analysis and a historical and cultural resource review on the potential long-term plan to pipe the canals, you may see staff and district contractors out making those assessments this summer and next. In addition, there will be a robust public comment component where we will distribute the plan for comments.

We have been required to submit a plan to Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to identify ways in which we can reduce mercury (silt) input into nearby streams. This plan will likely increase the cost of removing silt and maintaining the ditches.

### Board of Directors

*President*  
**Dave Dalke**

*Vice-President*  
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**Gilbert**

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Board meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month 3-5pm.  
Upstairs @ 284 E Water St.

**Brent Stevenson, Secretary of the Board and General Manager**

**Morgan Pitchford, Office Manager**

**John Asman, Field Manager 503-559-2698**

**Ben Devine, Field Staff 503-881-4851**

**Austin Wegner, GIS and Water Right tech**

**Office 503-769-2669**

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**2022 Annual operation and maintenance assessment set at \$31.00 per acre due April 15**

**May 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept 30 Irrigation season** normal delivery. generally, 5.6 gpm per acre  
March, April and October reduced delivery by call in request only.

**Emergency and weekend calls are paid overtime. Please be mindful.**

