

# The Midvale Messenger

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midvaleirrigation.net

March 25, 2016

SPRING LETTER

## WATER FORECAST

The Midvale Board of Commissioners has determined that canal flushing operations will begin April 11<sup>th</sup>. Regular water delivery will begin on April 25. These dates are tentative and will depend on the weather. The ditch riders will not be on a regular schedule until May 1st, as they will be assisting in burning and flushing operations. If you need to order water prior to that, please contact the office.

The beginning water allotment will be set by the Commissioners at the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## CROP REPORT

If you farmed 40 acres or more of irrigable acres last year, you received a crop report census form from us last November. If you have not filled this out and returned it, you will not be eligible to receive water this year.

## CANAL FLUSHING SCHEDULE

Flushing of Wyoming and Pilot Canal systems will begin Monday April 11<sup>th</sup>. Midvale staff will prioritize its schedule of lateral flushing depending on orders for water by irrigators. We request that you communicate your delivery needs with the office staff in advance. *Please remember that there is a 48 hour notice for water orders (on tickets) and 24 hours notice for an off ticket. Online requests need to be in by 9:00 a.m. (Inclement weather may delay the flushing schedule.)*

## TIME TO OPEN GATES

A reminder to everyone; it is time to remove any fences on the Easements and open gates on lateral operation and maintenance roads. District policy requires that all roads remain open to Midvale personnel during the irrigation season (normally April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>) each year. We appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

## TICKET AUTHORIZATION FORMS

Water order ticket authorization forms are available at Midvale's office or

online at our website (midvaleirrigation.net). All persons authorized to order water for your property must be listed on this form before ordering water.

## PERMITS REQUIRED

All of Midvale's system (canals, laterals, open drains, and underground drains) are located on Federal easements. Anyone wishing to do any work on these easements must have permission to do so in the form of a permit issued by the District. Examples of work requiring permits include bridges, pumps, crossing pipes, buildings, fences and water gaps. Please consult Midvale's Policy Handbook or call the District office (307-856-6359).

## "CERT" FORMS

In accordance with the 1982 Reclamation Reform Act, any person and/or entity whom owns and/or leases 240 or more irrigable acres is required to complete a "Certification of Landholding" form each water year prior to being eligible to receive irrigation water through canals managed by Midvale Irrigation District. If a person and/or entity owns and/or leases irrigated acreage in another federal irrigation system, the required certification must include that acreage. The District will mail the necessary certification forms to you for your use in complying with this law. This form must be signed and received in the District office by May 1<sup>st</sup>, if you are planning to transfer any of your water allotment between lands leased and/or controlled by you. Midvale will be contacting you if you have any deeded lands in a trust, as required by the Bureau of Reclamation.

## WATER ALLOTMENT TRANSFER

You may transfer all or part of a water allotment between farms within your farming operation as listed on either a *Certification Form* (for operations totaling 240 irrigable acres or more) or a *Farm Operation Summary* (for operations totaling less than 240 irrigable acres). The applicable form must be received in the District office by May 1 in order for you to be eligible for transfers. The *Release and Consent to Transfer Allotment* and *Farm Operation Summary Forms* are available on the District's website under the "Publication" tab (then go to

"Forms" and select the appropriate form). If you do not have access to the internet please call the office and all necessary forms will be mailed to you.

**Please note:** *It is not necessary to complete the Farm Summary Operation if you farm less than 2/10 irrigable acres and are not leasing irrigated ground to or from someone else.*

## WATER DELIVERY ISSUES

The Midvale Board of Commissioners, by resolution, has established a maximum rate of water delivery at 2 c.f.s. per 70 acres served by each turnout; this rate of flow was used by Bureau of Reclamation engineers to design the delivery system. We can deliver water to individual turnouts at that rate; however, due to physical limitations in the size of canals and laterals we cannot deliver water at maximum flows to all turnouts during periods of peak demand. If water demand exceeds the design capacity of a particular lateral, Midvale staff and management will begin to pro-rate delivery based on the percentage of acres being irrigated in relation to the total capacity of the lateral, each acre receiving an equal share of the total flow. Quite often landowners can work with their ditch rider to implement a rotation schedule among irrigators that will avoid a limitation in water delivery rates.

## WASTE WATER

Under provisions of Wyoming state law and Midvale policy, it is the duty of the water user to return waste water to a natural drain. You are responsible for your water until it reaches the appropriate location, as dictated by the Midvale Board of Commissioners. During the past season we were notified by the Fremont County Road and Bridge Department and the State Engineers office of numerous violations within the Midvale system. Flood irrigation is not the only culprit, we have center pivot sprinklers that are irrigating county roads; if you are applying water to unadjudicated lands it is likely we will be contacting you about resolving the problem. The basic precept of Wyoming water law: *"Beneficial use shall be the basis, measure and limit to the right to use water at all times."*

## DISTRICT ELECTION

Mike Berthod from District #4 is the new representative to the Board of Commissioners. He was elected to a three year term in February.

## TRANSFER OF WATER RIGHTS

A reminder to land owners installing center pivot systems, you need to check with

the Midvale office to make sure that your new system is not irrigating ground that was previously classified as Class 6 land.

In February of 2008 the final adjudication of the 7300 permit was complete, assigning water rights to specific lands. Class 6 land did not receive an adjudicated right because it was deemed incapable of producing an adequate crop to economically viable. Under Wyoming state statutes irrigating lands without a water right is a violation of law and is considered to be "water spreading".

The Bureau of Reclamation has new policy that grants the authority to allow delivery of Federal water to lands not previously designated as irrigable.

The Wyoming State Engineer has defined a procedure to comply with State law. All transfers will be accomplished through petition to the State Board of Control. In a condensed version of the process, the petition must state that the quantity of water transferred by the granting of the petition shall not be greater than the amount historically diverted and proof of ownership of the lands must accompany the petition. A survey of lands, by a Professional Licensed Surveyor, that are to be irrigated and have no water right and the land with water rights that will be traded for have to be identified. After these acres have been identified, a map has to be submitted to Midvale to evaluate and consent to the trade of acres. A consent form signed by Midvale's Board of Commissioners will then be submitted to the Wyoming State Board of Control. All fees encountered in the transfer will be borne by the landowner requesting the transfer.

## MIDVALE CONTACT INFORMATION

<i>TITLE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>HOME PHONE</i>	<i>CELL PHONE</i>
MANAGER	Jon Howell	850-5441	850-5441
WATER MANAGER	Lourie Dunlavy	856-1311	850-4895
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER	Scot Weber	307-217-0730	709-2195
DITCH RIDER RIDE # 3	Lourie Dunlavy	856-1311	850-4895
DITCH RIDER RIDE # 4	Jason Farrar	851-1962	850-2852
DITCH RIDER RIDE #6	Joan Eisemann	850-8242	850-2739
DITCH RIDER RIDE #7	Farron Eisemann	850-8242	850-2849
DITCH RIDER RIDE # 8	Thomas Wilkinson	330-9624	850-2847
DITCH RIDER RIDE #9	Brent Raymond	840-2414	850-2846
DITCH RIDER RIDE # 11	Tom Zizzo	856-7920	850-2853
MIDVALE OFFICE		856-6359	