

Moab Irrigation Company
Annual Officer's Report for 2018
February 4, 2019

2018 began with a minor change to the bylaws regarding the recovery of unpaid assessments which passed handily. There was a fair bit of discussion regarding an addition to the bylaws related to Arbitration. That measure failed by a narrow margin. The main issues with that measure have been addressed and a similar bylaw change will be addressed in the 2019 annual meeting.

In 2018 the board welcomed George Dalton to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Ron Pierce. We are glad to have George with us on the board and have appreciated his work this year.

The lack of snowpack at the beginning of 2018 was a sign that it was going to be a lean water year. Low water plagued the company for most of the summer. Water restrictions took effect early in the season on the mountain and with the lake as well.

Less water was diverted to Ken's lake with 4465 AF diverted in 2017 and 1230 AF in 2018. The pumps were turned on earlier this year as well and in 2018 106 AF were pumped as compared with 2017's 53 AF. This water shortage affected the company in a few ways. First, the payment from Ken's Lake was reduced from \$30,226 in 2017 to \$7515 in 2018. The reduced flows also made delivery a challenge, especially to smaller shareholders and those at higher elevations in the pipelines as the pipes took much longer to fill to the point that water was available to the users at customary pressure levels.

The board is looking at technology solutions to make the allocation of water more efficient and accurate during future dry years. One of the consistent difficulties is maintaining consistent distribution in the three lower ditches as the flow of the creek fluctuates throughout the day. On average we've been able to balance the flows, but with the number of small shareholders in the valley that have short turns it is difficult to keep things balanced as flows in the creek vary hourly. The new water master has done a great job of monitoring and balancing the flows, but it is a time consuming task.

On the topic of water master, in January the board advertised the position and there was one application. Lynne Clay was hired and she stayed through July. She left and the board filled in the gaps until Sam Lewis agreed to take the position. He did a great job of managing the distribution of water considering the difficulties caused by the low water availability.

Another issue that plagued water delivery was a mysterious disappearance of water in Millcreek that began happening on a fairly regular basis this summer. The creek would dry to a trickle in a very short period of time and then recover the next day. The board and the state water engineer's office investigated the issue, but the cause was never found.

The Board elected to pay off the state loan a year early. Due to not having that loan payment requirement in 2019, the proposed 2019 Budget is lower by approximately \$12,000. The 2019 Budget has been set at \$43385 vs \$55480 last year. With 1125 shares and 205 shareholders, the assessment was kept the same as last year even though the lake payment dropped approximately \$25,000 from the prior year.

This was an eventful year for water users in the Moab area with the adjudication of water rights by the Utah Division of Water Rights. The company filed claim on its water rights and all is in order.

The title to Water Rights that were deeded to the Conservancy District back in 1978 for the creation of Ken's lake were deeded back to the company on April 28, 2018.

A transfer of shares instigated by the death of a shareholder years ago, was finally resolved this year. In order to clarify the process a letter of information was sent with the annual notices to the shareholders.

A spring fed pond had been running its excess water down the culvert system for over 25 years. When the irrigation water was put into plastic pipe inside the culvert, the area between the pipe and the culvert carried this waste water down to parts unknown. This year the pond's drain got plugged up so when the drain got cleared, it dumped a large amount of water into the unused area of the old culvert system. That exceeded the capacity of the system and the pond water then backed up and flooded a Moab business. As the water was delivered by the company culvert system it appeared to have been irrigation water. The system was cleaned and the pond owner was notified of the consequences of the flooding and it hasn't been an issue since as the flow rate has been kept low.

2018 Repairs: Many repairs were made this year to the system.

New outer grills were made for and other grills were installed as well in all three ditches. They are a big improvement and are much easier to keep cleaned.

1300 ft of Ditch 3 between Powerhouse lane and Millcreek Dr. was replaced. The users noticed a dramatic increase in water flow after that repair.

An electric company working in Valley View Court broke Ditch 3. They were billed and paid for the damages.

The end of Ditch 1 was reworked to stop the leakage that was constantly happening.

Lots of work done on 100 W has shown us exactly where some of our lines are. The City has historically used part of the old culvert system as a stormwater drain and part of that system was rerouted away from our pipeline this summer. The Hoodoo project rerouting is basically finished. Some rework in that area was coordinated with Moab City with them providing installation labor and us providing materials to route some delivery into underground pipe as opposed to surface delivery.

New water meters have been installed on Ditch 3 and in the Sheley tunnel and that measurement has proven to be much more accurate. A meter was installed on the South Mesa ditch, but it has been problematic and options are being investigated to make reporting from that meter reliable.

Beavers were regularly working to close off all three ditches this summer. The water master was able to keep up with them. This fall they moved to the Ditch 1 sandbox necessitating a new external grill which was installed this winter.

Mountain snowpack looks better this year and we are hoping for a much improved 2019.

Ken Minor – President.