

Naches-Selah Irrigation District

FALL/WINTER 2022

VOLUME 34

*This
Issue:*

BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENTS

Things to consider (water!) before adjusting boundaries or subdividing

DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

Director nominations will be accepted this fall for Position #1

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The Board of Equalization Meeting is scheduled for December 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Water Shut-off Date: *October 17*

Remember:



Drain your irrigation lines this fall so you won't have any surprises next spring when the water comes on in April.



Repair your lines before the ground freezes this fall or next year before the water comes on.



Open your valves at the delivery. Water can get behind the valve, freeze, and break the valve. Close the valves before water comes on again.

2022 Water Season

This season had some unique challenges, beginning with unseasonably cool weather that shifted quickly into a record-breaking heat wave.

We had patrolmen monitoring the system every day, making adjustments to account for the intermittent usage of our water users. Thank you for your patience this season as we tested and refined management of the No. 3 Lateral following construction.

Private Easements - Please don't trespass!

The gravel canal access roads and pipe easements can be tempting walking paths, but these areas are actually private properties. Please don't use these access areas without permission from the landowners.

Thank you!

-Your Neighbors

POSTED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Rod Matson, President
Craig Sundquist, Director
Tom Allan, Director



INFO@N-SID.ORG

104 W. Naches Ave., Ste. H.
Selah, WA 98942
(509) 697-4177

Washington State Water Resources Association



The Washington State Water Resources Association (WSWRA) advocates for irrigation and water districts to ensure they can continue to deliver water to their landowners. Water is the lifeblood of a sustainable and plentiful food supply and the maintenance of a vibrant agricultural sector is critical to our state's economy.

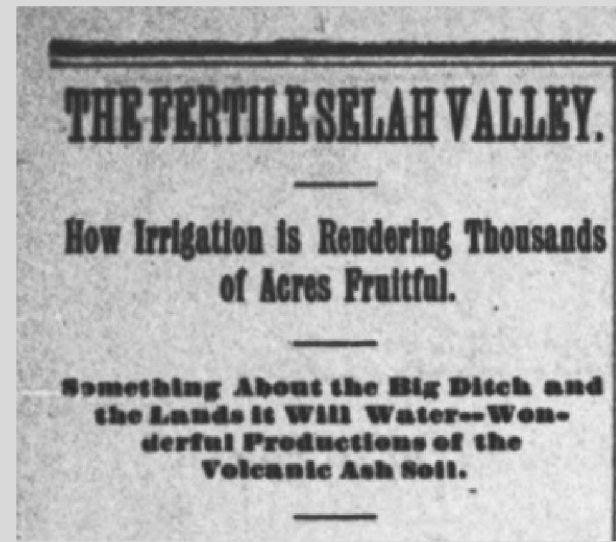
Each member district needs to be informed about public policy issues and be able to express their unique concerns and challenges to their peers. WSWRA provides a forum to do this, but it doesn't end there. The organization also seeks to develop unified advocacy positions which can be shared with policymakers to help them understand the implications of policy before they take actions that could prove harmful.

WSWRA seeks to provide outside of the box thinking to ensure our members get value for their dues. Irrigation districts face many challenges. The task of keeping infrastructure intact and operational is a full-time job. A job made more challenging with constant pressure to operate more efficiently with even more environmental protections. WSWRA is here to help you meet those demands.

Contact: Executive Director John Stuhlmiller at jstuhlmiller@wswra.org or www.wswra.org.

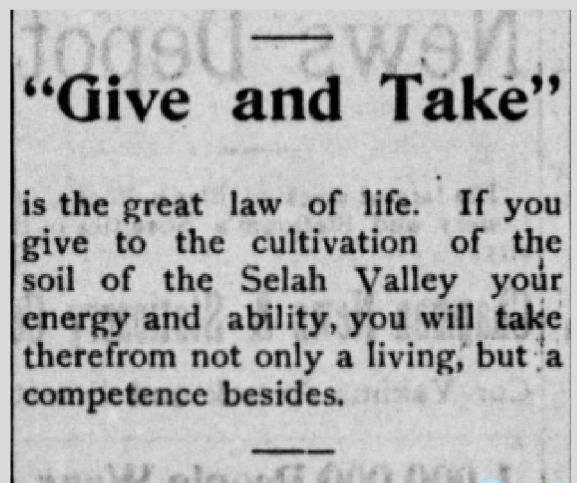
Emergency Contact

Sometimes there are emergencies such as mainline breaks, and we don't have phone numbers or emails for over 200 of our water users. Please contact the office at (509) 697-4177 or info@n-sid.org to make sure we have updated contact information for you.



**The Yakima Herald, October 22, 1891;
Originally printed in Tacoma News**

"The Selah Valley Ditch Company, of which John A. Stone is president, began the construction of an irrigation ditch... in the spring of 1890, for the purpose of watering and bringing under cultivation the arid lands of the Natchez and Selah valleys... Along the Natchez river and extending back from one to five miles to the banks of the Selah Valley Ditch Company, are beautiful farms of 40 to 160 acres; all under cultivation... One has only to visit these farms to learn what can be produced from these lands, in the shape of cereals, vegetables, fruit, hops, hay, etc."



Boundary Line Adjustments & Short or Long Plats

Are you considering adjusting a boundary line or dividing your parcel into smaller lots? It's worth taking a moment to consider how it affects the irrigation water allocation of the properties.

If all lots are larger than 2.5 acres, and more than one (1) Miners-Inch for each parcel, the total water is prorated to the lots based on the new acreage.

If one of the lots is smaller than 2.5 acres and/or less than one (1) Miners Inch of water for each parcel, a Water Agreement and Covenant will need to be executed with our office and the document will need to be recorded by the Yakima County Auditor's Office. One of the parcels will be assigned the Watermaster and the other "Tenant" lots will pay their portion of the total assessment to the Watermaster.

Double Check:

- Are your irrigation assessment payments up to date? (included on your property taxes)
- Did you identify NSID easements on the application?
- Did you identify 6' private easements to all lots from the irrigation delivery point?

Short plats and long plats need to be approved by the District. We will need two copies of the plat maps (one for us to keep) for at least one business day to review.

The end of the year is a busy time for processing boundary line adjustments and short plats. Please see our office closures below and processing fees further in the newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Hadsel at (509) 697-4177 or officemgr@n-sid.org.

Yakima Basin Joint Board

Yakima Basin Joint Board (YBJB) is a partnership of public entities promoting the multiple uses of the Yakima Valley's water supply. The Board is composed of seven irrigation districts and the City of Yakima.

The Yakima Basin Joint Board serves producers of the Yakima River Basin, one of the most diverse and productive agricultural regions in the world. Exports from the Yakima River Basin are a major driver of Washington's state and regional economy, and the area is internationally recognized for its production of high-value apples and hops, dairy farms, cherries, soft fruits, pears, spearmint, wine grapes that support of seven hundred local wineries.

Contact: Yakima Basin Joint Board Chair, Lori Brady; bradyl@svid.org



**YAKIMA BASIN
JOINT BOARD**

Office Closures:

Our office will be closed November 11 for Veterans Day, November 24 & 25 for Thanksgiving, December 23-30 for Christmas break, and February 20 for Presidents' Day.

Irrigation Word Search

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

Acre
Algae
Allotment
Assessment
Canal
Delivery
Easement
Flood
Flume
Irrigation
Minersinch



Naches
Neighbor
Patrolman
Pump
Screen
Selah
Sprinkler
Sunshine
Valve
Watermaster
Weather

Starting a Project?



If you're planting trees, leveling property, installing signs, digging a swimming pool, driving or digging fence posts, drilling a well, driving ground rods, or installing a septic system...

**Before digging -
call 8-1-1 or visit Call811.com
two business days ahead of time (it's the law!).**

Locate requests can be called in 24 hours a day,
7 days a week.



More than 50% of residential irrigation water is lost to evaporation, runoff, overwatering or improper system design or maintenance.

epa.gov



Director Nominations

Naches-Selah Irrigation District Board of Directors are elected for staggered three-year terms.

Director nominations will be accepted for Position #1. A Declaration of Candidacy must be filed in our office by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7.

At the end of the term, the Director may submit a petition to continue serving. Position #1 is currently held by Tom Allan. Mr. Allan has expressed his willingness to serve another term.

To be a qualified elector, a person must be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, reside in Washington state, hold title or evidence of title to assessable land within the District.

If there is a joint water right, the Watermaster is the designated voter. For entities, a voter proxy must be on file in the office designating a voter.

Each candidate must obtain a minimum of 10 signatures from landowners within the District.

If only one Declaration of Candidacy is submitted, no election is needed and that person becomes Director by board resolution.

All current Directors serve the District without remuneration.

Please refer to RCW 87 or contact our office for more information.

Board of Equalization Meeting

The Board of Equalization Meeting will be held on **Friday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m.** at the District office (104 W. Naches Ave., Suite H, in Selah).

Legal notice will be published in the Yakima Herald-Republic once the 2023 Assessment Roll has been presented to the Board.



2023 Capital Improvement Projects

Jordan #29 - 3,800 ft.	\$60,000
Lyon #32 - 2,000 ft	\$45,000
Tibbling #14 - 1,300 ft	\$40,000
Replace Waterboxes	\$30,000
Office Equipment	\$15,000
Housing Repairs	\$30,000
1/2 Ton 2WD Pickup	\$32,000

NSID Processing Fees

Short Plats & Boundary Line Adjustments	\$100
Long Plats	\$100 + \$20/parcel
+ Water agreement	\$25
+ Additional drafts	<i>labor rate</i>
Water Sales/Transfers	
Single owner	\$25/parcel
Multiple owners	\$50/parcel
Rental Water	
Lessor (water out)	\$20/parcel
Lessee (water in)	\$30/miner's inch

Small Public Works Roster

As a special district, we use a small works roster to hire heavy equipment contractors, building contractors, and consultants for projects less than \$300,000. **To be added to our roster, please call our office or email info@n-sid.org.** Annual renewal to remain on the list is required and you must be licensed, bonded and take prevailing wage training through L&I.

Job Opening

We have an opening for a full-time **Patrolman**. Competitive rate plus retirement, health and life insurance benefits. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to obtain a pesticide applicator license. Experience with heavy equipment preferred. Contact Heather Hadsel at officemgr@n-sid.org or stop by our office for an application. Open until filled.

Lateral No. 3 Project

As reported in the Spring issue, not everything went as planned on the project. There were long delays in getting water flowing to some water users. A few interruptions were from warranty repairs on the new installed pipe. A number of other days were for breaks on older parts of the No. 3 Lateral systems. We were lucky with some cooler weather to lessen the impacts to water users.

Debris at the deliveries is another challenge.

We heard from many water users and Patrolmen were busy with frequent plugging of deliveries and system valves. During the project work, screening down to ½ inch was removed at Gore and needed project changes caused no replacement of this screening. Piping 2 ½ miles of open canals and flume sections decreased debris coming into the No. 3 Lateral, but not the sticks, leaves and other debris from the Main Canal.

Not all of the \$6.1 Million bond was spent. The Board has approved spending the remaining amount to put to use the leftover pipe to resolve a flow restriction at Guinan Road crossing.

In addition to improving flow capacity, a screening system will be installed to reduce the size and amount of debris flowing to the deliveries in the No. 3 Lateral.



In [the Yakima Valley], an average of 8 inches of rain falls per year and apple orchards need about 42 inches of water per year.

District Water - Who Owns it and Can I Get More?

Naches-Selah Irrigation District holds the water rights in trust for its water users. The District is a WA State senior water right holder. Parcels have an *allotment* of that water right.

The district boundaries are set, and include the irrigation of 10,600 acres with about 4,024 Miner's Inches. Not every parcel within the boundary has an irrigation allotment. As parcels were subdivided over the past 100 years, the allotments shifted around within the District.

Can I buy more water? The District does not have a market to facilitate the sale of water allotments, although we do maintain a list of interested parties that we give to landowners looking to sell. The list is long and moves slowly. Any transfer of water outside the process of subdivision needs to be approved by our Board of Directors. The price is negotiated between the parties.

What about renting water? Renting water is a good alternative if you need additional irrigation. Rental of water is limited by system capacities including the exception of Lateral No. 3 which cannot accept additional water at this time. Landowners can rent water from the District at the regular assessment rate plus a \$30 fee per Miner's Inch if you have at least 2.5 acres and rent at least one (1) Miner's Inch of water. Requests need to be approved by the District Manager to ensure the delivery is technically possible at your location.

Contact Heather Hadsel at (509) 697-4177 or officemgr@n-sid.org if you are interested in renting water in or out next season.



Justin Harter
District Manager

From the Manager

Diverting a portion of water flow from the Naches River, moving that water through canals and pipes to be put to use on the lands served is a small part of the story. Over 130 years ago, it took determined people to see the opportunities water supply would bring to the communities in our part of the valley. Each generation since took on the challenge of keeping the water flowing and improving the system to continue serving.

Whether watering crops that are sold locally to those exported around the world, or keeping pastures, lawns, trees and flowers around your home for your enjoyment, landowners are the reason the District continues to serve in a second century.

The District staff enjoys serving our landowners and seeing your uses of the water delivered that keeps our area thriving. Wishing everyone a good fall and winter and continued success in the next year.

Naches-Selah Irrigation District

104 W. Naches Ave., Ste. H

Selah, WA 98942



**Naches-Selah
Irrigation District**

Fall / Winter Newsletter

Upcoming Board Meetings

Oct 10	Nov 10	Dec 09	Jan 10	Feb 10	Mar 10
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NSID board meetings are open to the public. If you would like to attend a meeting, please contact our office for information.