## **Animas Consolidated Ditch Company**

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Annual Shareholders Meeting Saturday March 12th, 2022, at 9:00am at River Bend Ranch Event Center 27846 Hwy 550 Durango CO 81301

**Call meeting to Order:** The President called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

**II. Attendance:** The President reminded the members to sign in and provide proxies. There were 369 shares represented, and 141 proxies.

**III. Introductions:** The President introduced the Board, staff and consultants: Dan Diehl, Board Member, Dan James President, Kevin Jones, Vice President, Eric Bikis, Secretary, Brett Schaffer, Treasurer, Chris Bell ditch walker, Jessica Mitchell, ditch secretary/administration, Nancy Agro, attorney. The president took a moment to acknowledge John Ott's passing.

**IV. 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes:** Jake Archuleta moved to approve the minutes, Patty Zink second, and the Members unanimously voted to approve the Minutes.

**V. President's report:** Dan James reported that it has been a quiet year on the ditch, and there were not a lot of major flood events. The sluice structures installed after the 416 fire floods have been working great. They are designed to pull the silt off the bottom of the ditch and flush the silt to settling ponds for removal. This has improved the flow of water to a condition even better than before the 416 fire. The company has saved money on maintenance because of these sluice structures. Surface debris diverters also keep culverts from plugging. Lawn maintenance workers and landowners sometimes dump in the ditch. Dan asked the members to let the board or ditch walker know if they see this occurring so it can be addressed.

Dan indicated that the rules are going to be amended to add a 60 day deadline to pay assessments because the company expends a lot of effort in collections. Additionally, the membership was asked to check the title on the ditch certificate and make sure the names match the ownership exactly, including trusts, LLC's, joint tenancy, etc.

**Question from the floor:** Is it okay to dump water into the river? There is only one place that it occurs at Trimble, and this is a historic place where silt has returned to the river. All other locations the silt goes into settling ponds and is removed (at James Ranch and Zink). One of the biggest diverters is at the main headgate. Silt is diverted at the river before it enters the ditch diversion.

**VI.** Election of Directors: The members re-elected Eric Bikis by acclimation for a three-year term.

VII. Treasurer's Report: Brett Schaffer reported that assessments will stay the same for 2022. He reviewed the 2021 actual income and expenses. Maintenance came in under budget in 2021, and the overall expenses were under budget which led to a higher net income.

**VIII. Ditch Walker Report:** Chris Bell reported that 2021 was a good year for maintenance. There were a few weather events and some landowner dumping in the ditch. The sluice gates and diverters have kept the water flowing well in the ditch. The last year was the most successful from a maintenance standpoint for the last three

years since Chris has been the ditch walker. He also asked the members to call him if they know of any issues. Early attention always keeps the ditch running more smoothly. John Wilkinson is acting as a back-up ditch walker when Chris is away. Chris provided his phone number - 970-946-2437 and John Wilkinson's phone number - 830-998-4226. These numbers will be available on the website.

**Question from the floor:** Someone asked about the Russian olives. They are considered a nuisance by the County. The ditch company will help cut them back, but they do tend to grow back.

**IX.** Water Report: Eric Bikis presented a Water Supply Outlook for 2022. Much of the Western Slope is at or above 90% of average. Mr. Bikis pointed out that the "average" is lower now than it used to be. This area is in abnormally drought conditions currently. Several reservoirs have been releasing extra water to get the water to Lake Powell. Lake Powell is dropping because not enough water is coming in. Lake Mead is dropping because they are over diverting. The upper basin states are required to deliver 7.5-million-acre feet to the lower basin states regardless of inflow.

**X. Old Business:** There was no old business.

**XI:** New Business: There was no new business.

**XII: Adjournment:** George Widmeyer moved for adjournment and Jake Archuleta seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.