

ANIMAS CONSOLIDATED DITCH COMPANY

February 15, 2013

Hello Shareholder,

It's that time of year when we begin to plan for ditch use, needs and concerns. I am still attempting to have all shareholder records accurate. Accuracy is important because only the name of the water certificate holder has **legal rights** to the water.

If you are the person chosen to be responsible for paying all expenses related to the water certificate(s) listed on your invoice, this does not ensure that you are the legal owner of the water certificate(s). The Animas Consolidated Ditch Company board of directors elected to waive any fees related to specific incidences of improper water certificate ownership.

We have a website!! Please visit us at animasconsolidatedditch.com. There is good, helpful information there. I would very much appreciate your feedback.

We have an excellent ditch with very good water rights. Our operating costs are much lower than most other ditches. This is primarily because we allow each shareholder the right to monitor their own water use out of the ditch. If everyone is responsible and works well with each other, we can continue to use this low cost system in lieu of having shareholder water usage monitored by the ditch walker.

All of us have a part to play in keeping our collective costs down. Be careful to only take the water you are entitled to. If you would like a refresher on how to measure the water you own, visit our website or feel free to call a ditch walker. Basically, one share is 1/16th of 1 cubic foot per second. In layman's terms, one share will fill a five gallon bucket in eleven seconds.

Another means of keeping our costs down is to remember **THE DITCH IS NOT A PLACE FOR TRASH OR TREE CUTTINGS!!** We have stepped up our efforts to identify the sources of the trash and cuttings we regularly find in the ditch. When the source is identified, they receive a bill for the extra expense involved to maintain the ditch. Strive to not get on this bad dog, no biscuit list!!

The ditch company has an easement along both sides of the ditch, which provides access for maintenance of the ditch. Encroachment by yards, gardens, playgrounds, out buildings, etc. into the ditch easement makes ditch maintenance both more difficult and more costly. If you have any questions about what can and can't be done within our easement, visit the website or call the ditch walker for a site visit. Although we appreciate the ditch bank looking nice, our first priority is keeping the ditch open and free of obstructions.

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For the 2013 water season, the board of directors is focusing on four improvement projects:

1. Several headgates owned by shareholders have fallen into disrepair. The ditch walkers will be putting extra effort into assisting the shareholder in restoring them back to the recommended standard.
2. There have been several instances of easement encroachments which need some remediation to ensure the ditch remains as large as it needs to be in order to deliver water to all shareholders.
3. The Animas Consolidated Ditch Company is working with several other local ditch companies in a grant application to receive Colorado State funding. This funding will be used to establish baseline data at the Animas River diversion. If this diversion ever requires major repair, we will be better positioned to attract grant monies.
4. We are updating the Rules and Regulations which will be available on the website once completed.

Remember, water from the Animas Consolidated Ditch Company is a BARGAIN!!

Again, thank you, thank you, thank you for your cards, emails, phone calls and most importantly your prayers for me during this cancer journey I continue to be on. Your support has made the journey much easier. Your patience with me working limited hours is also greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Meme 😊

Meme Eberspacher
Bookkeeper