

Bishop Creek Water Association
Meeting Summary
June 7th, 2016

I. Opening and Introductions

The BCWA meeting was opened at 7:04 p.m. Trustees in attendance included: Gene Coufal, Merry Armstrong, Rock Baker and Greg Loveland. Trustee Henry Means was absent. Watermaster Chas Coufal and Bert Almond were in attendance as well.

II. May 10th, 2016 Meeting Summary

The summary of the May 10th, 2016 Monthly Meeting was reviewed and approved as written.

III. Financial Reports

The Financial Report for May 2016 was reviewed and approved.

IV. Bishop Creek Flow and Storage Report

Bert Almond discussed SCE and minimum flows. North Fork of Bishop Creek is uncontrolled and is contributing the majority of the flows over the Chandler Decree flow schedule that are being delivered below Plant 6. Lake Sabrina is at ½ capacity while South Lake is almost to the toe of the dam. Bert estimated that the peak runoff would be seen around July 1 and that Lake Sabrina will reach capacity. Flows are fluctuating greatly from day to night with swings of 100-120 cfs.

Gene Coufal reported that he had received a similar report from Dan Golden. They also discussed management of storage and winter flows; and proposed a meeting with BCWA, SCE and LADWP to discuss when we get closer.

V. Old Business

- a) Collection of Past Dues: The issue of past dues was discussed. As of the beginning of June there were 325 non-paying members of the 900 total BCWA members. Gene read the letters that will be sent out to the non-paying members in mid-July.

The board clarified that dues apply to any members that have a ditch on their property. Dues are for the service and not for delivery of a specific amount of water.

- b) Reinhackle Ditch Issue: Resolution is still pending and any construction will be scheduled during the low flow winter months.
- c) Ditch/Diversion Box Repairs:
 - i. Reconstruct 2 diversion boxes on McLaren at Ranch Road – The work has been completed and Gene asked for concurrence of the board to purchase signage to prevent tampering. He

wanted to purchase 12 signs at approximately \$20 apiece. The Board unanimously approved this expenditure.

- d) Board approval of reactivation of ditch on Gardner Property on Sunset Road – There was no action taken and the board is waiting on a letter from the Gardeners.

VI. Water and Arbitration Committee Report

No formal meeting:

- The residents of Carol Lane held a meeting to develop a plan. Phase I of the plan would be to isolate where problem areas are. Phase II would include re-watering sections and reconvene a meeting to discuss the findings.
- Flows were cut down on Highland and Sunset. Water levels in test holes have been rising. There continues to be confusion on the causes of basement flooding.
- Todd Vogel discussed flooding under his house on Highland Drive and challenged the audience to come and work together. He proposed cutting off all water to Highland and Sunset until all ponds have been lined.
- There was heated discussion on high water problems, water under homes and the difficulty of de-watering properties.
- The Board moved to discuss the high water issues with Dr. Bob Harrington.
- Both the Yaney and Nobel Ditches were slowly being re-watered

VII. Watermaster Report

Chas reported that he received 85 calls last month which was above normal and he received 24 text messages.

Chas requested member to call him with any reports of gates and diversions being tampered with. The new structures are still being calibrated to figure out how the new flow schemes work.

VIII. New Business

No new Business

Note: Gloria Stewart at 3567 Ranch View Lane, filled in her ponds and ditches with dirt and as such is longer a member in the Bishop Creek Water Association.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Bishop Creek Water Association will be on Tuesday, July 5th, 2016 at 7 pm at the Los Angeles Department and Water Power Office Building at 300 Mandich St.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gregory A. Loveland

Secretary

Bishop Creek Water Association

**BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH**

MAY 2016

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE - March 31, 2016 \$ **4,282.01**

DEPOSITS:

Customer Deposits	\$	8,618.00
State Fund Refund		-
Transfer from Maximizer		-
		<hr/>

TOTAL DEPOSITS **8,618.00**

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Water Master Pay - 550.88 X 2	\$	1,101.76
Truck Allowance - 410.00 X 2		820.00
Water Master Assistant Pay -		-
Telephone		44.45
Payroll Taxes - IRS		-
Payroll Taxes - State		-
Payroll Taxes - IRS Unemployment		-
US Post Office - Stamps		423.00
Holland & Allred CPA's		-
Alec Printing		144.39
State Fund - Worker's Comp Insurance		147.87
Browns Supply		19.43
High Country Lumber		62.98
Refund for Overpayment		155.20
Transfer to Maximizer		-
		<hr/>

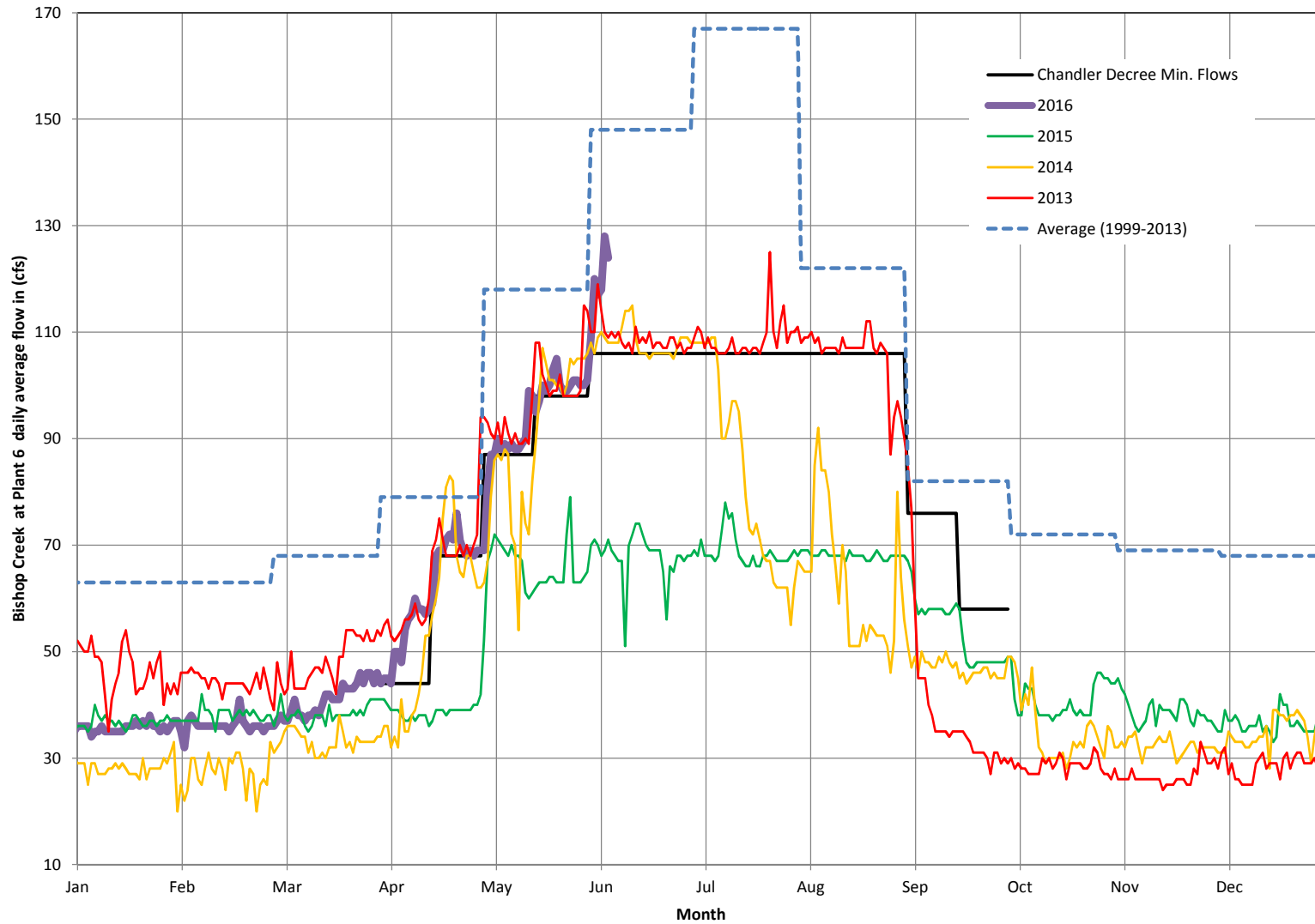
TOTAL CHECKS WRITTEN **(2,919.08)**

CHECKING ACCOUNT Balance - May 31, 2016 \$ **9,980.93**

MAXIMIZER BALANCE **10,234.75**
SAVINGS CD **-**

TOTAL BANK BALANCES \$ **20,215.68**

Bishop Creek Flows at Plant 6



Rock Baker, Baker Independence Insurance

From: Bcwa <bishopcreekwaterassoc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 11:11 AM
To: Rock Baker
Subject: Fwd: water issues on sunset and highland

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bob Harrington <bharrington@inyocounty.us>
Date: May 24, 2016 at 3:36:44 PM PDT
To: Todd Vogel <toddvogel@eastidesports.com>, "bishopcreekwaterassoc@yahoo.com" <bishopcreekwaterassoc@yahoo.com>
Cc: "supervisor.pucci@gmail.com" <supervisor.pucci@gmail.com>, Keith Rainville <krainville@inyocounty.us>
Subject: RE: water issues on sunset and highland

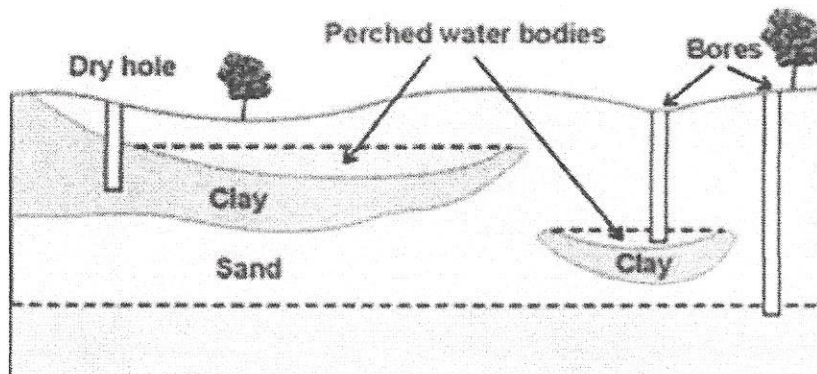
Hi Todd, thanks for sending this. I think there are similar problems on Carol Lane as well.

What I think is going on is that in 2013 when the ditches and ponds went dry, many homeowners took advantage of the conditions to clean muck out of their ponds. Some homeowners substantially deepened their ponds. The muck provided a partial seal between the water in ponds and the underlying shallow aquifer; with the low-permeability muck removed, water is able to more quickly move from the pond into the shallow aquifer. When water was reintroduced into the ditches and ponds, the newly increased infiltration rate of the cleaned ponds quickly brings the water level in the shallow aquifer up to the level of the pond surface, i.e., very close to the land surface, or even above the land surface downslope from the pond.

I don't believe the suggestions that have been made regarding a clay or caliche layer forming in 2013 when the water table dropped. Clay is deposited by clay particles settling out of water, and I'm not seeing a process where the clay gets carried into the subsurface and deposited as a flow-retarding layer the clay gets filtered out at the surface, which is why the muck is there in the first place. Caliche does form in place from dissolved CO₂ and calcium, but it's a process that takes thousands (or at least hundreds) of years – it can't form a substantial flow-inhibiting layer due to a one-year cycle of drying and wetting. One process that can form an infiltration-inhibiting layer quickly is the formation of a 'biofilm' of algae, but this would form on the bottom of the ponds where it can photosynthesize, not in the subsurface.

Nonetheless, it does appear that there is locally a relatively shallow feature in the area that inhibits downward flow of water. Driller's logs in the area report that when drilling new wells (both presently and prior to the drought), water is often first encountered at relatively shallow depths (~5-15') and when new wells are completed, the water level in the completed well is considerably deeper (~20-40'). This indicates that there is shallow groundwater near the surface, but when the drill punches through to deeper zones, the water levels are lower. This indicates either a 'perched' aquifer, which explains how water levels can be saturating a crawlspace of one home and the neighboring

homeowner's well is going dry. There is a similar phenomenon called 'air entrapment' where instead of a clay layer, the perched water is held up by a bubble of air.



An alternative explanation is that the change in water levels from the start to the finish of drilling indicates a downward hydraulic head gradient, which would be expected in a recharge zone such as the Bishop Cone. This would explain the drop in water level during drilling, but not how a dry well could be right next to a flooded crawlspace.

As far as solutions go, as you suggested in your prior e-mail, lining ponds with less permeable material could return them to their pre-cleaning infiltration rate, which might mitigate the problem. The BCWA has been advocating this, but, as I understand it, without much success. The explanations given above are rather speculative, but the one thing that changed prior to this problem arising was the cleaning of the ponds. I think that's the culprit and there are pretty clear measures that could be taken to mitigate it. The problem is that people are resistant to undoing work that they understood to be desirable maintenance of their ponds, and if they are having problems with their wells, they are understandably resistant to decreasing groundwater recharge near their well.

If folks won't seal up their ponds and/or the BCWA can't manage the ditch system to alleviate the problem, French drains may be a permanent solution. As a County employee, it's outside of my expertise to advise on their feasibility and design, but if the topography of your lot would allow them to drain by gravity to the north side of your lot, they would be a pretty simple solution.

Bob Harrington, Water Director
Inyo County Water Department
135 S. Jackson
POB 337
Independence, CA 93526
bharrington@inyocounty.us
760-878-0001

From: Todd Vogel [<mailto:toddvogel@eastsidesports.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2016 9:20 AM
To: bishopcreekwaterassoc@yahoo.com
Cc: supervisor.pucci@gmail.com; Bob Harrington
Subject: water issues on sunset and highland

Hi folks,
this is what we're dealing with as far as water issues: a quick morning walk and half a dozen conversations reveals 32 properties with standing water and water under the house. Many are question marks, so there are probably more.

**Bishop Creek Water Association Meeting
June 7th, 2016**

Attendance Sheet

Name	Address	Email
MARK & Julie Franky	363 N. Mountain View	julie@frankyls@gmail.com
GENE COUFAL	2482 SWEISE	NC3E@AOL.COM
Steve & Teresa	3601 Paul Rd	
JIM CAMPBELL	2707 CAROL LN	
Chas Coufal	Watermaster	
KEITH + PAULA BODTKE	2298 SUNRISE DR	
T. FROENK	679 BRACKMAN	
Wynne Benti	2399 N SIERRA HWY	yosemite4@gmail.com
Dan Goodwin	2761 Highland Dr.	dwgoodwin@hotmail.com
Chris Iversen	2635 Highland	Chris@sierramountaincenter.com
Todd Vogel	" "	todde@outdoorlink.org
Darla Heil	2272 Longview Dr.	darlaheil@gmail.com
STANLEY WOOD	777 Rome DR	_____
Don Kunze	2619 Sierra Vista Blvd	Kunze.don@gmail.com
Rex + Mary Allen	2820 Highland	mara37@suddenlink.net
Sara Manning	401 E. Yaney	smanning@telis.org
Daniel Pritchett	"	SKYPILOTS@TELIS.ORG
Teresa Loveland	220 Mt. Tom Rd.	teresaloveland@att.net
Marglene Braker	812 S Below	
Melinda Scott	2731 Glenbrook way	GMS3SCOTT@suddenlink.net

