

Bishop Creek Water Association

Monthly Board Meeting Agenda

August 15, 2023

7:00 pm

Meeting To Be Conducted via Zoom

1. Opening and Introduction
2. Acceptance of the Monthly Board Meeting Summary for July 11, 2023
3. Approval of the July 2023 Financial Report
4. Bishop Creek Precipitation, Flow, and Storage Report
5. Old Business
 - a. Flow Regulation on Reinhackle Ditch at Mt. Tom Rd.
 - b. BCWA Policy for Handling of Plugged Street Culverts
 - c. Water Rights Filing
 - d. Membership Reconciliation (mapping)
 - e. Collection of Past Due Assessments
 - f. Ditch Diversion Box Repair/Rebuild Project
 - g. Inyo County Road Department Policy regarding Plugged/Deteriorated Street Culverts
 - h. Flooding Roadway at Highland Dr and Barlow Ln.
 - i. Obstructed Street culvert in Sarah Way
 - j. Ditch Relocation at NW corner of Carol Ln. (parcel no 011-510-27)
 - k. Bishop Tribe BCWA Membership?
6. Watermaster Report
7. New Business
 - a. Other (by Board or members in good standing)
8. Next Meetings: Monthly Board – September 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
9. Adjournment

Bishop Creek Water Association
Annual Meeting Summary
July 11th, 2023
7:00 pm
Meeting Conducted via Zoom

1. Opening and Introduction

BWCA meeting called to order 7:01 pm. Trustees in attendance: Mark Frumkin, Merry Armstrong, Don Kunze, Eric Tillemans and Gene Coufal. Watermaster Matt Durkee was present.

2. Acceptance of the Annual Board Meeting Summary for May 9, 2023

The May 9th, 2023, meeting summary was accepted as written.

3. Approval of the May and June 2023 Financial Reports

The financial reports for May and June 2023 were approved unanimously.

4. Bishop Creek Precipitation, Flow, and Storage Report

No communication from SCE on future plans. SCE has been holding Bishop Creek outflow steady. A chart showing releases at SCE Power Plant #6 was attached to the meeting package.

5. Old Business

a. Flow Regulation on Reinhackle Ditch at Mt. Tom Rd.

A board field trip to the site was scheduled for 7/25/23 at 10:00 am.

b. Ditch Relocation at NW corner of Carol Ln. (parcel no 011-510-27)

No Change.

c. Water Rights Filing

Ongoing. Gene will contact Ben Arcularius at LADWP.

d. Membership Reconciliation (mapping)

The map review has been completed. Gene will be delivering to Eric on July 14th and will also explore getting annually the current BCWA database from Inyo County.

e. Collection of Past Due Assessments

On hold.

f. Ditch Diversion Box Repair/Rebuild Project

NRCS is currently looking into assisting the BCWA in project funding.

g. Inyo County Road Department Policy regarding Plugged/Deteriorated Street Culverts

Gene met with Tina Orrill and explained history. Scott Marceline spoke to the counties situation of addressing some of these plugged culverts.

h. BCWA Policy for Handling of Plugged Street Culverts

On hold; no action.

i. Bishop Tribe BCWA Membership?

Nothing new to report. Gene had not heard back from Sandra Warlie of the Bishop Tribe yet.

6. Watermaster Report

Matt received 49 calls and 21 texts in May and 58 calls and 29 texts in June.

7. New Business

- a. Obstructed Street Culvert on Sarah Way: Nothing to do until water flow decreases.
- b. Flooding Roadway at Highland Dr and Barlow Ln: Matt adjusted flows to alleviate the issue.
- c. Other: None

8. Next Monthly Board Meeting– The next monthly Board meeting will be held on August 15th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eric Tillemans

Secretary

Bishop Creek Water Association

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

MAY 2023

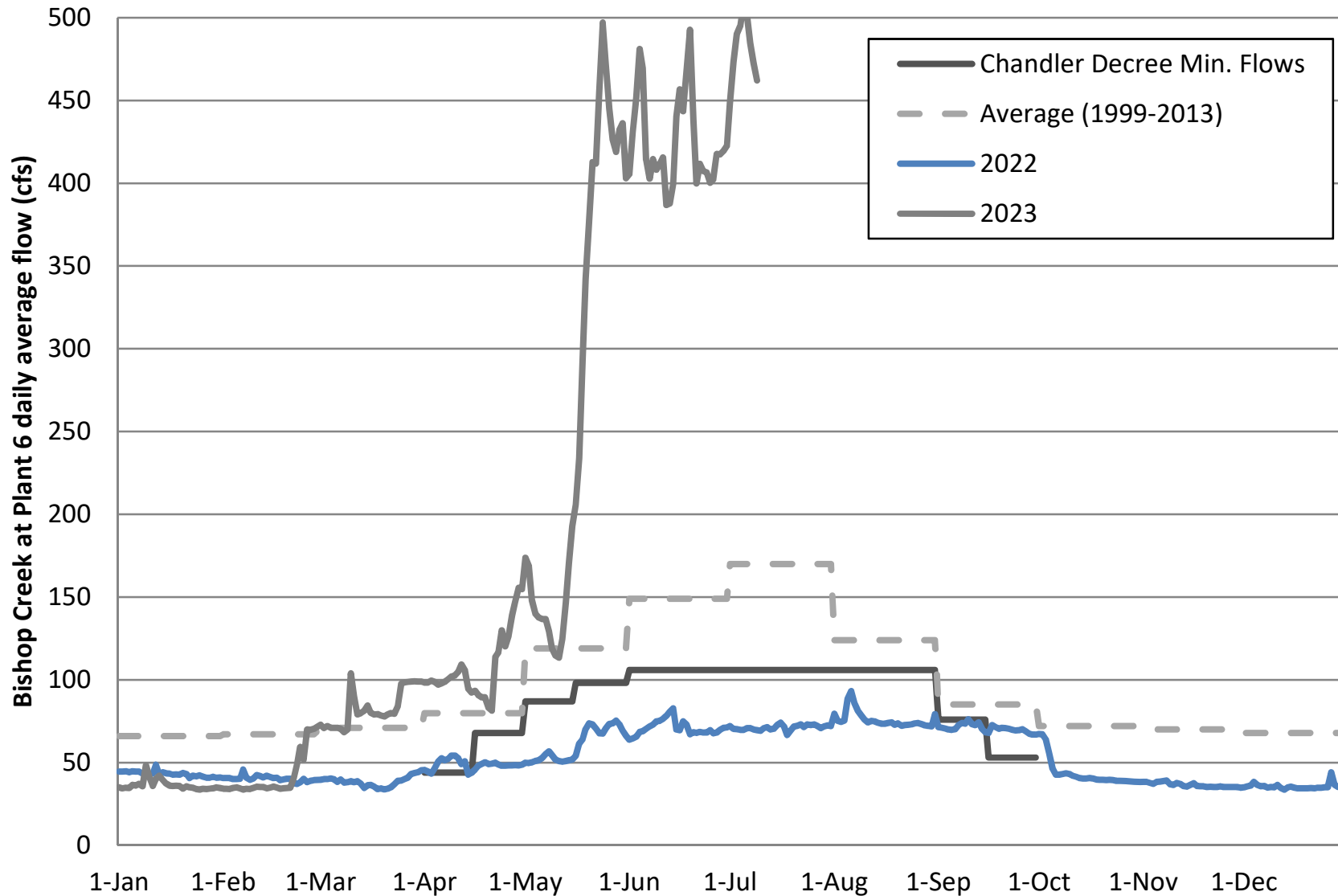
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE		\$	690.31
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE			<u>47,731.20</u>
TOTAL BANK BALANCES - April 3, 2023			48,421.51
DEPOSITS:			
Customer Deposits - Into Checking		\$	-
Customer Deposits - Into Savings			9,994.00
Workers Comp Refund			-
Interest Income			3.46
Transfer from Savings			<u>10,000.00</u>
TOTAL DEPOSITS			19,997.46
CHECKS WRITTEN			
Water Master Pay -	921.35 x 2	\$	1,842.70
Truck Allowance -	225.00 x 2		450.00
Additional Pay - Vacation Time			-
Telephone			75.90
Payroll Taxes - IRS			-
Payroll Taxes - State			-
Payroll Taxes - IRS Unemployment			-
USPS - Stamps			-
Alex Printing			191.94
Cal Rural Water Insurance			-
State Fund Insurance			-
Holland & Allred - Quarterly Accounting			575.91
High Country Lumber			-
Guadalupe Lara - Ditch Cleaning			-
Transfer to Savings			-
TOTAL CHECKS WRITTEN			<u>(3,136.45)</u>
UNION CHECKING ACCOUNT		\$	7,553.86
UNION BANK SAVINGS			<u>47,728.66</u>
TOTAL BANK BALANCES - May 31, 2023		\$	55,282.52

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH

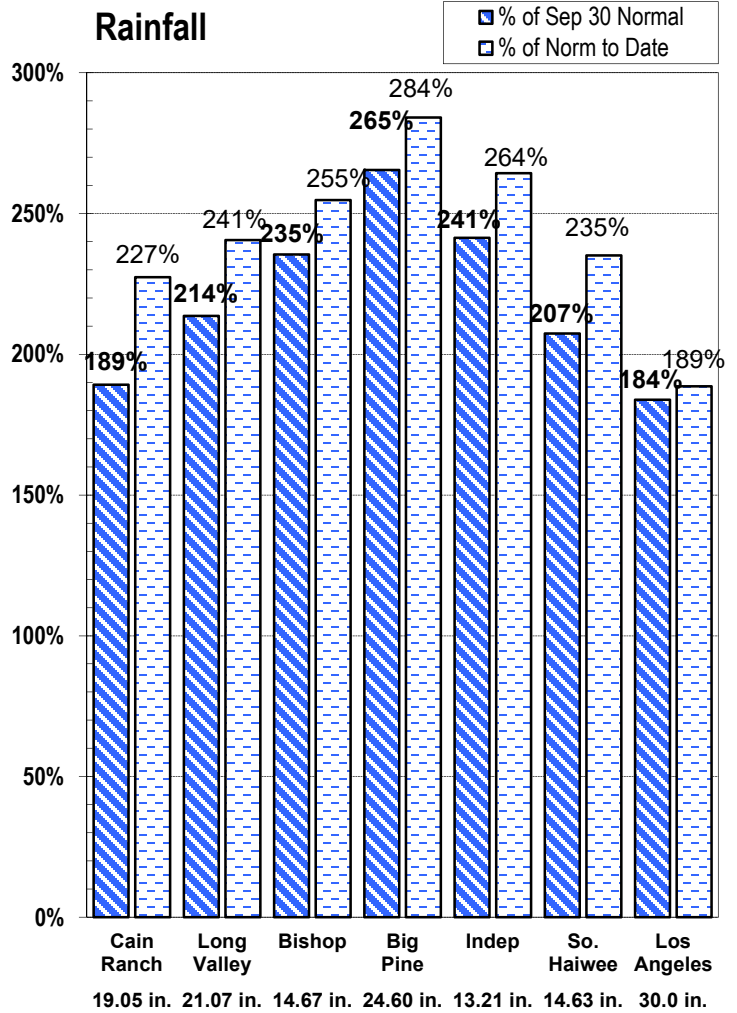
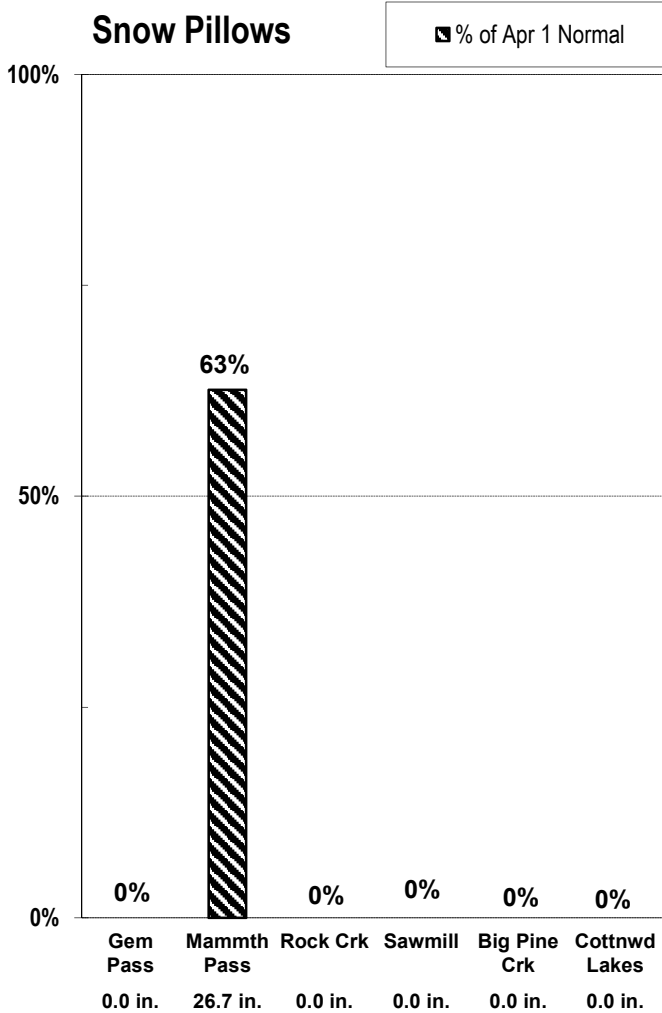
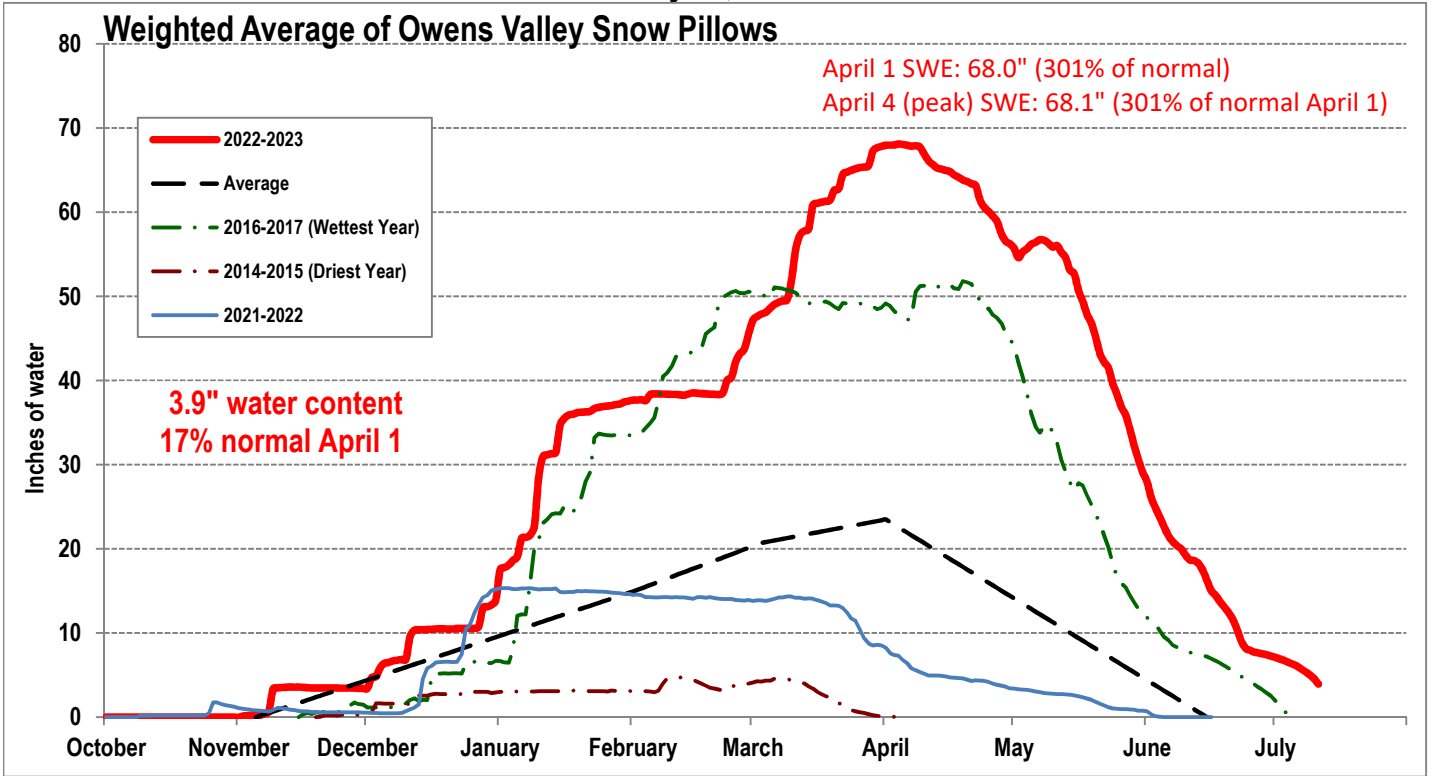
JUNE 2023

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE		\$	7,553.86
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE			<u>47,728.66</u>
TOTAL BANK BALANCES - May 31, 2023			55,282.52
DEPOSITS:			
Customer Deposits - Into Checking	\$	-	
Customer Deposits - Into Savings		20,715.40	
Workers Comp Refund		-	
Interest Income		1.75	
Transfer from Savings		-	
		<u>-</u>	
TOTAL DEPOSITS			20,717.15
CHECKS WRITTEN:			
Water Master Pay - 921.35 x 2	\$	1,842.70	
Truck Allowance - 225.00 x 2		450.00	
Additional Pay - Vacation Time		-	
Telephone		74.80	
Payroll Taxes - IRS		-	
Payroll Taxes - State		-	
Payroll Taxes - IRS Unemployment		-	
USPS - Stamps		-	
Alex Printing		-	
Cal Rural Water Insurance		-	
State Fund Insurance		-	
Holland & Allred - Quarterly Accounting		-	
High Country Lumber		-	
Guadalupe Lara - Ditch Cleaning		-	
Transfer to Savings		-	
		<u>-</u>	
TOTAL CHECKS WRITTEN			<u>(2,367.50)</u>
UNION CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$	5,186.36	
UNION BANK SAVINGS			<u>68,445.81</u>
TOTAL BANK BALANCES - June 30, 2023	\$		73,632.17

Bishop Creek Flows at Plant 6



EASTERN SIERRA CURRENT PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS July 11, 2023



Measurement as Inches Water Content; Precipitation totals are cumulative for water year beginning Oct 1

Bishop Creek Water Association Monthly Meeting

Date 7/11/23

Attendance Sheet

Name	Address	Email
Merry Armstrong		
Don Kunze		
Mark Frumkin		
Eric Tillemans		
Gene Coufal		
Matt Durkee		
Susan Kunze		
Scott Marceline		

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

JULY 2023

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE		\$	5,186.36
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE			<u>68,445.81</u>

TOTAL BANK BALANCES - June 30, 2023			73,632.17
-------------------------------------	--	--	-----------

DEPOSITS:

Customer Deposits - Into Checking	\$	18,777.90
Customer Deposits - Into Savings		1,700.00
Workers Comp Refund		-
Interest Income		25.81
Transfer from Savings		<u>-</u>

TOTAL DEPOSITS		20,503.71
----------------	--	-----------

CHECKS WRITTEN:

Water Master Pay -	921.35 x 2	\$	1,842.70
Truck Allowance -	225.00 x 2		450.00
Additional Pay - Vacation Time			-
Telephone			74.81
Payroll Taxes - IRS			921.06
Payroll Taxes - State			71.95
Payroll Taxes - IRS Unemployment			-
USPS - Stamps			194.00
Alex Printing			-
Cal Rural Water Insurance			-
State Fund Insurance			352.66
Holland & Allred - Quarterly Accounting			-
High Country Lumber			-
Guadalupe Lara - Ditch Cleaning			-
Transfer to Savings			<u>-</u>

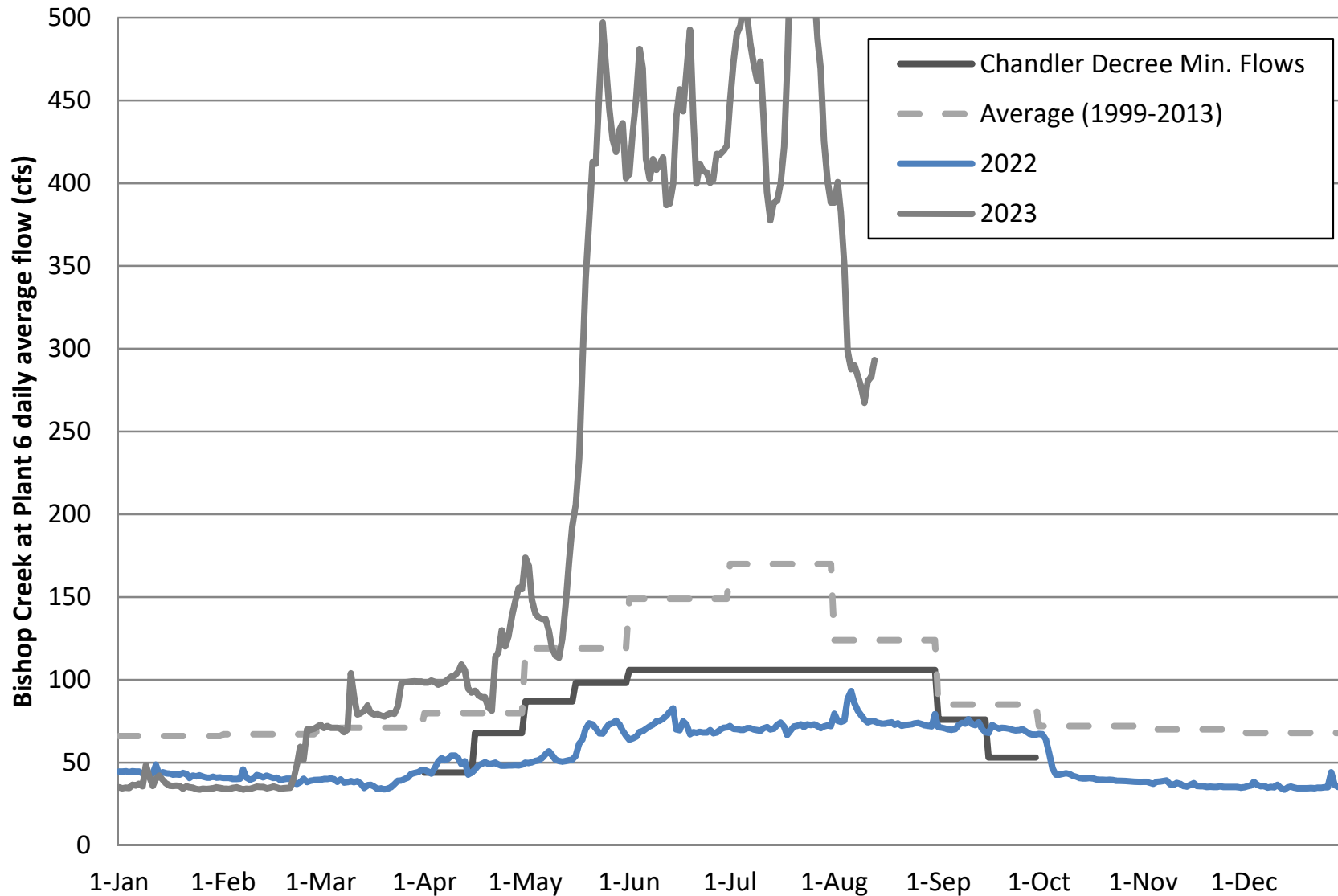
TOTAL CHECKS WRITTEN			<u>(3,907.18)</u>
----------------------	--	--	-------------------

UNION CHECKING ACCOUNT		\$	20,503.71
------------------------	--	----	-----------

UNION BANK SAVINGS			<u>70,171.62</u>
--------------------	--	--	------------------

TOTAL BANK BALANCES - July 31, 2023		\$	90,228.70
-------------------------------------	--	----	-----------

Bishop Creek Flows at Plant 6



BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 1273
Bishop, California 93515

DRAFT

January 11, 2022

Name

___ Road

Bishop CA 93514

SUBJECT: Street Culvert Responsibility

Dear Bishop Creek Water Association Member,

Beginning about two years ago the Inyo County Road Department (ICRD) took the position that they can no longer assist the Bishop Creek Water Association (BCWA) in unplugging and replacing deteriorated street culverts. Previously these problems were dealt with cooperatively. This new position has left the Water Association in a quandary. The BCWA does not own assets in the water distribution system, other than structures for water control purposes. Control structures are deemed and considered the property of the association. The BCWA By-Laws Article X, Section 3 provides:

“All boxes, headgates or diversion works diverting water from any main ditch or channel, regardless of by whom installed, shall for all water control purposes be deemed and considered the property of the association. The association reserves the right to exclusively control and regulate water at all boxes, regardless of by whom the same may have been installed...”

In the past, recognizing the need to provide water to upstream and downstream water using members, the BCWA worked cooperatively with the ICRD to unplug and replace culverts. Despite numerous attempts by the BCWA Board of Trustees, Inyo County has not been willing to change from this newly taken position. This has been discussed at the highest levels of Inyo County government.

At this time, since the ICRD will no longer cooperatively participate, it is going to fall on the BCWA and its members to resolve issues with culverts in order to keep water flowing in ditches as required by the court ordered Chandler Decree. The details have yet to be worked out, but it appears that for now, the BCWA will have to be entirely responsible for replacement of culverts conveying Bishop Creek water. With regards to plugged street culverts, regardless of Inyo County's position on assisting with plugged street culverts, the BCWA By-Laws make it clear that the responsibility for keeping

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1897

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 1273
Bishop, California 93515

ditches clean and clear of debris is the responsibility of the property owner. With the above exception, property owners are responsible for all effects, operations, and maintenance of the ditches on their property. The result of this is the keeping of debris from entering and plugging downstream street culverts. Below are some of the pertinent sections from the BCWA By-Laws that apply in this situation. Article IX, Sections 4 and 5 provides:

“Each member shall keep his ditches free and clear of debris (sand, silt, rocks, grass, weeds, and trash) so that water, including waste water, may move for the beneficial use of members below. “

“In the event the equitable distribution of water is impeded or interfered with causing flooding, wastage or other detriment to the flow of water to occur by reason of the refusal, inability or neglect of any member or members to remedy the same, the association may, after due notice, have the remedial work performed and the responsible member or members shall be billed therefor, at the cost of the work.”

ARTICLE XII, Section 2, items 3-6 provide:

“As a homeowner and member of the BCWA you are responsible for the impact of your own action or lack of action in managing water flowing on your property.”

“As a member of the BCWA you are responsible to maintain the ditches and pipes on your property. This maintenance includes the removal of weeds, leaves, and trash ...”

“If you do not properly maintain the ditches and pipes on your property, the BCWA may arrange to have the work done at your expense...”

“Be aware that many factors, including runoff, freezing, irrigation patterns, and fall leaves, can significantly affect the amount of water flowing to your property. You should expect the flow in your ditches to vary, and your ditches and pipes should be sized, designed, and maintained to carry the maximum possible flows without flooding.”

It appears that the greatest problem with plugged street culverts occurs during the fall and winter when leaves and ice get into the system, entering the street culverts. In order to keep culverts clear of debris the most effective method is a grate at the street culvert inlet. Of course, this will create additional work, but it should alleviate a lot of

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1897

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 1273
Bishop, California 93515

headaches, work, and cost due to plugged street culverts. But for the purpose of keeping debris from plugging street culverts it is imperative that members upstream of street culverts install and maintain clear grates on inlets to street culverts. The BCWA cannot be held responsible for the installing, operation, and maintenance of grates on private property and as such the impact to street culverts. As is the case with any ditch, the BCWA must rely on each property owners to maintain a clear unencumbered channel at property boundaries and to not effect property owners immediately upstream and downstream. Street culverts are not any different.

As provide in the BCWA By-Laws, if a street culvert becomes plugged, it is the responsibility of the upstream property owner if it is plugged with leave/debris and there is no mechanism in place to catch the debris. As provided in Article IX, Section 5 (see above) in order to ensure an equitable distribution of water to all members, if the BCWA has to get involved in clearing a downstream culvert, the upstream property owner would be assessed the cost of the culvert clearing.

If you have an issue with water in your ditch, please contact the BCWA Watermaster at (760) 920-7981. You may also contact any one of the Board members for any issue related to the Water Association. Or you may bring your questions to the BCWA Board of Trustees at the monthly meeting. The BCWA Board of Trustees meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm to discuss water association business. Currently meetings are being conducted via zoom due to COVID issues – information for participating is on the BCWA website, BishopCreekWater.org.

A copy of the BCWA Articles and By-Laws is attached. Also, a copy can be found on the BCWA website. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at (760) 873-6209.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees
Gene Coufal - President
Merry Armstrong
Don Kunze
Mark Frumkin
Eric Tillemans

enclosure
Cc: BCWA Board Members
BCWA Watermaster

BISHOP CREEK WATER ASSOCIATION
Founded in 1897

Reinackle Ditch Issues (See map)

There are currently 6 outlets/diversions from the Reinackle ditch, 4 directly into Lozito Pond, 1 overflow into Lozito pond, and 1 into Lozito garden area. All outflow from Lozito pond returns into Matlick ditch.

1. Grah ditch into Lozito pond – return Matlick
2. Locking Dam installed by DWP – return Matlick
3. Six inch pipe in base of DWP concrete structure into Lozito pond – return Matlick
4. Six inch pipe in base of DWP concrete structure into Lozito pond – return Matlick
5. Overflow into Lozito pond – return Matlick
6. Access into Lozito garden – not at issue

Part of Mason ditch is diverted into Reinackle above Lozito driveway culvert and DWP structure through 6-8 inch pipe.

During periods of low flows, most or all of the Mason ditch is diverted into Lozito pond because the driveway culvert is lower than the Reinackle ditch in that area (water flows backwards through the culvert under driveway) then into Lozito pond – return Matlick.

The DWP diversion structure #2 must be set high enough to enable the Mason and Reinackle waters to flow down Reinackle ditch.

If water backs up too much it overflows into #5 overflow pipe and into Lozito pond – return Matlick

Lozito pond has multiple inlets from the Reinackle and all return to the Matlick.

Possible suggestions

1. Lozito diversion structure #2 needs to be locked and level raised so very little water is going into Lozito pond.
2. Grah diversion #1 structure needs to be locked and raised so very little water is going into Lozito pond.
3. Pipes #3 and #4 need to be locked and/or very little water allowed to pass. This supplies Lozito water features in his north yard, then into Lozito pond - return Matlick
4. The small Mason ditch diversion pipe needs to be eliminated, and all Mason ditch water restored to original Reinackle ditch east of driveway. Because the elevation of the culvert under the driveway is lower than the grade of the Reinackle ditch, water will flow backwards from the Mason ditch into Lozito pond if diversion #2 is not high enough.
5. Watermaster should check regularly diversions #1, #2, #3 and #4 as these structures have been historically tampered with. Water flowing through #1 and #2 need measurement indicators to determine allowable water flow.

MT. TOM ROAD

MASONRY DITCH

REINACHER

REINACHER

⑥

④

③

②

⑤

①

ACRES
THIS END OF POWER OF
CULVERT THE GRADE OF
THAN REINACHER
THE

TWO 6" PIPES
PIPES LINED
INSTALLED
REINACHER
ALSO FOUND
TO

LOCKING
DRIVE/DRIVERS
INSTALLED BY
MVA

LOZITO
HOUSE

LOZITO/CRAN
POND

CRAN
HOUSE

CRAN
DITCH

N

TO
MADICK

