

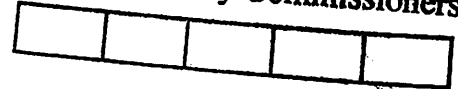
Chris Taggart

From: Chris A. Hoffman
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 12:23 PM
To: Chris Taggart
Subject: FW: BRID Requests from Anna Lane Residents
Attachments: BRID Requests.docx

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Ravalli County Commissioners



Chris,

Please place this and the attachment in public correspondence.

Thanks!

Chris
cahoffman@rc.mt.gov
406-531-2652

From: Michael Kapus <MJKapus@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 11:06 AM
To: Chris A. Hoffman <CAHoffman@rc.mt.gov>
Subject: BRID Requests from Anna Lane Residents

Chris,

As mentioned earlier, John Schmiedeke asked me directly what I (we) would like from BRID. I wrote down three requests and brought them to the BRID board meeting on Tuesday, Sept 10. We believe these are reasonable requests however we also expect BRID to resist taking responsibility. We are currently the ones with this issue but I would imagine there are numerous households in the valley that are at risk of experiencing the same thing.

I wanted to pass this along to you as well for your records.

Thanks again for your time.

-Mike Kapus

P.S. Ron, Ray, Mark, and I all had our water tested by Crisp Water Technologies and it came back as safe to drink.

1. Better monitor the outlets of all BRID ditches.

BRID must take responsibility for the water they are channeling throughout the Bitterroot valley. It is not acceptable to pump water into an irrigation ditch that is uphill from approved residential housing without knowing if there is an excess.

BRID has three ditch riders that monitor the flow at specific head gates. It is not currently known if users downstream are receiving too little or too much water unless someone calls to complain. BRID should monitor the outlets of each of ditch to ensure the last user is in line is getting the water they're entitled to without excessive amounts of wastewater. Monitoring the flows at each outlet will also allow BRID to conserve water when supply is up and/or usage is down.

2. Provide a safe path back to the Bitterroot River for any and all excess BRID water.

BRID must take responsibility for the excess water coming out of the end of their supply ditches. Their customers can not be required to retain water when not in use or when provided with too much. It is not acceptable to channel such a destructive force uphill of approved residential housing without providing a safe outlet for abnormal amounts of flow.

BRID should develop a plan of action to mitigate damages to private property associated with excess wastewater. The plan should include outlet ditches that return excess wastewater safely to the Bitterroot River and/or approved retention ponds.

In this case, it is possible to direct excess wastewater from the middle ditch towards El Capitan Loop. It is possible direct water from the south ditch towards the ditch along Dry Gulch Road. BRID should work with private landowners and county representatives to identify the safest means of preventing this from happening again. Private parties have already expressed interest in performing the work for free as a good gesture towards their neighbors.

3. Cover damages due to excess flow of BRID water.

Insurance does not cover any damaged caused by water that originates from outside of a failed household system. Mold is never covered regardless of the source. BRID should cover the costs incurred as a direct result of the excess water flowing out of their ditch system.

This incident has caused a financial burden to multiple residents of Ravalli County. These residents are currently testing for health issues associated with mold, contaminated water, and failed septic systems. It is not known at this time what the full extent of damages will be. On the lower end, costs will include failed insulation, damaged household water systems, sump pumps, and fans. On the higher end, costs will include the previously mentioned as well as failed septic systems, contaminated wells, mold remediation, and temporary housing.

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