



EL DORADO AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT CORP

PROTECTING OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE

August 2020

P. O. Box 286
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 622-7850
Email: dkobervig@gmail.com
Website: www.eldoradoaqwater.org

Watershed Connection

A publication for members of the El Dorado Subwatershed Coalition

A member of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

Presidents Message

By Dedrian Kobervig

Officers:

Dedrian Kobervig
President
Crystal Creek Farm
530-622-7850

Norm Krizl
Vice President
Krizl Vineyard

Mrev de Haas
Secretary
Irrigated Pasture

Bob Witters
Treasurer
*Crystal Springs
Vineyard*

Directors:

Kirk Taylor
Smokey Ridge Ranch

Carolyn Mansfield
Goldbud Farms

Sid Davis
Vinehill

Jana Rapetti
Rapetti Farms

Cody Curtis
Flying V Farm

Just a few months ago, when we rang in the new year and a new decade, we never imagined where we would be today. Life can throw the unexpected at us, but as farmers we are used to the unexpected. Ever-changing weather, economy, pests, threats to our health and government regulations are realities of the world in which we live.

Thank you to all of you who paid your dues and returned your Farm Evaluations on time. We still have about 30 growers who have not returned their Evaluations. We will need to receive these for continued membership in the coalition. They can be found at our website Eldoradoaqwater.org. So, if you have not returned yours, please do so as soon as possible. We only have to do this once every five years.

We currently have 241 members with 354 Parcels totaling 3131 acres. We had four growers not respond to our requests to renew their membership. These farms will be receiving a letter from the Regional Board asking to explain their reason for not rejoining. If they are required to rejoin, they will be paying a reinstatement fee for the coalition's time, paperwork and money spent trying to contact them.

Earlier this year we had two workshops scheduled to go over the Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheets (INMPW) and the Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan Summary (INMPS), but concerns with COVID-19 forced us to cancel the workshops. In response, the board decided to move to smaller, more frequent workshops. To prepare, five of the board members met with Pat Demskey from the Sacramento/Amador Water Quality Alliance to go through the forms and ask every question they could think of. Pat's experience filling out the forms was very helpful in understanding what growers need. The rescheduled workshops for our grower members are being scheduled and a Zoom meeting will also be available. The in-person workshops will require a reservation since space will be limited. Masks will also be required along with social distancing. **See newsletter for dates and location of currently scheduled workshops.**

The Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheet stays on your ranch. The Irrigation Nitrogen Management Summary or Summaries (if you have more than one crop) will need to be turned in at the beginning of 2021.

In other news, I am planning on stepping down as president at the end of this year. Carolyn Mansfield has written a letter to the members asking if anyone would be interested in taking over the secretarial duties of the president. I've decided to step down because the duties of president have become too time consuming for me as a volunteer and I feel I am not properly representing the coalition. There is so much more we can do to stay on the radar of the regional board and to continue to reinforce why we should not be encumbered with the regulations they are proposing.

Ag. Water Quality Member Update

President's message (cont.)

I believe someone with more time or in a paid position would be able to accomplish so much more,

The board is exploring two possibilities to help with the president's duties. First, turning over the secretarial duties to the Resource Conservation District (RCD) headed by Mark Egbert. The RCD did manage the program during its infancy and Mark is willing to have his team help with secretarial duties, training and attending monthly meetings. Second, hiring a part time employee. As we explore the possibility, we will keep you informed.

Sadly, Sally Ceccarelli-Wolf has also informed us she will be resigning in October. Sally will be moving to Colorado to be with her daughter and new grandchild. Sally has been an invaluable resource for the organization and will be greatly missed. We are considering two options to cover Sally's responsibilities- either hiring someone to take over her data entry responsibilities keeping our members farm records and billing, or including these responsibilities in the newly created position outlined in Carolyn's letter.

If you have any questions please feel free to call. The coalition's number is 530-622-7850. Leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Dee

Treasurer's Report

By Bob Witters

Treasurer's Report Ending June 30, 2020

Income:

Membership Dues	\$28,413.00
Checkbook balance	\$14,019.00
Savings balance	\$72,077.00
Total:	\$86,096.00

Expenses:

Expenses:	\$25,576.00
Net Income:	\$2,837.00

Irrigated Land Regulatory Requirements

Growers are responsible for the following as of 2020

Attending one outreach event (yearly)

Can be a meeting, newsletter, training, annual meeting, etc.)

Farm Evaluation Survey (5 yrs.)

Collected this year and kept in your file at the office

Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plans

Yearly (kept on farm)

Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report

Yearly (submitted to the coalition) Due beginning of 2021

Continuing to be good Stewards of the land

Employing "Best Management Practices"

Ag. Water Quality Member Update

Position Available

Dear Members,

We are looking for someone who would like to work part time from his/her home. We are the only one of the 12 sub coalitions in the Sac Valley Regional Watershed coalition that does not have either the county Farm Bureau or their RCD (Resource Conservation District) running their water program, and this has become very difficult as the requirements have become more onerous. A great burden has fallen on the volunteer board, and the president has taken on this burden. We are creating a paid position to assist in many of the tasks; please note that no benefits are offered. Our membership dues will go to cover this position.

The duties would include, but are not limited to, returning calls on the coalition phone (board members can help with answers when needed), reading and responding to Regional Board emails, getting mail from the post office, preparing agendas and other materials for Board meetings, helping with all aspects of the annual meeting, preparing and mailing the annual billing, calling and falling up on delinquent memberships, assembling the newsletters, attending coalition meetings and reporting back to the board (mileage will be paid.) It would help if the applicant was comfortable with spreadsheets and power point, but this is not required.

We hope to hire a member because we would like someone with a vested interest in the group's well-being, so we are asking any of you who have time to consider this. The exact number of hours this job will entail is difficult to gauge because though the president has been doing everything, the next president will still perform some tasks that will rightly stay with that office while the new employee will relieve him/her of some tasks. We expect an average of about 10 hours per week. The president and other board members can assist in bringing the employee up to speed on what to expect at the meetings, what kind of information is needed by the board, etc. We are excited to present this opportunity to the membership and hope some of you may find this an interesting job. Email dko-bervig@gmail.com for more information.

What is Crop Evapotranspiration?

One of the educational purposes of the state's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program is to help farmers decide when to irrigate and how much water to apply. Too much water is a waste of money and could cause the leaching of nitrates below the root zone and the potentially contamination of an aquifer or surface runoff.

Deciding When to Irrigate and How Much to Apply?

Scheduling aids include measurements of plant water status, soil water status or content and using weather to estimate crop water use. Know your crops, soil type and weather factors.



On page two of your Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Worksheet you are asked for your crops Evapotranspiration (ET, inches). This information is solely educational and not reported on your final Summary Report. It is a tool to help decide when and how much to irrigate.

Evapotranspiration is the combination of water loss from your field crop that includes evaporation from the soil and water loss from your crop type through the stomata called transpiration. The age, type of plant and weather conditions determine a crops Evapotranspiration (ETc)

CalPoly has a website ITRC.org that gives you Evapotranspiration for common crops. Go to Evapotranspiration Data, choose water balance, type of irrigation, typical year and zone #13. You can download a table that gives you an estimate of Evapotranspiration per month during the growing season. Adding up each month gives you an estimate of the water loose from your field for the growing season.



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Currently Scheduled Workshops for Irrigation Nitrogen Management Planning Worksheet

and Summary Report

Earlier this year we had two workshops scheduled to go over the Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheets (INMPW) and the Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan Summary (INMPS). Because of Covid-19 we were forced to cancel those workshops. The board decided, because of the current situation, to have smaller workshops and more of them. In-person training sessions will require a reservation since space will be limited to 20 people. Masks will be required along with social distancing.

Cody Curtis from Flying V Farm: 1901 Carson Road: Specialty, organic and row crops will be the focus
Tuesday August 18 4-5:30P.M.
Tuesday August 25 4-5:30 P.M.

Dedrian Kobervig from Crystal Creek Tree Farm: Fair Ground's Corker Building All commodities
Wednesday September 23 9-10:30 A.M.

Thursday October 15 Time and location to be announced

Zoom Meeting to be announced

Please call 530-622-7850 or email dkobervig@gmail.com to reserve a spot.