ACEQUIA DE LOS ORTEGAS

aka

Ortega Community Ditch

March 2021

\* The Ortega Ditch Annual Meeting was cancelled last year due to COVID-19 and Public Health Orders regarding COVID-19 and is cancelled again for 2021. Following is a summary of activities for the last year and forecasts for 2021.

\* This is an election year, but due to the virus the Ortega Commissioners are willing to continue to serve and would like to postpone the election to the next time it is due. If anyone disagrees with this let us know and we will see how we can address it.

\* Susan Meredith resigned as Treasurer in February of 2020, therefore we have an opening for that position. We are immediately seeking nominations for that position. Many thanks to Susan for her work as Treasurer for the Acequia de los Ortegas. **If anyone is interested in the position, please notify Ross Garcia or Lee Goodwin, Ortega Ditch Commissioners.** In the interim, we have secured the help of Martha Sandoval, CPA, however she is located in Albuquerque and our bylaws require the Treasurer position to be held by a member/parciante. Ms. Sandoval is willing to train and assist anyone interested in serving in the Treasurer position/commissioner.

\* Financial summary for the Ortega Ditch: Starting the 2021 with a higher balance than 2020.

 - Bank Balance on 12/31/2019: $ 6,329.77

 - Bank Balance on 12/31/2020: $ 10,632.33

Acequia de los Ortegas

Income Statement as of 12/31/2020

 Income

 41200 - Annual Assessment Fee $10,307.58

 41250 - Late Fee 190.00

 41300 - Annual Cleaning Fee 1,930.49

 41350 - Minor A/R Adjustments -31.80

 Total Income $12,396.20

 Expenses

 60000 - Bad Debt Expense $756.36

 60200 - Customer Refunds 10.00

 63250 - Ditch Cleaning Service 700.00

 64950 - Office Expenses 188.80

 64960 - PO Box 76.00

 66800 - Mayordomo 5,665.00

 67200 - Repairs and Maintenance 0.00

 68100 - Telephone Expense 587.25

 69000 - Reconciliation Discrepancies -1.00

 Total Expenses $7,982.41

 Net Income $4,413.36

\* Irrigation water forecast for 2021: As of Feb 21, the New Mexico drought map shows our area in the most severe designation“D-4 - Exceptional Drought”

 *(D-0 Abnormally Dry; D1 Moderate Drought; D-2 Severe Drought; D-3 Extreme Drought; D-4 Exceptional Drought.)*

source: https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx

- Acequia de los Ortegas is fortunate to get water from the Santa Cruz Dam and with the current snow pack our specific drought situation should be better than forecast for our general area.

- Snow pack above Santa Cruz Dam is estimated at 80% of normal

- Water for season: Good amount of water forecast into May - No guarantees!

(this depends on the rate the snow pack declines due to weather)

After May water released from the dam may be limited to certain days a week.

**-It is recommended that gardeners consider crops that mature early in the season to reduce drought risk later in the season.**

\* Note the invoice due date of **4/29/2021**. After that date the Mayordomo will ask that payment be made before you can get water. An overdue list will be provided to the Mayordomo on a monthly basis.

\* Mayordomo Report:

- Ditch Cleaning: Began Mar 1; repairs needed on main ditch; expect to run some water by about Mar 15th.

- Issues during the watering season:

 -- If you see weeds backing up try to remove them or call the mayordomo -- the blockage can impact everyone. Do not throw trash or yard waste into the ditch -- it harms everyone.

 -- Remember acequia culture is about sharing the water and we may be short of water at the end of the season similar to last year. Don’t waste it. Work with your neighbors and the mayordomo.

\* **Santa Cruz Irrigation District/Rio Quemado/Water Rights Adjudication**

Last year information was provided regarding the initiation of a Board or Association to be included in adjudication discussions. The bylaws state that the sole purpose of the association is to "protect and defend the water rights of the acequias and their individual members in the Rio Quemado, Rio Frijoles, Rio en Medio and Santa Cruz Stream Systems, in the water rights suit known as the Santa Cruz River and Rio Truchas adjudication suit". Parties have now agreed to work through arbitrators and Santa Clara Pueblo has been included in discussions along with Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo . Prior to this year, Santa Clara was to follow Ohkay Owingeh. This is all that is known at this time.

Ross Garcia, Chairman Lee Goodwin, Secretary Martha Sandoval, Acting Treas.

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