

# MAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

West Extension Irrigation District

5/16/24 9:00 AM

Columbia Improvement District Office

501 E. Columbia Avenue, Boardman Oregon

## —AGENDA TOPICS—

1. Call Meeting To Order / Roll Call / Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Floor or Special Business  
Welcome Deputy Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation,  
Candace McKinley (invited)
4. Monthly Business  
Minutes—April meeting  
A/P List - April  
Financials—Year-End December 30, 2023 (review Reserve funds)  
March 31, 2024
5. Reports and Correspondence  
Administrative Report  
SCADA update  
Managers Report  
Operations report & questions  
Equipment report from Abe  
Conjunctive use review  
Crew / supervisory update
6. District Business  
Response to Umatilla Emergency Management (Bridges)  
City of Irrigon facility request Review
7. Executive Session  
An executive session may be called in accordance with ORS 192.660.
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

**Meeting Procedures:** Agenda items will be taken in the order listed, unless changed by the Chairman. The public is reminded not to interrupt the Board members during their discussion. If you have specific questions that are not on the agenda or addressed during the meeting, please ask a Director or staff prior to or after the meeting.

**Public Comment:** Public comments are welcome during the public comment section of the meeting. These should be relative to District policies, Board actions or items of general interest to the public. All speakers must be recognized by the Chairman prior to speaking. The Chairman reserves the right at any time to limit public comments due to time constraints and content. The public is reminded that all comments are directed to the Board.

**How To Get an Item on the Agenda:** First, be sure that your item is a matter of district policy or Board oversight. The Board sets the Policies of the District and delegates the authority of management of those policies to staff. Some of the questions you have may be management or operational questions and can be answered by staff. We encourage you to do so during regular office hours. If Staff is unable to answer your question, they will bring the issue to the Board as an agenda item. A Director may also request an agenda item. All requests go to the Board Secretary, Bev Bridgewater. Anyone having agenda items for the next meeting are asked to submit the request five business days in advance of the meeting in order to be included on the meeting agenda.

**Executive Session:** The Board may convene in an executive session. By law, an executive session is closed to all except the Board, District staff, legal counsel, members of the press, and persons reporting to it on the subject of the executive session or otherwise involved. Before convening such a session, the Chairman will make a public announcement and explain the necessary procedures.

If there are any questions about the agenda or Board procedures, please contact Bev Bridgewater, Secretary to the Board and District Manager, at 541-922-3814.

**Upcoming meetings:**

May 16, 2024 9:00 am

June 20, 2024 9:00 am

July 18, 2024 9:00 am

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 100 IRRIGON, OREGON 97844  
PHONE: (541) 922-3814 FAX: (541) 922-9775

April 18, 2024

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on April 18, 2024, at 9:05 a.m. at the Columbia Improvement District meeting room located at 501 E. Columbia Ave. in Boardman. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Von Studer, Abe McNamee and Vern Frederickson; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum. Director Bob Mueller was not able to attend.

**AGENDA:** Chairperson Philippi asked for additions to the agenda. There were no additions, but the Chairman stated there may need to be a change in the order of business. Studer moved to accept the agenda with ability for Chairman to change the order of business. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

### MONTHLY BUSINESS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Bridgewater pointed out a couple of housekeeping corrections to the minutes. Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the March Board meeting as corrected. McNamee seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** Frederickson moved to approve the bills payable list for March in the amount of \$215,876.21. McNamee seconded. Questions and discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2024 were reviewed and discussed.

### REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### **OPERATIONS:**

**START-UP:** See Manager's Report. The Board discussed the problems with the McGraw pump and the Sunrise pump and asked Bridgewater to follow through with the crew on how these circumstances could've been prevented.

**EQUIPMENT:** Both the Kenworth dump truck and excavator have broken down since the last Board meeting. Abe McNamee did an emergency repair on the dump truck to get it running. Discussion. The Board is concerned whether the equipment is being greased enough and when was the last time annual maintenance was done? The crew should be able to do basic troubleshooting and maintenance.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Lisa gave an update on the SCADA system and where the District is headed. She reviewed the current quote from Aqua Systems 2000, which was updated from action at the last board meeting. Lisa discussed what it would take to remove the Boardman sites from the radio system we are currently using and install the cell phone system so all sites are on the VTScada network. Discussion and questions happened as the Board reviewed the updated quote.

**MOTION:** Frederickson moved to increase the amount for the SCADA upgrade by \$4100, as outlined in the quote from Aqua Systems 2000. McNamee seconded. This would add the Boardman sites and all information would be managed by one entity. Motion passed unanimously.

**MANAGER'S' REPORT:** A written Manger's Report was provided to the Board and is part of the meeting minutes. The board reviewed and discussed the report.

**FIELD SUPERVISOR:** Bridgewater said that Bob Schlosser has been appointed as temporary Field Supervisor to get us through start-up. She has confirmed with SDAO that we can appoint this position from within, but if it's a permanent position, we should open it up to all employees. Discussion. Bridgewater doesn't think we are heading in the right direction, but where we were wasn't right either. Frederickson suggested that everyone needs to help each other – all on the same team. There is a vacuum in leadership; the culture is not functional and we need to make a change. It won't happen overnight. Studer mentioned accountability is a concern. The "culture shift" occurred gradually over the past year (with absences and new folks) and we need to shift it back. The crew is the solution to the problem. Frederickson suggested all crew should be included in how we can do better. Phillippi stated they all have something to offer and need to figure it out as a group. Bridgewater agreed that this is a good approach and will start stepping it back from where it is now and work on how to move forward. She likes what she is hearing from the Board.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS

**REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF IRRIGON FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DETAILS:** The Board reviewed a recent request from the City for locations, sizing capacity, types of pipe for existing and planned construction of WEID facilities and deeded easements in Irrigon. WEID does not have such detail on its facilities. They also asked for boundary information and facilities maps, which we have previously provided. We will assure their engineer has access to the maps that we have.

Discussion ensued about the GIS discussion we had last year. How can the District update its maps with information that others need? Ideas were tossed around. There are areas of the system that we don't see for 20 years. Each time we go back it's a new crew and the same maps, so we spend time looking for lines. How can we get ourselves into more current standards? McNamee recommended putting markers in when we dig up lines. More discussion and ideas.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive session at 10:25 am in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) to discuss the CTUIR water right settlement. The executive session ended at 10:40 am.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**EQUIPMENT DISCUSSION (cont):** The dump truck and excavator will be hauled to Pat McNamee's shop. Abe will look at them. He pointed out that not all issues on older equipment are big issues and we can live with them. Studer agreed that the crew needs to learn to mitigate problems as they can. Phillipi stated that the crew can't seem to figure out what is a big deal and what is a small deal. Studer stated things just aren't being kept up and we should find out why. Frederickson offered that the District has a reasonable expectation about basic maintenance and the crew is not being asked to do more than what is reasonable.

McNamee commented, "From what I saw, the red dump truck (Kenworth) could be OK to keep." Follow-up will occur at the next meeting.

**BRIDGES:** A brief discussion about bridges over the main canal and Bridgewater's plan to update ownership once the start-up settles down.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Phillipi adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Signed:

  
Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

  
Dalarie Phillipi, Chairperson

West Extension Irrigation District  
 Check Register / Accounts Payable List  
 April 2024

CHECK#	DATE	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL	WEID EXPENSE	PAYROLL EXPENSE	OTHER REIMB.
			<b>WEID GENERAL ACCOUNT:</b>				
PERS 4/12/24 IAP	4/22/24	Oregon PERS	Payroll	1,048.81		1,048.81	
PERS 3/27/24 IAP	4/8/24	Oregon PERS	Payroll	1,192.51		1,192.51	
US 4/27/24	4/30/24	US Tax Deposit	Payroll	4,483.69		4,483.69	
PERS 3/27/24 PENSION	4/8/24	Oregon PERS	Payroll	3,820.02		3,820.02	
OR 4/12/24	4/16/24	OR Tax Deposit	Payroll	1,287.18		1,287.18	
OR REV 01-2024	4/12/24	OR Dept. of Revenue	Payroll	950.45		950.45	
PERS 4/12/24 PENSION	4/22/24	Oregon PERS	Payroll	3,614.26		3,614.26	
OR 4/27/24	4/30/24	OR Tax Deposit	Payroll	1,184.90		1,184.90	
US 4/12/24	4/16/24	US Tax Deposit	Payroll	5,218.14		5,218.14	
37112	4/5/24	A-Plus Connectors	Lat. 25 Anchors	369.99	369.99		
37113	4/5/24	Banner Bank	Office,Postage,Tools,Weed	3,699.10	3,699.10		
37114	4/5/24	Builders FirstSource	Forms MC Repairs	113.18	113.18		
37115	4/5/24	BJK Truck Parts	KW Dump Truck	55.10	55.10		
37116	4/5/24	Cygnnet Enterprises	Copper Sulfate	3,115.20	3,115.20		
37117	4/5/24	Elmer's Irrigation	Stock, Screens, Lat.25	6,808.14	6,808.14		
37118	4/5/24	Express Services	Leased Labor	4,734.24		4,734.24	
37119	4/5/24	Hermiston Auto Parts	Backhoe, Equip R&M	114.77	114.77		
37120	4/5/24	Independent Transport	Leased Labor	7,994.30		7,994.30	
37121	4/5/24	City of Irrigon	Utilities	453.14	453.14		
37122	4/5/24	One Call Concepts	Locate Service	91.85	91.85		
37123	4/5/24	Jack Paul	March mowing,weed spray	318.00	318.00		
37124	4/5/24	Pro Rental & Sales	Excavator 1 month	6,891.25	6,891.25		
37125	4/5/24	Special Districts Insurance Serv.	Health Insurance	5,079.16		5,079.16	
37126	4/5/24	Smitty's Ace Hardware	Shop,Safety,MC,Herb,Lat.25	1,448.53	1,448.53		
37127	4/15/24	Lisa Baum	Payroll	2,000.00		2,000.00	
37128	4/15/24	Bev Bridgewater	Payroll	2,379.61		2,379.61	
37129	4/15/24	Ben De Los Santos	Payroll	2,029.34		2,029.34	
37130	4/15/24	Seth Rhodes	Payroll	2,543.75		2,543.75	
37131	4/15/24	Liz Richardson	Payroll	357.31		357.31	
37132	4/15/24	Bob Schlosser	Payroll	2,349.24		2,349.24	
37133	4/15/24	Alan Svatonsky	Payroll	1,741.76		1,741.76	
37134	4/15/24	Bev Bridgewater	Reimb. Health	679.79		679.79	
37135	4/15/24	Seth Rhodes	Reimb. Health	826.51		826.51	
37136	4/15/24	Bob Schlosser	Reimb. Health	751.64		751.64	
37137	4/15/24	Action Pest Control	Spray Canal Road	9,800.00	9,800.00		
37138	4/15/24	American Rock Products	Concrete MC Repairs	10,107.29	10,107.29		
37139	4/15/24	Devin Oil Company	Fuel, Grease	2,171.24	2,171.24		
37140	4/15/24	Express Services	Leased Labor	4,684.08		4,684.08	
37141	4/15/24	HealthOptions	Drug Test	57.00	57.00		
37142	4/15/24	Independent Transport	Leased Labor	7,994.30		7,994.30	
37143	4/15/24	Jimmy's Johns Portable Toilets	Port-a-Potty Boardman	85.00	85.00		



West Extension Irrigation District  
Check Register / Accounts Payable List  
April 2024

CHECK#	DATE	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL	WEID EXPENSE	PAYROLL EXPENSE	OTHER REIMB.
37144	4/15/24	Kerns Brothers	OR P.S. (2023 Budget)	5,016.00	5,016.00		
37145	4/15/24	Kuhn Law Offices	New Dreams	125.00	125.00		
37146	4/15/24	Morrow Co. Grain Growers	Propane	160.31	160.31		
37147	4/15/24	Oxarc	Shop, Safety	410.78	410.78		
37148	4/15/24	RiverTech Irrigation	Lat. 25 Pump	18,872.65	18,872.65		
37149	4/15/24	Ross Machine	MC Repairs, Lat.25	1,155.30	1,155.30		
37150	4/15/24	Umatilla Electric Coop	Power	1,073.79	279.84		793.95
37151	4/15/24	Western States Equipment	Backhoe	477.55	477.55		
37152	4/15/24	Wilbur-Ellis	Ecomazapyr	395.25	395.25		
37153	4/24/24	Bailey Heavy Equipment Repair	Excavator repair	1,496.17	1,496.17		
37154	4/24/24	CenturyLink	Telephone	258.91	258.91		
37155	4/24/24	Devin Oil Company	Fuel	1,568.42	1,568.42		
37156	4/24/24	Express Services	Leased Labor	3,057.02		3,057.02	
37157	4/24/24	Joshua Fernandez	Mailbox replacement	94.00	94.00		
37158	4/24/24	Independent Transport	Leased Labor	476.76		476.76	
37159	4/24/24	Staples Business Advantage	Office Supplies	113.83	113.83		
37160	4/24/24	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phones	518.25	518.25		
37161	4/29/24	Cascade Natural Gas	Utilities	62.20	62.20		
37162	4/29/24	Express Services	Leased Labor	2,939.11		2,939.11	
37163	4/29/24	Irrigon Mini-Storage	Storage Unit	52.00	52.00		
37164	4/29/24	K.I.E. Supply	OR P.S., Drains, Stock	364.93	364.93		
37165	4/29/24	Rock Enterprises	Temp Antenna, labor	5,636.00	5,636.00		
37166	4/30/24	City of Irrigon	Utilities	565.36	565.36		
37167	4/30/24	Jack Paul	April mowing, weed spray	222.00	222.00		
37168	4/30/24	Wesley Wise Excavating	Kerslake, MC ROW, Huke PS	4,449.50	3,199.50		1,250.00
37169	4/30/24	Lisa Baum	Payroll	2,000.00		2,000.00	
37170	4/30/24	Bev Bridgewater	Payroll	2,379.62		2,379.62	
37171	4/30/24	Ben De Los Santos	Payroll	2,049.54		2,049.54	
37172	4/30/24	Seth Rhodes	Payroll	2,170.93		2,170.93	
37173	4/30/24	Liz Richardson	Payroll	720.97		720.97	
37174	4/30/24	Bob Schlosser	Payroll	2,216.80		2,216.80	
37175	4/30/24	Alan Svatonsky	Payroll	1,635.93		1,635.93	
		<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>177,378.65</b>	<b>86,743.03</b>	<b>88,591.67</b>	<b>2,043.95</b>





## MANAGER'S REPORT - MAY 2024

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects that we have been working on since the last board meeting.

**NEW DREAMS SUBDIVISION:** Joe Kumar and engineer, Ron McKinnis, met with me on Friday, May 3.. We reached an agreement that he could do the work replacing the line that would serve the two lots that currently don't have delivery as long as we approve the plans drawn up by McKinnis and oversee his contractor. Kumar will pay \$2000 of the \$15,000 billed to him to cover our lost costs (landowner annual fees plus legal), plus the repair work. They still want to lower the RL2 pipe. I told them we need to see the final plans and it needs to be done by July 1 for this season. They need BOR approval yet. I was to hear back from him by last Friday with the plans.. No follow up as on May 14. Legal action is on hold for now.

**CITY OF IRRIGON ISSUES:** Nothing has changed since the last meeting. Our attorney sent a letter to the City.

**CANAL BRIDGES:** Some action from the Umatilla Fire Chief where he seems to request our assistance in setting up meetings for landowners living south of the canal.. A bridge update follows this report.

**OPERATIONS:** It's been busy, as it usually is this time of year. Most of you realize that the large amount of rain May 4 & 5 took us off the Exchange. We lowered the water in the canal to 60 cfs and shut off the Irrigon Pressurized system. Just no use for a few days. We removed sand from the canal along Kerslake in Boardman on the 7<sup>th</sup>. We started the pumps back up on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Everyone system is running now – no outages

You may recall that the folks on the new pump station at 25 in Boardman were not ready to pressurize this year, so they are still on flood. Pierce is struggling to get water through the 12-inch pipe. We knew it was an issue. We are planning to put the eco blocks (the McNamee method) in the canal to see how it can help them. She will need to run several days at a time.

I'm not sure if some of the board members have questions about their area. If you do, please bring them up at this meeting. It's a good time for discussion. Lisa and I spend a lot of time monthly answering questions from landowners about what is their responsibility and what is ours. I look to the federal rights, how the property was developed, federal maps and so on. I try not to take on responsibility for issues that I don't believe are the District's, but I do recognize that sometimes we can provide help on a problem. It's a fine line at times. I know that Dalarie and I weren't on the same page for Wetherell off 29 with his plugged pipe. I believe Blake helped him out. This might be a good time to revisit this area to see if the board wants the district to take more responsibility for some of the ditches. Lateral 31 through Dohertys will come up again as it hasn't been maintained as well as we would like.

**AQUA SYSTEMS:** Aqua technician came down two weeks ago to get our sites operational. The gates seems to work, and the readings at the siphon is a true reading. He had a short time here and fitted us in. We are glad to get this part done.

**CREW / TRAINING / LEADERSHIP:** I have spent quite a bit of time working with the crew and providing support to them. As has Lisa. Our two newer employees are just starting to learn where things are much less putting them into a bigger picture. We are working really hard to provide support to them from the office. The time we put in now will pay off, I believe. A more detailed report is attached.

**CONJUNCTIVE USE:** We got the figures for 2023 from Reclamation. Total for 2023 is 7,051 acre-feet at \$14.81 per acre-foot. The total cost is down from previous years. I have attached a record of costs since 2008.

**YEAR END FINANCIALS:** The year end financials show my recommendation for reserving unused funds from 2023 budget. Basically, I am recommending \$25,000 be put into our conjunctive use reserve to help offset future costs, %5000 in the conservation reserve as we try to do each year and \$30,000 be carried over into this years budget, as the Board recommended during budget time.

**LISA'S TRAINING:** At the last meeting, we discussed who would train on the SCADA system and how we would keep up moving forward. As I said, Lisa is the one that can learn the system and she is doing that. She went out with Abe from Aqua while he was here, and he continues to work with her from Canada to make corrections. She can comment on what happened to the system during the time we've had folks trying to use it without training. We haven't trained anyone since Ray was here. Once the system is fully operational, we will provide operational training to the crew. We have the same problem on the VFDs. The crew does not understand how to operate or set them – well Ben may know a little. No training has happened. Lisa has gone out with Garry, and he is working with her. He has dropped off the technical books on at least the WAGG systems, which we mostly have. Lisa has a good understanding of how the systems work, based on her educations and previous experiences – and an aptitude for this. We are fortunate to have that.

**OFFICE:** I will be frank – I am behind on some important things at the office. I haven't filed the grant reports that were due the end of April. I was one day late last time, but just can't seem to get them finished this time. I think it's one report that's due, but I work on all of them for the end of March. Some of the work on my desk has been clearing, but it's a slow process. I am doing all the water ordering and tracking from the office to keep the guys in the field. I am in the field a lot right now to answer questions and keep things moving. We just seem short-handed everyday. But, it will clear up and I am aware of my responsibilities. Just thought you should know. I am not giving up on either piping 17 or building a secure storage shed behind the office.

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
CONJUNCTIVE USE COST RATES - New Contract 2008

Year	Total conj Use / a.f.	Estimated Rate / a.f.	Actual Rate per a.f.	Componentens of actual rate		Amount Paid to BOR	After adjustments	COLA
				Constructio	O & M			
2008	3558.57	\$ 15.60	\$ 13.10	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.50	\$ 46,617.27		
2009	3068.74	\$ 13.96	\$ 14.55	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.64	\$ 44,650.17		
2010	5657.49	\$ 14.94	\$ 14.27	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.74	\$ 80,732.38		
2011	2297.36	\$ 15.31	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.81	\$ 34,460.40		3
2012	6376.35	\$ 15.41	\$ 14.85	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.81	\$ 94,688.80		1.7
2013	6611.56	\$ 15.41	\$ 14.61	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.81	\$ 96,594.89		1.5
2014	10578.39	\$ 15.41	\$ 14.81	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.81	\$ 156,665.96		0.8
2015	16100	\$ 15.45	\$ 14.55	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.85	\$ 234,255.00		0.7
Deficit	16100		\$ 0.44			\$ 7,084.00	\$ 241,339.00	
2016	13986	\$ 15.49	\$ 15.39	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.89	\$ 215,244.54		2.1
Deficit						\$ 552.45	\$ 215,796.99	
2017	9283	\$ 15.75	\$ 15.75	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.89	\$ 146,207.25		2.1
Surplus	-481		\$ 15.75			\$ (7,575.75)	\$ 138,631.50	
2018	12672	\$ 16.24	\$ 14.52	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.89	\$ 183,997.44		1.9
Surplus	-570		\$ 14.52			\$ (8,276.40)		
Surplus	-390.4		\$ 14.52			\$ (5,668.61)	\$ 170,052.43	
2019	7651	\$ 15.30	\$ 15.84	\$ 7.10	\$ 3.96	\$ 121,191.84		2.3
Deficit						\$ 5,668.89		
Surplus						\$ (772.95)	\$ 126,087.78	
2020	5935	\$ 15.46	\$ 15.66	\$ 7.10	\$ 4.09	\$ 92,942.10		1.4
Deficit						\$ 772.95	\$ 93,715.05	
2021	11380	\$ 15.62	\$ 16.89	\$ 7.10	\$ 4.13	\$ 192,208.20		7
2022	4089	\$ 15.98	\$ 17.54	\$ 7.10	\$ 4.24	\$ 71,721.06		6.5
2023	7051	\$ 17.47	\$ 14.81	\$ 7.10	\$ 4.44	\$ 104,425.31		3.2
2024	estimated	\$ 16.81						

## UMATILLA BRIDGES

SUBJECT: CHIEF GRANT REGARDING THREE BRIDGES OVER THE MAIN CANAL.

YOU MAY RECALL THAT I MENTIONED A FIRE ABOVE THE CANAL OFF KURZ LANE AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING. YOU CAN SEE THAT I RECEIVED THE INFORMATION VIA EMAIL GRANT ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND A FOLLOW-UP EMAIL FROM SAGE DELONG, UMATILLA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGER ON APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>.

First of all, why Grant sent this information to us and not to the landowners, I am not clear. He seems to be seeking the District and Reclamation's assistance in contacting the landowners regarding his perceived idea that the bridges will not support the weight of his fire trucks.

Two of the bridges have signs posted that indicate the bridge is not up to weight-bearing standards per ODOT. Our inspection of these bridges do not find a substandard issue; are generally in compliance with Standard 7. Of their contracts (see next page). There are minor issues that we will contact the owners about when we start upgrading our ownership information.

Kurz Lane – needs 6-inch toe and railing per ODOT standards. Owner is former LLC and no longer valid. Landowners above Kurz will all be contacted to address ownership and correct minor bridge issues.

Brown – needs some cosmetic correction on the asphalt. Toe and new railing as well. Owner and realtor have been contacted.

Pleasant View – no issues. We did find that the 20-ton limit was likely posted by the Country decades ago and not removed when the bridge was rebuilt by Perkins and Strebins. The LLC formed by them has to be updated.

After today's meeting, I will contact Sage Delong with our findings. If the Fire Chief believes a sub-standard situation exists, I recommend he or the county contact the affected landowners on their own behalf, not through the District or Reclamation.

access bridge over and across the West Extension Main Canal in the Umatilla Project, along the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 22, T. 5 N., R. 27 E., W.M., Oregon, as shown on the attached plat marked Exhibit "A" and by this reference made a part hereof.

6. The facilities of the Grantee shall be constructed and maintained at all times to provide a minimum one foot vertical separation of the concrete lining of the West Extension Main Canal. All concrete piers and other supports for the Grantee's facilities shall be located at least two feet outside the canal lining. In addition, the facilities of the Grantee shall be constructed, operated and maintained by the Grantee without cost to the United States or the District, or to their assigns, and in such a manner as to cause no interference or stoppage of the flow of water in canals, laterals, ditches or other irrigation facilities, or interference with the normal operation of works of the United States. All construction reconstruction and maintenance work within the canal right-of-way of the United States shall be undertaken only at times, according to plans, and in a manner satisfactory to the Contracting Officer. All backfill placed by the Grantee in the canal or other waterway embankments shall be compacted to the satisfaction of the Contracting Officer and the canal shall be restored by the Grantee to a condition at least as good as before the crossing was made. The United States and the District shall have the right to inspect all work involving the crossing to assure such work meets with their approval.

7. The Grantee shall construct, operate and maintain its bridge and appurtenances thereto in a good, workmanlike manner and shall insure compliance with the laws of the State of Oregon and with all laws, regulations and orders of the United States and any other public authority affecting such works. The failure of the Grantee, after due notice, to abide by any of the terms and conditions of any applicable laws, rules or regulations, shall cause this agreement to be subject to immediate termination at the option of the Contracting Officer.

8. This agreement is granted subject to all rights previously acquired by third parties.

9. The United States has only a right-of-way for the West Extension Main Canal at the proposed point of crossing; therefore, the Grantee shall obtain any further clearance it may require from the parties owning the underlying fee to the land on which the canal right-of-way is located.

10. The Grantee agrees as follows:

Standard  
Bridge  
Contract

**Subject:** Re: URGENT MESSAGE - Required Detour for the properties located south of the canal off of Kurz Lane and Harbor-Lite Lane and Highway 730  
**From:** Sage DeLong <sage.delong@umatillacounty.gov>  
**Date:** 4/22/2024, 12:13 PM  
**To:** Chris Grant <chris.grant@umatillafire.org>  
**CC:** "bbridge@oregontrail.net" <bbridge@oregontrail.net>, "lisa@westextension.com" <lisa@westextension.com>, Jeannie Bowman <jeannie.bowman@umatillafire.org>

Dear Chief Grant,

Thank you for your detailed communication concerning the current restrictions affecting bridge access along the canal, and the implications for emergency response capabilities. The information about the apparatus weight limitations and the structural concerns with the bridges provides a clear picture of the challenges we face.

Given that this issue extends across county lines, it is crucial to broaden our collaborative efforts. To this end, I will be involving the Emergency Manager from Morrow County and the local Fire Chief, who would also respond to incidents in these areas, in our discussions. Their input and cooperation will be vital as we navigate these complex challenges.

In preparation for our multi-agency meeting, I will meet with my county partners to gather the full history of these bridges and any other relevant information that will aid our discussion. This background will be essential for our collective understanding and in formulating a comprehensive approach to the safety concerns presented.

I will be sending out a poll shortly to schedule a meeting within the next three weeks. This meeting will aim to forge a path forward, addressing both the immediate safety concerns and broader logistical issues related to emergency response accessibility. It is essential that we work together to ensure the safety of our responders and the communities we serve.

In the meantime, please continue with the notifications to the affected residents and ensure that all emergency response teams are briefed on the current bridge limitations and alternative response routes. The safety of our personnel and the effectiveness of our response in emergent situations must remain our top priority. I will ensure to notify partners as well.

Are there any local leaders among the landowners that would want to be included in this meeting?

Thank you for your ongoing efforts and leadership in this matter. I look forward to our collaboration to resolve these issues promptly.

Warm regards,

Umatilla County  
[Emergency Manager](#)  
C: (541) 969-0270  
Sage DeLong

**URGENT MESSAGE - Required Detour for the properties located south of the canal off of Kurz Lane and Harbor-Lite Lane and Highway 730**

Chris Grant <chris.grant@umatillafire.org>

Fri 4/19/2024 2:17 PM

To:Sage DeLong <sage.delong@umatillacounty.gov>

Cc:bbridge@oregontrail.net <bbridge@oregontrail.net>;LISA BAUM <lisa@westextension.com>;Jeannie Bowman <jeannie.bowman@umatillafire.org>

Greetings Emergency Manager DeLong. Thank you for taking the time to tour and discuss the access issues to the residential and commercial properties located on the south side of the West Extension Irrigation Canal in Umatilla. As we discussed, I met with the West Extension Irrigation District's office staff to discuss this issue on two occasions. As of yet we have not been able to come to an agreement or set up a meeting to discuss these issues with the federal and county agencies that may have some solutions or responsibility for the bridges.

On Tuesday April 16th, we responded to an estimated 5-acre grass and brush fire located on the south side of the canal. The bridge limitations created a significant delay in getting resources to the scene. Due to the high moisture content of the fuels, this fire was slow moving even with gusty wind conditions. If this fire were to take place after August 1<sup>st</sup> when fuel moistures are significantly reduced, causing the grass to burn with great intensity, we would have faced major fire conditions that would have impacted the residential neighborhoods on South Hill.

As the Fire Chief for Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District, I am formally requesting assistance from the Umatilla Department of Emergency Management to assist me with this situation. Below you will find our modified response plan to any emergencies located South of the Canal.

Thank you for your assistance with this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

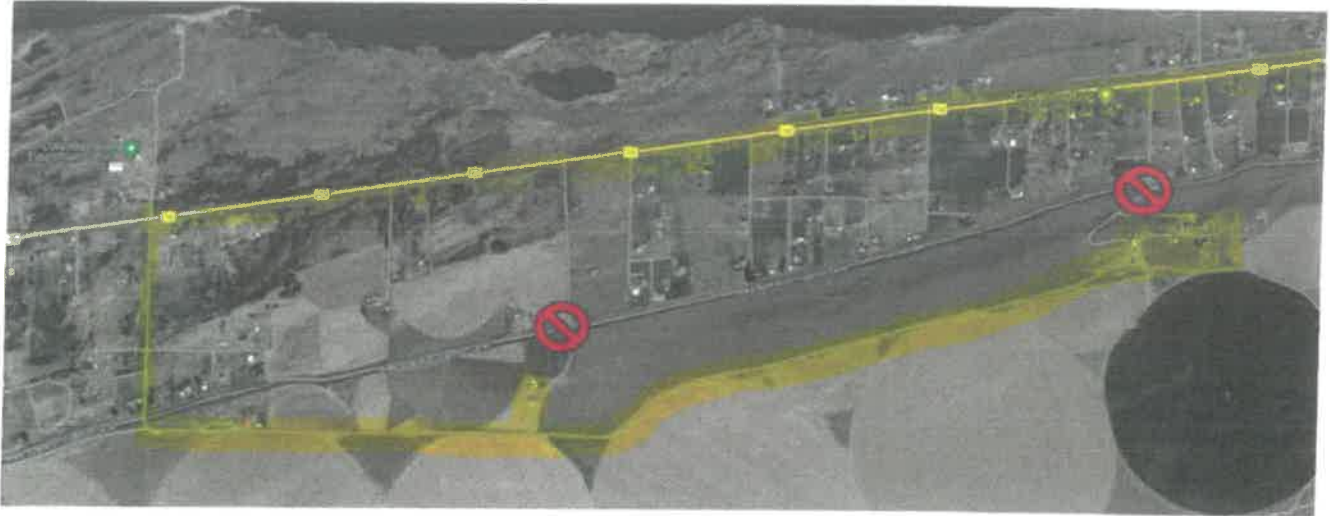
**Chris Grant | Fire Chief**

Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District

(541) 701-7710







**12/28/2023**

Today we weighed our apparatus and have determined that Engine 11 #46,200, Engine 12 #39,100, Tender 11 #51,070, and Tender 12 (presumed), are all too heavy to cross the canal bridge on Kurz Lane and Harbor-Lite Lane, and Pleasant View Road (Engine 12 only). Brush 11 weighed in at #15,850. These bridge access points are all **OFF LIMITS** to heavy apparatus, including mutual-aid units other than Brush and Command vehicles. Irrigon has been notified and I am waiting to hear back from Chief Davis regarding the weights of UCFD Medic and brush rigs.

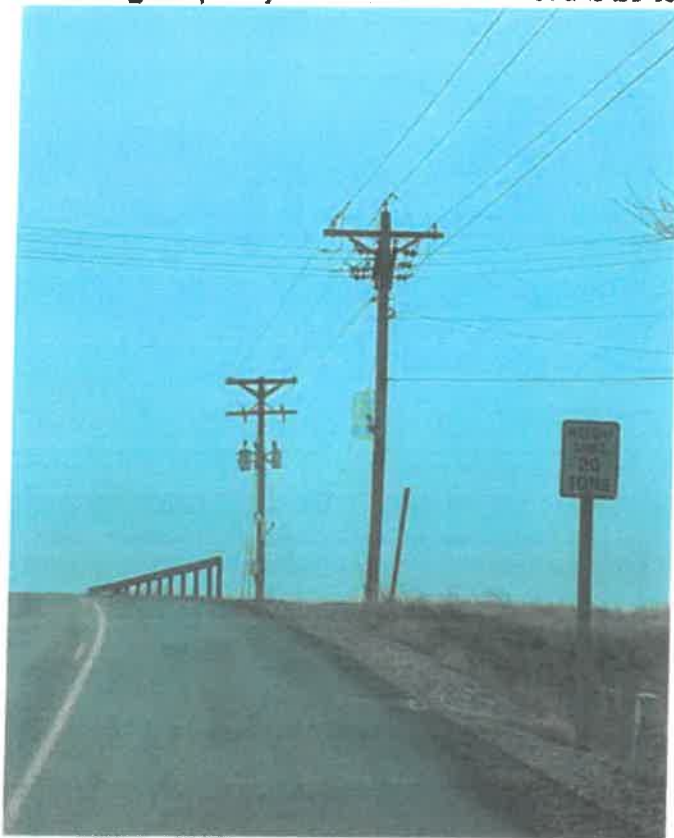
This detour adds an additional 5 miles to the physical addresses located south of the canal on Kurz Lane. The farm road on the south side of the canal that is highlighted also has a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour. **DO NOT** exceed 25 miles per hour on this access road.

The bridge capacity on Kurz Lane is 10 tons (#20,000).





**The Bridge Capacity on Pleasant View Road is 20 tons (#40,000).**





**IMPORTANT**

For a Structure Fire or for water supply needs, Engine 12 is the only heavy apparatus at URFPD that is allowed to cross this waypoint as it is #900 below the posted bridge limit on the pleasant View

Road Canal Bridge. This is the only access point for fire incidents at the following Kurz Lane, Highway 730, or Pleasant View addresses.

- 81593 Kurz Lane
- 81595 Kurz Lane
- 81597 Kurz Lane
- 81601 Kurz Lane
- 81603 Kurz Lane
- 81593 Kurz Lane
- 27696 Highway 730
- 81675 Pleasant View Road
- 81681 Pleasant View Road

**The bridge on Harbor-Lite Lane (Columbia View Estates) is OFF LIMITS to ALL APPARATUS until further notice.**









**I know that using the posted detour will result in longer response times, especially in emergent situations. However, the consequences of a bridge collapse will result in severe damage to the canal, our apparatus, and possibly result in injury to our responders. I am not willing to take this risk!**

**Dispatch will be given premise information specific to each address. The Dispatcher should give you response reminders regarding the no engine/tender access and to use Pleasant View Road only.**

**The brush trucks are an option to respond to medical emergencies over the Kurz Lane bridge, however, the unprotected steel deck is extremely slippery in freezing weather and the pipe guard rails will not keep you on the road as they have already been damaged and are barely secured.**

**The bridge on Harbor-Lite Lane has a rusted through steel frame and detreating concrete deck. It is not to be used in any circumstance even by command rigs.**

**I will keep you all informed as we address these access issues.**

**Thank you,**

**Chief Grant**