

## MANAGER'S REPORT - JANUARY 2014

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

**OFFICE:** Lisa has been working on collections. We will have a foreclosure list at the Board meeting. These are for folks who have received lien notices, had liens filed on their account, and have received notices of foreclosure. She is closing the 2013 financial year, then on to updating customer accounts and preparing for the 2014 billing.

**OPERATIONS:** Crews (and Abe) have completed the two pipelines that were to be done early this winter – replacing degraded steel pipe on lateral 49 east of Irrigon and replacing the open lateral 78 south of Irrigon. Abe has substantially completed this work with support by Ray. All landowners were contacted about converting to sprinkler. We are still working with Meredith to see if she will install the pipe to her property. Knapp Street project has been put off (again) until after the season starts. Some easement issues have delayed us there. There is work to do on the ditch at the rest area west of Boardman this year.

**CANAL WORK:** Ray and I spent three partial days on the canal after the first of the year and identified 200 panels for repair plus patches and some floor. 40 of these are a lower priority and may not get done due to time (lost time due to frozen temperatures). The work done last year got us a long way into not having many critical areas of repair.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** In looking back at previous January reports for many years, this is the first one that doesn't have boundary change, conservation plan, Irrigon permit, or McKay permit on it. Those were all completed in 2013, which made that a banner year for WEID. Moving forward, there are many administrative things that I am working on – easements, water right transfers, and water use letters top the list. I still have to develop some policies – drainage, herbicide use, canal O&M, and some safety issues.

**RECLAMATION ISSUES:** An updated matrix is attached, indicating progress made and where we are with Reclamation issues. The lawsuit filed by Westland was dismissed on January 6. We are now moving into the development of that “protocol” for placing the call on the water. The protocol, from WEID's perspective and our discussions with Reclamation and the State, has to do with the methodology used to decide that a call is justified and when the water demand has been met.

**HYDROLOGIST:** Now is the time to bring John Koreny, our hydrologist, on board. The first step will be to provide peer review of the work GSI is doing in preparation of the protocol discussion. Koreny will be limited to that work. Later, when and if CTUIR gets ready for specific development of the return flows as part of the water right settlement discussion, John will represent us in that effort. At this time, they do not want to model the lower river. It will be up to us and Reclamation to convince them this is part of the “no injury” promise they have made. At the last modeling meeting, CTUIR indicated they were getting started with the Riverware model. WRD and BOR are providing input to that work. We will need Koreny on board once they start having information for review. I anticipate that to be in March or April.

**UPS SCREEN:** NMFS have approved the UPS Screen design. The drawings are out for comment now. I will try to reach Cleaver and discuss moving forward with him this month.

**CTUIR SETTLEMENT:** They are working on the latest plan. January meeting cancelled. Next one is set for Feb. 26.

**NORTHEAST OREGON WATER ASSOCIATION (NOWA):** The membership meeting has not been scheduled yet. JR will talk at the upcoming Oregon Water Coalition meeting on Feb. 28. The two groups will support each other, but not replace each other. He has not done any more work on the Irrigon Fish Hatchery proposal, although we have confirmed that there are no legal barriers to reusing that water and taking into our own system.

**EPA FINDINGS:** I have reviewed EPA findings for discharge of the Hermiston reuse water into our canal. As stated previously, DEQ doesn't believe we will have a problem discharging to the Columbia River due to the finding by Oregon Attorney General office. I am following up with some more specific questions to DEQ.

**UNION NEGOTIATIONS:** Thus far, the Union has presented a initial offer. We have answered and have received a counter-offer that Michael Snyder, our negotiator, is reviewing. I anticipate that he will want to meet with the Board in executive session. I have enclosed job descriptions and benefit comparisons for Districts in the Basin. These have been reviewed by both sides and I think the Board should have them.

**EMPLOYEE JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND BENEFITS:** I have enclosed job descriptions and benefit comparisons for Districts in the Basin. We will have discussion about the job descriptions and any questions you may have about how an employee moves through the scale at the meeting. The discussion will be in open session.