

## MANAGER'S REPORT - FEBRUARY 2014

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

**WATER START UP:** Water will be started the week of March 17 for the main canal– first the upper canal, then into Boardman. Irrigation will be the first part of April.

**LANDOWNER CONFRONTATION:** There was a confrontation initiated by landowner Wayne Reffett along the main canal in Umatilla on March 6. This is not the first time and we may consider taking some action to keep him from our crews. Since this was an area where the federal gov has the exclusive right-of-way and where Clyde Nobles believes he owns the ditch and Wayne Reffett believes Clyde gave it to him in a settlement, we involved the Bureau. There has been discussion and research that I will report at the meeting. For those of you who have been on the Board for a bit, this is round three.

**CTUIR SETTLEMENT:** There was not much information provided at the last CTUIR Water Right settlement meeting and they won't hold meetings for awhile. They need to work details out with Westland, the smaller ditch companies and their own fisheries. They are looking at placing a pump station in the John Day Pool just downstream of the mouth of the Umatilla River, crossing our main canal. Cost is up to \$180 million and they do not want to exceed \$200 million. One item that became clear at the meeting was broad support for the model to include return flows and groundwater users. The CTUIR representatives weren't pleased, but said they would work up a budget and start conversation on how that could be done.

**MORROW COUNTY:** With the development of readily accessible aerial photos, many agencies are looking at these to get information of relevance to them. One is Morrow County for tax purposes. They have identified areas where landowners are irrigating within the 200-foot right-of-way for the WEID canal. This right-of-way is excluded from taxes (the county shows WEID as the owner) and the County needs to change that if irrigation continues. We will discuss how can affect us at the board meeting.

**NORTHEAST OREGON WATER ASSOCIATION (NOWA):** First meeting of the group is set for Thursday, March 13.

**CITY OF HERMISTON PERMIT:** The hearing for the permit was held on Wednesday, Feb. 19 in Hermiston. Attending were those interested parties in support (City, WEID, DEQ) and three members of a small environmental interest group. We do not anticipate a problem with the permit, but DEQ does expect broader interest environmental groups to weigh in.

**UNION NEGOTIATIONS:** There has been absolutely no movement on negotiations. Neither WEID or the employees have heard from their Union guy. Mike is following up. We did learn that our health insurance folks are anticipating a 15% increase, to be confirmed by the end of March.