

## MANAGER'S REPORT - JUNE 2014

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

**OFFICE:** The auditors finished their in-house work. I anticipate the report within the next 20 days. No issues were brought to our attention, which is typical and what we work for. Second half payments are coming in. Lingered billing issues from start-up and transfers are being reviewed. The Rodriguez property (voted to send to foreclosure last meeting) has started making payments. Lisa will be gone for a couple of weeks soon - her grandchild is due mid-June in Northern California. Chris will be filling in during that time.

**THREE MILE CELEBRATION:** The centennial event could not have gone any better. We served 100 plus lunches and had about 130 folks attending throughout the day. Our employees, in their blue shirts, were great as tour guides and keeping things moving. The tours were very popular. All invited agencies showed up with displays that were very interesting. Our displays were wonderful and really gave folks an understanding of the work involved to build the dam in 1914. The speakers – Chief Burke from CTUIR, Steve Jarsky Deputy Regional Manager of Reclamation, Ed Brookshire City Manager of Hermiston, Phil Ward Director Water Resources Department and Vern Frederickson WEID Vice Chair, each did an outstanding job. The importance of Three Mile Dam to the Basin and the collaborative efforts of all parties were at stage center. I have enclosed a couple of stories about the event. While all our employees worked hard on the event, I want to mention Chris DaVault, our very part-time office gal who did the research and set up the history, displays and stories.

### OPERATIONS:

- Berm along canal road into Three Mile Dam is being removed mid June.
- Maintenance work on the same canal road will start next week.
- Knapp Street project still on hold pending one easement
- First aquatic herbicide treatment in canal of Cascade (endothall-based) went very well
- Meter problem at IPS is being worked on. Vault vendor was paid by Titan, so just HD Fowler to pay. They are to have a rep contact us and provide a set of cables.
- First meter readings of year indicated some non-working meters, so following up with those landowners to assure working meters.
- Dealing with several small landowner problems
- Saul will be off June 30 through July 6

### ADMINISTRATIVE:

**AGENDA:** First of all, I've taken the liberty to change the agenda, removing Unfinished and New Business and adding an agenda item called "District Business."

**WATER ISSUES:** An updated matrix is attached for review. This will be part of the discussion at the Board meeting. JR will be at our meeting to discuss the NOWA group and the Fish Hatchery concept.

**MCKAY CERTIFICATE:** Things have been on hold, but we need to get back to working on the protocol development.

**CANAL ROAD INTO THREE MILE:** Reffett has increased his sphere of contact and is now taking advantage of Congressional folks to review our decisions about the canal road (removal of the berm and maintenance). We and Reclamation are fielding calls, so just a nuisance really. I am continuing to respond to letters from his “attorney” on the various issues. I am also working with Boris at Reclamation to assure we are giving a consistent message.

**ROBBINS CLAIM:** SDIS plans to hire a hydrologist as a legal expert on this claim. We have recommended a name given us by the Port of Morrow, who happens to work for GSI, one of our consulting firms.

**WATERMASTER:** Water Resources Department has hired Greg Sibernagel as Watermaster. He will replace Tony Justus who has retired.

**OWRD DIRECTOR:** Director of Water Resources Department, Phil Ward, is leaving his post this month. We have enjoyed him in the position. Tom Paul will be Acting until a new appointment is made.

**STATEMENT BY PHIL WARD:**

*Colleagues:*

*I am writing to let you know that I am leaving the Water Resources Department for a position with the US Department of Agriculture, effective the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month. I have been named Oregon’s new State Executive Director of USDA’s Farm Service Agency.*

*I wanted to take a minute to thank you for the working relationship we have enjoyed during my years as Director of WRD. I have received wise counsel from many of you, worked through challenging issues with many, and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being part of the “water community” in this state. It is a fine group of people.*

*My very best wishes to you all.*

*Phil*