

MANAGER'S REPORT - OCTOBER 2014

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

OFFICE: The special assessment and fall newsletter went out the end of September. There have been just a few real negative comments. Most folks understand the drought situation and are happy to have the water. Collections – lien notices have gone out. There is one property that had payment arrangements in lieu of foreclosure and payments have not been made. We want to send this one back to the attorney.

PUMPING COSTS: We were paying conjunctive use through the end of September. We won't have the exact figures for another six weeks, but costs will be close to \$170,000, based on the current conjunctive use rate. Even with the Maxwell shut down, we had 45 cfs available to us in the river, which is extremely low. This time of year we typically have 50-55 cfs in the canal with no concern for paying conjunctive use.

DIVISION ONE DIRECTOR: Bob Mueller is the only candidate filed for Division One Director, so he will need to be declared by the Board as elected to the position.

SHUTDOWN: The Irrigon system and pump stations along the canal will go off Oct. 22. The main canal will shut off Oct. 29.

OPERATIONS: The crew has started on the Knapp project. The project will bring a minimum of five new customers to the District and allow for the Honeywild subdivision (17 landowners – 13.4 water right acres) to come onto the RL2 pump station. This will eliminate the Honeywild pump station. The Honeywilde is a single-phase 7.5 horsepower pump that we have to replace every 2 – 4 years and is costly to run. We anticipate this will have a 35% savings in annual pumping costs to the landowners on Honeywild starting in 2015. A expense budget is attached for this project.

WINTER WORK: Once the season is over, the crew will get right on the Irrigon mainline project, taking it from McNamees to Hwy 730. Pipe and materials are on their way and Ray has been investigating the crossings and ordering the rest of the parts. A revised budget and timeline for expenditure will be available at the Board meeting. There is one pipeline east of Irrigon that needs to be replaced and that should be in the 2015 budget, approximately \$12,000. We plan to do panel work at Three Mile Dam. We may use the contractor that is doing the work for the city at this site as we hear he has a pretty good price. With the groundwater, any work there is a big project.

LATERAL 7 PIPING: Reclamation has not approved any conservation funds yet for districts, so we do not know if we have the funds for Lateral 7 in Boardman. However, we think we can get some funds from Sage Hollow and Frederickson for the work. This project would save 650 AF annually. We have requested \$44,600 from Reclamation to purchase the pipe needed for the project.

IPS SCREENS: Herb Stahl invited Ray and I to a meeting with his contractors. They hope to have the permits in place by December 1. Ross Machine has already started working on the screens. The divers are making plans for the installation. The engineers estimate is \$1.3 million and Stahl is pushing to come in well below that. IRZ has some preliminary designs for discussion, but nothing firm yet. I have contacted the fisheries agencies to see about funding.

We are talking to James as Layne Pumps who has taken care of both our pump stations for decades. He will meet with us the end of October to see about pulling the pumps and any renovation we need. We are considering lengthening the bowls. He will give us a cost on that.

At the same time, we should opening up the 36-inch steel line to investigate its condition. It has been in since 1968 – we have done a few repairs over the years. We should consider either lining it or replacing. It is approximately 600 feet.

All of this, plus the materials needed to relocate our pumps will be part of the funding we need for the entire IPS project. We hope to have all in place by mid-December.

NOBLES: We sent a reminder to Nobles about his need to finish converting his property (3.9 acres) to sprinkler irrigation. Plans were made for this in 2001. See letters attached and this will be a **DISCUSSION ITEM ON THE AGENDA.**

POLICIES: I have four policies for review:

Vehicle Use (updated) Our insurance company thought we should specifically address any reimbursement for accidents. Changes noted in red.

Phone Use (new) – SDAO would like us to have a policy

Tool (new) – we’ve been wanting this one for awhile

Meter Policy – area marked in highlighting is difficult to enforce – discussion.

JOHN KEYS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM: The Reclamation employees will be back on Nov. 4 and 5 to finish up the program. They will tour HID and WEID facilities and learn more about administration of the District and winter work. We will have a dinner with three Districts (HID, WEID, SID) and the attendees on Tuesday, Nov. 4. **PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.** April Snell, OWRC Executive Director, will talk about that association, how it works with the districts and what is of current and future concerns for irrigation at both the State and federal level. This is a good time to meet April, to learn more about OWRC and to ask any questions or discuss concerns you may have about legislation in a low-key setting.

OWRD DIRECTOR: Tom Byler has taken the position of Oregon Water Resources Director. He was Director at OWEB since 1995. Previously, he was Water Policy Advisor for Kitzhaber and Kulongoski.

LEGAL:

McKAY CERTIFICATE: No progress on protocol. But, Reclamation is working on securing the 500 AF mitigation water for us.

ROBBINS CLAIM: Deposition is set for November 19 in Boardman.

TRIBAL WR MODELING PROTOCOL: As stated in an e-mail to the Board members, we have signed the Protocol Agreement for the modeling effort. Our attorney and HID/SID attorney met with Tribal attorney to discuss the concerns. We signed relative to a letter that we included with the signature page that listed our concerns about the process. John Koreny, our hydrologist from HDR, has received the model and will start his review process Oct. 20. This is the first step of what I think will be a many year process before we get what we need.