

## MANAGER'S REPORT - JANUARY 2013

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

**OFFICE:** Lisa is preparing the 2013 billings. The resolution we are adopting moves the due date for the 1<sup>st</sup> half to April 1 and the second half to July 1 (as opposed to April 15 and July 15). Chris, our very part-time gal, has improved her skills during the time that Lisa was gone. She sent out the water right notices to the Irrigon folks this week.

**CANAL WORK:** Crews have been working on burning, canal cleaning and removal of concrete panels since just before Christmas. The Umatilla area needs some work this year as we have found panels deteriorating in the stretch from Phase One inlet to the last check that will need replacement. This is an urbanized area of canal and we have inspected and prioritized the work in this area. The next area of work is below Slaughter Spill where we have water pushing against the liners and popping of the liners. The interaction with the groundwater is extensive, but has not changed much in the past few years. The land is fairly flat, so this will be a lower priority unless the panels fail. The Boardman area, specifically the Gattenbein corner, the area between Laterals 5 and 15, and area between the 16D pump and Lateral 18 will be a priority area for canal panel replacement due to effects of the groundwater pressure.

**WORK PROJECTS:** The Irrigon project has been complete. We have talked to Strebins about the RL-1 project. We want to relocate it within the existing easement for two reasons: 1) so it will be on the edge of a future road right-of-way when the land is sub-divided 2) so we do not have to remove most of the concrete pipe. We have contacted the landowners along Knapp Street about water rights and easements for the pipeline and are reviewing that information to make sure we have enough landowners to warrant the project. This will connect the RL2/Division Pump Station to the RL2 pump station (Honeywilde) and eliminate that 7.5 HP single-phase pump station. When completed, this project will have replaced three district pumps stations and numerous small private pumps in Irrigon.

**UPS REPAIR:** SDAO has authorized the repair of the Umatilla Pump Station due to the theft of copper wire and damage. Three contractors were asked to bid and Rick Rock Electric was selected to do the work. The No. 2 pump will be pulled, inspected and rewound if necessary. During this time, the electricians have pointed out that the other two pumps will need to be inspected before starting them up. There could be rodent damage due to sitting so long and a safety issue if started up. We are doing research into this issue.

**LAWSUIT:** The Robbins in Boardman have filed a claim against the District for \$200,000 in damages due to water flooding and trespass onto their property. Earlier this year, they submitted a claim which our insurance company denied. They requested a review which SDAO did and again the claim was denied. SDAO is handing this for us.

**UMATILLA WATER COALITION/COMMISSION:** The group has agreed to form a new entity – probably a 501 c (6). We are asked to be an organizing member..

**CTUIR WATER RIGHT SETTLEMENT:** A meeting was held on Thursday, January 17 in Hermiston. This was a workshop for the irrigation district board members and a discussion of the concerns and needs of the irrigation districts. Dalarie and Vern attended on behalf of WEID.