

## MANAGER'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2013

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

**OFFICE:** The fall newsletter went out. Collections work has been proceeding. The Martinez property is on the agenda since we need to discuss whether to redeem the property to protect the \$2700 they owe us. An information sheet on the property is in the Board packet.

**STATE BOUNDARY CHANGES:** Lisa is working on the last of the boundary changes done through the State process. They are Tera Poma, Earl Aylett, Sage Hollow, Cleaver Lands, MD Farms, D&D Farming, Strebins, and Perkins. Advertising will be done with the hearing at the October board meeting.

**AUDIT:** You have received the audit report for 2012 in the mail. We will address it at the Board meeting, so please bring your audit reports and any questions.

**IRRIGON PUMP STATION (IPS):** Herb Stahl was in last month to talk about the findings and his concerns about the IPS screen and facility. We have known for many years of problems with both and concerns with the aging infrastructure. He will be at the meeting to discuss rehabilitation of the facility.

**UMATILLA PUMP STATION (UPS):** I have enclosed a preliminary report of the operational costs of the UPS, which includes 2013. You can see that it was much higher than we had hoped (I was thinking about \$16.50/acre foot). We ran into problems with the entry channel being silted in at the mouth. This, with the nightly lowering of the John Day Pool would not allow us to run 24 hours. There were a lot of starts and stops plus at the lower water levels, the pumps don't operate efficiently. And, you can see the higher cost of power from PP&L. Operationally, the station needs more work, including dredging the channel. We do not yet have approval from the agencies for a new fish screen. I think this is the time to consider two alternative options – 1) extending a pipe from the current pump station into the Columbia River or 2) relocating the pump station. We should have discussion at the Board meeting about whether to pursue either of these options.

**BUREAU INSPECTIONS:** We had three inspections from the Bureau of Reclamation over the past few months. We will have copies of the reports at the Board meeting if anyone wants to see them.

- 1) Hazardous material inspection. They had a lot of housekeeping comments. Ray and crew have been addressing them. We have a Haz mat plan to complete as well.
- 2) The three-year O&M review. There were just three recommendations. The main concern is the erosion of the canal road and exposing the upper edges of the concrete liner in some areas. Ray did some work last year on this, but there is a lot more to do.
- 3) Three Mile Dam inspection. We do not have the report yet, but we understand it went well.

From the previous Canal in Urban Reaches inspection, I still have to prepare a Canal Safety plan. Sounds as if this fall, I'll be working on the needed plans.

**THREE MILE DAM 100-YEAR EVENT:** Reclamation and the CTUIR are on-board with participating in the 100-year anniversary of Three Mile. We received some historic photos and documents from Reclamation. It would be nice if a couple of local irrigators would be interested in working on a committee with us, CTUIR and local Reclamation folks.

We will likely use the east bank for the actual celebration and can have tours to the west bank. We did some clean-up work there this summer in preparation. In talking with the Tribes, we are thinking mid-May to early June. Not sure if mid-week or a Saturday would be best. But, we should narrow down a date in order to invite key speakers. I'll put this discussion on the October Board meeting agenda.

**CTUIR SETTLEMENT:** The CTUIR have been meeting with stakeholders in small groups. The one that affects us the most is their desire to exchange the Maxwell Diversion. Hermiston ID has told them this would be injurious to WEID and they would not agree unless WEID receives mitigation. The next group meeting is October 22 in Pendleton. At some point, we will set up a meeting with the CTUIR to discuss our issues, but they do not have a specific plan of action yet. Once they do, we'll bring our hydrologist in and start preparing our concerns.

**NORTHWEST OREGON WATER ASSOCIATION:** The new group has formed. JR, as the organizer, has appointed the initial directors. They are Luke Maynard, Gary Neal, Bob Levy, Craig Reeder and Jake Madison. The office is at the Port of Morrow building. JR will attend our October Board meeting to update us and officially ask us to join.

**DIRECTORS VACANCY:** Four of our positions are open for filing. We will need to set the election date of Nov. 12 at our Board meeting and appoint an election judge. So far, at least one person has picked up a petition for each of the positions. We may actually have an election this year.

**FEDERAL ISSUES:** There are several large federal issues looming that will affect all irrigators in the Northwest (and West). They are the Columbia River Treaty discussions and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Our partners, such as OWRC, FFA and NWRA are engaging in these issues. I am enclosing a draft document from ODA for your review. Comments are due Nov. 15 on FSMA. I am also enclosing a copy of FFA's recently released report on the Economic Impact of Western Agriculture for your use.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION BUSINESS:**

**PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION - MCKAY CERTIFICATE 87872:** Westland ID filed in circuit court against WRD. Meantime, the agreement is near finalization. Water Resources Department has been brought into the discussion.

**UNION:** The contract expires at the end of this year. We received a letter from AFSCME requesting bargaining for a successor contract. Their Council Rep has retired and they are in the process of assigning a new person to that position.