

MANAGER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2013

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

LATERAL 78: There are 84 acres on the system. An 8-inch pipe would serve, but may be marginal, so we are looking at the cost of 10-inch pipe. The landowners will receive a letter notifying them of the change from flood to sprinkler and to contact the Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District, who may have landowner funds for conservation assistance.

KNAPP STREET PROJECT: I have been working on the easements for this project starting last fall, then again over the past two and a half months. While the street appears to be in the public ownership, that is not the case for the west end of the "street". I have easements from four of the five landowners – the last one to sign is the first one I started with last year. When we investigated the easement, we found it to be for "access and utilities for the benefit of the landowners to the west." So, we think we can go through. But the landowners do "own" the property and we are trying to get their permission rather than go through a legal process. These are long-time landowners with definite ideas about that easement. This line will bring 8 new customers to the District and will better serve 18 folks now on the Honeywilde pump by connecting them to our RL2 pressurized system.

IRRIGON PUMP STATION (IPS): I have been working with Stahls on ownership and permit issues. At this point, Western Empire owns 75% of the pump station and WEID owns 25%. We have recommended to Stahls that they get an assignment of the pump station from Western Empire.

UMATILLA PUMP STATION (UPS): I had a lengthy discussion with Dave Nichols, our consultant. NOAA just approved the screen design and ODFW wants some modifications – mainly a trash boom in front of the station. We discussed any limiting factor for that pump site in the case of further lowering of the John Day Pool. Dave stated that the new fish screen will allow for full pumping of our 90 cfs. The project will not only install the new screen, but will thoroughly clean the channel down to the basalt and breach the dike. Both of these actions will produce better water flow to the pumps. The limiting factor may be the pumps themselves, so he will look at their curves and confirm that, if we do find them to be an issue, more efficient pumps for the site are available. A few weeks ago, I talked with James at Layne who reminded me that the pumps are really in good shape, having been rebowled in 1999 with not much use. The motors will need to be replaced at some point, when parts are no longer available, but he does not see the pumps as an issue as far as maintenance.

WID LAWSUIT AGAINST OWRD FOR McKAY CERTIFICATE 87872: At this time, there has been no direct action. OWRD wants to have discussion with all parties rather than just one or two. A meeting is set in Salem for Tuesday, Nov. 26. Director Vern Frederickson has been working with Bob Levy towards finding a common ground for settlement.

WATER RIGHT USE AND TRANSFERS: I have started a project wherein water users that may not be using their water right will be notified by letter. This is part of what we need to do in order to assure that our irrigators don't face a non-use situation. So, if you hear of someone getting a letter from us (with an aerial map), asking about their water use, it is because we are concerned of the dry areas of their land that may not have been irrigated for a few years.

UNION NEGOTIATIONS: Our consultant, Mike Snyder, has asked the Union for a proposal to get things started. I understand that the employees met with the new Union rep. late last week.

DRAFT POLICY FOR INSTREAM LEASE: I have attached a Draft Policy for instream water lease. The District has not considered this action because 1) we do not have storage and 2) we are a water short district – reliant on our supplemental sources for water. This type of program is better suited to reservoir rights, which can be released instream during critical time for fish. However, it may be best to have a policy in place. This draft is for review, but not discussion until the new board is seated,

WATER SMART GRANT: I would like to apply for a Water Smart Grant through Reclamation for piping Lateral 7 and eliminating Lateral 5. This project has the most water savings for the District and should be considered now that the Port of Morrow will be transferring off the water rights on the north side of I-84. This will be an agenda item at the Board meeting. Water Smart Grant info follows.

OREGON WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS (OWRC) ANNUAL CONFERENCE: The OWRC annual conference is coming up soon – in Hood River on December 4 and 5. I am attaching conference information in case any of the Directors would like to attend. Please let me know right away so I can get you signed up and a room, if necessary.

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday, December 19 - 6:30 pm	December Board meeting (Good-bye to Max & Doug)
Wednesday, January 15 - 6:30 pm	Organizational meeting – Swear in new Directors and elect officers for 2014

Released On: November 14, 2013

Funding Opportunity Available to Increase Water Conservation or Improve Water Supply Sustainability

WASHINGTON - The Bureau of Reclamation is making funding available through its WaterSMART program to support new Water and Energy Efficiency Grant projects. Proposals are being sought from states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts and other organizations with water or power delivery authority to partner with Reclamation on projects that increase water conservation or result in other improvements that address water supply sustainability in the West.

The funding opportunity announcement is available at www.grants.gov using funding opportunity number R14AS00001.

Applications may be submitted to one of two funding groups:

- Funding Group I: Up to \$300,000 will be available for smaller projects that may take up to two years to complete. It is expected that a majority of awards will be made in this funding group.
- Funding Group II: Up to \$1,000,000 will be available for larger, phased projects that will take up to three years to complete. No more than \$500,000 in federal funds will be provided within a given fiscal year to complete each phase. This will provide an opportunity for larger, multiple-year projects to receive some funding in the first year without having to compete for funding in the second and third years.

Proposals must seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, facilitate water markets, carry out activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict. To view examples of previous successful applications, including projects with a wide-range of eligible activities, please visit www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg.

In 2013, Reclamation awarded more than \$20 million for 44 Water and Energy Efficiency Grants. These projects were estimated to save about 100,000 acre-feet of water per year -- enough water to serve a population of about 400,000 people.

The WaterSMART Program focuses on improving water conservation, sustainability and helping water resource managers make sound decisions about water use. It identifies strategies to ensure that this and future generations will have sufficient supplies of clean water for drinking, economic activities, recreation and ecosystem health. The program also identifies adaptive measures to address climate change and its impact on future water demands.

Proposals must be submitted as indicated on www.grants.gov by 4 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, Jan. 23, 2014. It is anticipated that awards will be made this spring.