

## MANAGER'S REPORT - JANUARY 2015

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

**JOB OPENINGS:** Two employees have been hired to begin February 9. They are Derek Harrington and Carlos Carranza.

**IPS SCREENS:** Herb Stahl still has a glimmer of hope for this project. The State Historical group is what is holding up both this permit and the one for Amstead. He has agreed to meet to discuss our concerns with our engineers.

**FUNDING:** We were not able to complete an application for the WaterSMART grant. But, we now have one in draft that can be reviewed and finished for next year. Plus I learned that the three projects we had identified (17/18, 5/7/9, and 12/13/15) will each be \$600,000 - \$750,000 with our rough numbers. This was quite a process and took more time than I had allowed to really do it right. Now we know what we need to do to actually do it right and get good numbers and information for a competitive grant.

- 1) Flex Lease Funding for the IPS Screens and work on the mainline. Funding will be for \$500,000. Stahls will send us a bill for the work done thus far – anticipate \$150,000 or so.
- 2) Reclamation Field Services Grant - \$25,000. This can be for a piping project. Ray and I are talking this over now that the WaterSMART did not go in.
- 3) DEQ Loan. Applications can be taken now until April 15 for this round. We are in better shape for the BOR WaterSMART if this funding is lined up, so we will apply in this round.

**LANDOWNER NOTICES:** Notices about increases, City of Hermiston water, website and electronic payments, and prison work crews went out this week.

**HERMISTON IRRIGATION DISTRICT:** They have accepted our offer for cooperative work on modeling their delivery system.

**CTUIR MODELING:** Meeting in Portland Thursday, Jan. 22. This was a meeting to review the model that will set the baseline for the River. The Tribal folks started that they hear that everyone wants to include the lower river and understand their reasons for it. They just don't have the money and want to put that aside to be revisited if the settlement moves forward in such a way that the River is involved. The McKay water trade agreement with Westland has been vacated and may not be revisited. They also said they agree the return flows will need to be evaluated and that may be done as the project moves forward or addressed in an alternative way.

**TIME OFF:** I will be gone from Jan. 29 until Feb. 9 for OWRC, Tri-State and SDAO meetings and to visit my parents. So, a working holiday.