

## MANAGER'S REPORT - MAY 2015

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

**IRRIGATION NOTICES:** Every owner in the District received a copy of their water schedule and irrigation conservation and water management information.

**DROUGHT:** Both Morrow and Umatilla County Commissioners have declared drought. I have enclosed information on drought declaration for state and federal levels. Other than providing information to the public, there are no resources that I see we can use as a District. Westland has indicated they will shut off August 1, which will affect us. Hermiston and Stanfield think they will make it to early October.

**WEID WATER SITUATION/1909 CALL:** We went on exchange April 20 and started paying for water on April 23. Through May 13, our estimated conjunctive use pumping is 1400 AF for a cost of \$22,000. We have to work off "raw" figures for water flow in the Umatilla just due to the nature of the river accounting process, so it will be difficult to keep an exact figure. There is about 30 cfs available daily in the Umatilla. I am getting ready to place the 1909 call and do not plan to call off the "extended" irrigators within one mile unless the Board tells me to do so. Greg Juul has indicated they will pay the costs, but nothing from them yet or from Lamb Weston.

**LANDOWNER REGULATION MEETINGS:** Ray has trained the crew on how to follow up with landowners on the basic irrigation problems we have defined. They have contacted about 20 folks so far with overuse or off schedule problems. Discussions seem to have gone well. Most folks are willing to work towards good management practices and open to understanding how to better use their own system. We have followed up the in person meetings with letters reminding them how much water to use, their schedule and listing the resources we have for them to manage their own water. We plan to send letters out to farmers about their circles watering both public roads and our canal roads. We would like some discussion on this at the Board level to put in the minutes.

**GRANTS/BOARDMAN LATERALS:** I attended a Grant Funding workshop in Salem last week, sponsored by OWRC. I have some new ideas about funding for our Boardman Master Plan that I will be following up on. Of course, the first step is revisiting the BMP, which I have not had time to do yet.

**GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM:** This is the safety system attempting to coordinate information on potentially harmful and hazardous materials. We attended the GMS workshop given by OSHA this past week. The GHS, while adopted by the Feds and OSHA, has not been adopted by EPA, DOT or really any other federal agency. It was a good workshop though. We learned that we will continue to keep both the MSDS as well as the new SDS on the hazardous liquids and materials and will assure all employees have gone through the safety sheets on each product. We also will revisit our PPE. Though this new system is supposed to be in place on July 1, many manufacturers and vendors are not ready for it yet.

**SAFETY PLANS:** We have a number of safety plans to update – our general Haz Mat Plan, NPDES Plan for Emergency, District emergency plan, District Safety plan. They all seem to run together, but are separate plans required by separate agencies. This is just a note that we have to do it and Ray and I hope we can get to these in the next few months.

**CERTIFICATE 87872:** Eric, Adam and I met with BOR a few weeks ago and learned that nothing has occurred between them and WRD other than some discussion late last year. We strategized on a way to move forward towards being able to place a call. Since then, they have met with WRD and reported the meeting was much the same – discussion and ideas on conservation and water for WEID. BOR told the State they need to move forward with plans for some regulation. They will schedule a follow-up meeting. In the meantime, our group will get together in Portland in early June to brainstorm our own strategies for water and come up with a specific plan to move forward. Prior to that I will be working on defining WEID specific water shortages – how much and the timing of the shortages.

**FLEXLEASE LOAN:** Papers are being prepared; our attorney has reviewed the documents and met with the bonding folks; we held our preliminary review meeting. The financing has been moved to June.