

## MANAGER'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2015

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

**IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT:** We have managed the water as tight as we can. Even with this, we are using quite a bit of water this year, as folks are just dry. I will have updated water reports for the Board meeting.

**CITY OF HERMISTON REUSE WATER:** The City's permit will be effective November 1. Because of the temperature in the river, they would like to release into our canal and we would drain the water. We are checking into this.

**DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY GOALS:** Over the past two months, I have done the following towards planning for improving our water supply:

- Hermiston Irrigation District supply discussion has been put on hold. HID ran out of water this year (shutting off Sept. 14). They do have water rights to move within two years. We all need to see how it could work for WEID to purchase water when we won't have it in short years. We will meet again this winter for more discussion.
- Irrigation water storage. City of Umatilla is now wanting to be part of this discussion along with the 19 well users. Grant funding for feasibility study is our next step.
- City of Umatilla- Port of Umatilla: I met with the City of Umatilla, BOR and their engineers in August to find out what they have in mind. At this time, they are looking at the Amazon water (600,000 – 2 mil gpm per day). The Port wants to develop more industry and use a system that would deliver to the federal Phase I canal for that water instead of to the current Umatilla treatment plant. Preliminary is that we can find a way to use Phase I. This would be industrial water, so could have an irrigation right attached if we wanted (that brings up contract issues and Warren Act potential). There will be a fuller meeting with interested parties on Oct. 15 – 1:30 pm at the Port of Umatilla. JR will be there, bringing in the well users interests to help us find water. Any Board member wanting to attend is absolutely welcome.

**DISTRICT WATER CONSERVATION:** Ray and I have discussed contacting landowners not only with their schedule, but with their actual water allotment. There are so many “stories” and “grandfathered” folks, that we would like the Board to consider negating all that and going to the basics of our water delivery – 8.5 gpm per acre, with a graduated scale for small users on a rotation schedule and 4.5 cfs for the flood irrigators at their point of delivery. Ray will be putting together a list of work for this winter that would help us conserve water in the open laterals. This would be a push for not only the District laterals, but the ditches on private property in Boardman. Of course, this would require a letter to all landowners notifying them of getting their systems up to current standard. This will be a discussion item at the board meeting.

**BOARDMAN MASTER PLAN:** We have draft maps and the draft document is underway.

**LATERALS 7 and 5:** We are planning for that work this winter. Funding may need to be from District funds for now. When we got the SDAO Flexlease loan, we agreed not to acquire additional debt for one year. I believe we can do this from our 2015 and 2016 funds, but need to work on a project budget.

**LANDOWNER CONTRIBUTION TO ENCLOSING LATERALS:** We raised our assessment \$5 per acre for the landowner contribution. I think this is all we need for the landowners to support the enclosing of laterals in Boardman, as we did for the Irrigon system and other projects. All for one, and one for all...

**IPS SCREEN PROJECT:** Herb reports that he is 99% sure he will have the permit by November 1. We will do the lining of the penstock pipe from the river pumps to 4<sup>th</sup> street once water is shut off. Ray has a cost estimate for this and we are getting cost estimates for extending the pump bowls for the new system.

**DISTRICT BONDING:** As reported to the Board in an e-mail, we have Crime Policy coverage for \$50,000 through our insurance. This replaced bonding individual employees quite a few years ago. For the Board members and employees, our liability coverage is in effect when acting within the scope of our job. Acting individually, outside the scope of the job is not covered, of course.

**SDAO/SDIS BEST PRACTICES:** Please remember to bring the Public meeting and Public records policy so we can update it at the Board meeting. This was mailed to the Board on 8-31-15.

**AUDIT – 2014:** We mailed the 2014 audit to the Board on August 31. It is on this meeting for review.

**WATER SHUT-OFFS:** We got through the water shut-offs for non-payment. Lisa has prepared a listing showing the number of folks that are behind from the start of the season for the last few seasons and how the shut-offs went. At the start of each season, current method is to use the “no water” list from the previous year, give Ray any flood irrigators or water users over 20 acres that have not paid so can’t take water, and monitor the larger users for RRA form. All delinquencies receive at least three notices that they can’t take water, but they are on the “Honor” system until the shut-offs go out. The shut-offs have been occurring in July, after the second half is due. This year, we did another round of shut-offs in August for the ones that were delinquent on their payment arrangements and the “bad players” – those who had not made any payment this year and had previously been in a collection activity (such as Gary Moe). This is on the agenda for discussion. Lisa will be at the Board meeting.

**SHUT-OFF DATES:** October 14 – Irrigon. October 21 – Main canal.