

## MANAGER'S REPORT - DECEMBER 2015

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects.

**OWRC ANNUAL MEETING:** Director Vern Frederickson and I attended the OWRC annual meeting in Hood River. In addition to the excellent presentations, we were able to network with several folks regarding some of our projects and issues. We also met with Tim Personius and other Bureau of Reclamation folks, asking about two things – 1) A letter from BOR to OWRD notifying them of intent to place call on C87872 (McKay supplemental certificate) and 2) Need for renovation of this 100-year old project. Follow-up to that meeting has been 1) letter has gone from Dawn Wiedmeier to Tom Byler and 2) Discussions about aging infrastructure have heated up. We have been asked to give an estimate for our canal to Reclamation.

### **GRANTS:**

**WATER SMART GRANT:** Applications for a Bureau conservation grant under the Water Smart program are out and due January 20. There are two types of matching grant – 1) Single project \$300,000 and 2) Multi-year project \$1,000,000. JUB is preparing our maps for the projects we will submit. Our single project will be Lateral 15. Multi-year will be 12, 15, and 17.

**FIELD SERVICES GRANT:** Application for Field Service Grant is due Feb. 19. This is a \$25,000 matching grant. I am thinking of submitting for Lateral 9, 11, or 12.

**WATER CONSERVATION & REUSE PROGRAM:** The State of Oregon is accepting applications until February 1. Ben Volk of JUB is preparing the application. We will explore the feasibility of four sites along our canal for storage. Study will include physical, economical and public benefit analysis. Ben and I anticipate the study to be \$50,000 to \$75,000. We will look for regional partners to help with parts of the study.

**ADMINISTRATIVE WORK/BUDGET:** We are getting caught up on work that was behind last month. I do not have the 2016 budget done, but will work over the weekend to get it for the Board meeting. Ray and I have discussed the budget and he has given me his input.

**PROJECT WORK:** I have met with the engineers on all the projects we are working on. Things are moving along. The Boardman Master Plan is almost ready for my review. Grant work is being done. IPS and Lat 7 project work continues (see Winter project work matrix for updates). They are following up from the last Board meeting and we will have that discussion in executive session.

**CRAIG COLEMAN REQUEST:** Craig wants us to pipe from his drainage pump station along Wilson Road to our canal so we can take his drainage water during the irrigation season. He estimates about 450 gpm. He has provided copies of his pumping costs. He wants some type of benefit for the water pumped. I told him we would discuss it at the Board meeting.

**FACILITIES:** We are gathering costs for facility maintenance. This is on the Board agenda. Ray has bids on fencing the shop area. Looks like around \$10,000. We have taken bids on painting the office interior – about \$900 – and will do that in early January. We are working on security ideas for the office and maybe the shop. Funds for this will come from the building reserve account, not out of the general budget.

**PICK-UPS:** It is definitely time for a new ditchrider pick-up. You may recall that our 2001 Chev shop truck is not running, leaving us short a truck. We plan to put the 2004 Chev ¾ ton to use as a shop truck (about 180,000 miles on it). This will leave us with 2010 (Ray’s 1-ton), 2011 and 2013 Ford trucks as our main Ditchrider trucks with the new 2016. We are getting costs to put into the budget.

**WATER RIGHT TRANSFERS:** I filed the permanent water right transfers for 2015 with the State this week (we had submitted notices to transfer during the irrigation season). I have yet to get the billings out for this year’s transfer, but that will be done early next week. I have started a process for removing rights from sub-divisions that have “built out”. We have been doing temporary transfers for the past few years, protecting those rights. Landowners have been notified of our intent to move the rights; some have come in for more discussion; billings have been adjusted; now, I will start working on gathering their signatures and preparing them for permanent transfer. I am working off our waiting list for those transfers.

**HOLIDAY CLOSURE:** We will closed from Noon Wednesday, Dec. 23 through New Years Day, Jan. 1.

**UMATILLA ID WINTER PARTY:** We are planning for a winter party with the other Districts and Board members in early January. The other districts have been notified and we need to zero in on a date.