

## MANAGER'S REPORT - JANUARY 2016

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects that we have been working on since the last board meeting.

**CREW:** Friday was Ray's last day. We advertised that position in the East Oregonian and on the State Employment site. We are trying to find time to get it on Craigslist. We are also looking for one-two more full-time employees. I've hired a temp that has a potential to work into permanent. He has a lot of skills that we need, but has a drivers license suspension. I will learn more about that. I hope to have some discussion about what we need for now at the board meeting.

**WATER START-UP:** Dave Payne and Walt Steagall have both offered to help with water start-up. Water start-up for the main canal will be Friday, March 18. We plan to continue into Boardman that weekend or on Monday. The Irrigon system will start April 1.

**OPERATIONS:** As of Monday, February 15, here are updates main canal repairs and projects.

- Main canal cleaning: Gary Kroske will be at Patterson Ferry in a day or two. Jason Wise spent 9 days on the canal, working from Three Mile Dam to the McNamee property, west of Division. The canal is dry and he only did the cleaning, so he moved pretty fast.
- Concrete work: Casey started taking the lead on the concrete work the end of January. I've been impressed with how he has stepped up and Ray commented on this as well. Ray spent some time with him to learn about concrete pours. He and the prison crew have been working the Boardman panels. Thus far, including the December work, we have poured 122 yards of concrete. This is 94 panels, 230 feet of floor and numerous patches – all in Boardman. We should have Boardman completed the end of this week. The crew will go to the lateral cleaning and work on the upper canal for two more weeks.
- Laterals: There are portions of laterals in Boardman to be cleaned and the Relocation canal needs to be cleaned. Concrete work will be done on some of the laterals.
- Headgate repairs: We had 29 District headgates identified that needed repair due to holes or cracked concrete. Ben has 65% of those completed. He should finish up this week.
- Distribution boxes on Lateral 24. Three distribution boxes on 24 need to be rebuilt. We have a concrete specialist doing this work for \$7950.
- Work schedule. I have given the crew a broad overview of the work we have to do for start-up. I am enclosing that for your information. This will tell us if we are on track for start-up on March 18 or not.

**PROJECTS:** I have cancelled the McGraw project which was plumbing that system into the canal and building a new screen. We don't have time for that this year. For the two major

project we have in front of us, I am going to do a punch list below. This way, we can all check that I am not missing something.

**Lateral 7 Piping Project:** There is 6330 feet of pipe to be laid. 2600 feet (to replace the Lateral 5 irrigators) will be delayed until later in the season.

- Pipe and fittings should be here this week. We will store them at a couple of locations in our right-of-way.
- Jason Wise started removing trees, shrubs and the concrete today.
- Vern met with UEC today about the electricity for the pump needed to work the new screen at the headworks. Vern has taken on this area of the project, including installing the headwork structure or at least lining out what needs to be done.
- The survey work is complete. We will be laying pipe within the Morrow County roadway easement at the north end, so will request a permit from them.
- There are some fencing issues, and I talked with the affected landowners today. We got everything worked out.
- We plan to start our work on this project right after water start-up -March 21. Gary Kroske will dig the pipe and we hope to have two employees assisting him plus Walt on the dump truck or backhoe.

**IPS** – The project is moving along. They plan to be out of the water February 28. Stahls hope to start up early March. For our work, here is the update:

- Manifold installed today. We used NW Crane Service. Daryl is welding it.
- Some minor fit issues, but he will get them worked out. No problems.
- 36-inch steel pipe to be removed from the manifold to where we will make the transition to 30-inch. Stahls plan on building a wall along the south boundary of the pump compound, so we need to get the 36-inch done before the wall goes up. Gary K will do that work this week, when they are ready for us. Locates have been called in.
- Pumps. Our pumps and motors are ready for installation. Once the fill work around the new structure is complete, we will have room to bring in the boom truck from Layne Pumps and they will set the pump and motors. In the meantime, Daryl F is working on building steel sole plates for each of the pumps. We will not bolt them to the concrete.
- The contractor will be building the span that connects the old and the new platform this week. That will delay the outlet connections from our pumps to the manifold. But, we have plenty of time for this work.
- Reconfigure the meter vault and set the meter. We will not repour the concrete that we took out, but will bolt in steel plates for the two missing portions of walls. (they were removed when the 36-inch pipe was removed). This way, they will be easier to take out if we have to work in there again in the future. The meter will be reset and reconfigured. We have a contractor for this work but I think someone from Reclamation will help us out.
- 30-inch C905 pipe – 1020 feet will arrive this week. We will store it on the easement. It will be covered.

- Replace the missing 10-foot piece of pipe at the south end of this stretch (by the gate). Daryl wil do that. We will purchase a new piece of pipe as the one that came out is mis-shaped and pitted.

**FIELD SERVICES GRANT:** Application for Field Service Grant is due Feb. 19. This is a \$25,000 matching grant for water conservation efforts. We will submit for Lateral 11 piping. We can solve the problems with the McGraw pump station by doing this and eliminate some flood acres.

**WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT CROSSING REQUEST:** We met with Westland and Reclamation on site. The process has started to get the agreement. They want to have the crossing done by mid-March and understand it needs to be complete prior to water start-up.

**ANNUAL O&M BILLS:** The bills should go out this week. The newsletter is complete.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY:** We have received the draft cultural resource inventory. I am reviewing it and it will be to Reclamation in a day or two. There were three findings, and no recommendations:

One archeological site – Lateral 7. Since it is minor individual feature of the larger project (WEID main canal) and has been modified over the years, it is not recommended for protected or listing status.

Two above ground historic sites – Laterals 5 and 7. Same findings.

**CITY OF HERMISTON PERMIT:** We have received the draft of the City of Hermiston permit for its reuse water. I have had several conversations with the City and they are not pleased with the permit – mainly the amount of monitoring they are required to do. It was originally a 15-day turn-around for comments and they have asked for a 30-day extension. That will give us time to review and prepare comments to the permit.