

## MANAGER'S REPORT - MARCH 2016

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

**CREW:** We have hired Richard French as our Field Superintendent. He will start April 1. He has come in to work the main canal start-up with the crew. There is still one Irrigation System Op (Ditchrider) position. I have interviewed two people for it and one of the temps we currently have has applied. I plan to use the temp for awhile, giving him a chance to see what the job would be as I believe he is the best bet. In this way, Richard will have input into that position.

**WATER START-UP:** Dave Payne, Verlyn Henry and Walt Steagall all helped with water start-up on March 18. That is going on as I write this report. We need to hold Boardman until mid-week in due to the work on the Lateral 7 headgate. Irrigon will start up April 1.

**OPERATIONS:** We were easily ready to go for start-up on the main canal. Irrigon just needs the meter hooked up which will be done next week. With water start-up comes customer calls and we are responding to them as quick as they come in. Boardman canal needs burning and some buttoning up. That can be done as we start up or before. There are some lingering lateral issues in Boardman, mostly private, that I am working on. They are on Laterals 24, 30 and 31. I am moving along on this. The piezometers are in except for the 2 on Windy River. He wanted an agreement and is looking that over. We have red tags ready for those who cannot take water and they are going out with water start-up.

### PROJECTS:

**Lateral 7 Piping Project:** Jason Wise is the foreman for that project and he is addressing all the issues that are coming up. We are learning a lot on this first lateral piping project. These are things that will better prepare us for the next one. The headgate structure has been a meticulous process that will likely be done early next week. Bringing in the fill has been the most labor intensive, which we actually knew going in. I can give an oral report at the Board meeting or answer any questions.

**IPS** – The project is complete except for hooking up the meter. That will be completed by the end of next week.

**Three Mile Dam Headgates:** The headgates were repaired at Three Mile. We were requested a few years ago by Reclamation to get it done, so it is and they are happy.

**TELEMETRY:** Aqua Systems, our telemetry vendor, will be here the end of the month to install two controllers at sites that have gone bad. They will tune up the system and train our new personnel.

**CITY OF HERMISTON PERMIT:** The City has prepared their response to the draft permit. Since this was really their draft, we decided to wait until it officially goes out to review before providing comments.

**EMPLOYEE ISSUES** (on the agenda). First, we should adopt the job description for the Field Superintendent as this is a new position. The one in the Board packet is the same that I e-mailed to all of you last week and the one that Richard has reviewed. BTW, he appreciated the range of responsibilities that it addressed.

Second, we have a drug and alcohol policy that allows for testing:

- 1) Random testing
- 2) At hire
- 3) When an accident occurs
- 4) Reasonable suspicion
- 5) CDL under ODOT standards

We have not used the random testing for many years as we had a seasoned crew. With the new crew that we have, I recommend that we join the SDAO group for random testing. We would provide the crew 30 days notice before the testing starts. The crew knows this is coming and seems to be in support.

**CANAL CROSSINGS:** Neither Westland ID or the Port of Morrow followed through with their main canal crossings. The Bureau completed the documents as far as they could and waited for final drawings or signatures. They are both on hold for now. Century Tel is doing a crossing of the Relocation Canal, which is a standard underground crossing. I will bring maps to the meeting.