

## MANAGER'S REPORT - MAY 2016

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

**OPERATIONS:** The crew has been very busy with start-up. Over the past month, here are some issues/problems they have dealt with:

- Broken pipe, Columbia Lane
- Repair Lateral 15 east leg ditch – water escaping
- Repairs and problems with various pump stations in Boardman
- Clean spillway several times – weeds stacking up
- Install five meters – Project and Bonner Meadows
- Finish cleaning branches on Lateral 31 (where someone piled them up)
- Try to seal up Spillway No. 1 at 4X4 building – this will be ongoing
- Break in 12-inch line south of Hwy 730 – brought in Jeff Wise for welding
- Several leaks by valves
- Dozen or so landowner meter problems
- Dozen or so landowner questions from water to fencing to planting trees
- Meter at 6<sup>th</sup> Street station removed and repaired
- Clean up at Irrigon Pump station – still have old pipe to remove
- Two landowner disputes that we stepped out of
- Donovan pump station needed electrical work
- Training on telemetry site readings and maintenance
- Lots of valves to be turned on or off for repair
- Training landowners on subdivision pump operations
- Working with Frank Bates on flood and drainage water problems
- Repair washout at HG 86 (8<sup>th</sup> Street)
- Concrete work on 15, 11, 24
- Sprayed weeds at Irrigon PS
- Removal and burning of tumbleweeds along irrigation canal
- Replace batteries on dump truck
- Organized shop
- Started maintenance list for pickups and equipment
- Cover over distribution box on Quail Rd – safety concern

We are in the process of checking the spillway for any washouts since it's been a few years and looking at the rest area for some needed work (according to Walt). Saul trained the new employees on the mower and mowing has been started. In addition to their daily runs, the crew has started doing weedeating and some backpack spraying around headgates and pump stations. This morning, we trained on water management, overuse issues, customer interaction. Each week and often each day brings up something new and the crew is learning everyday. There have been bumps along the way and will continue to be, but they are sure doing as well or better than we can expect for all that there is to learn and do.

## **PROJECTS:**

**Lateral 7 Piping Project:** Hauling fill was a priority through last week. Our cleanup work is done and Jason has his work to do. All hookups were completed last week. We are almost complete on this project. I will submit the final report to Reclamation by the end of the month.

**IPS** – Project complete except for some cleanup. We are keeping a close eye – working with Dave Payne who is training our crew. At this time, we have not seen a problem with the pump – it has been up to 19 cfs. The 300 is working at its curve now that we have rebuilt it, and will go to 21 cfs. We will put the crossbars in the pump when we get a chance as it will help – that will likely be this winter. Vern F provided tarps and covered the C905 pipe. I expect bills from Herb Stahl by the end of Friday.

**Canal Repair at HG 86 at 8<sup>th</sup> ST:** 8 panels at 8<sup>th</sup> St (where they started washing out the end of last season) slipped into the canal, exposing the bank and allowing soil to slough off. Richard and crew worked with Wes and Jason Wise to do the repair. It was done within 28 hours of getting the call. And, we did not have to shut down. The work they did was a piece of art, so you should stop by to see it.

**TELEMETRY:** Aqua Systems has been here twice and is still working on our system. The story is that our telemetry is over 15 years old and there are no longer repair parts for this old system. Aqua identified a new part that they thought would be compatible and is trying to make that work. So far, it is not reliable so two sites are not working. They are our less critical sites. We will need to be thinking about how we will continue to move forward on the sites. We use a radio relay system, which has been very reliable. Fortunately, the radios have kept working. As they start to fail, there will be decisions around the communication down the road. Aqua also trained our folks on the telemetry while they were here.

**HERBICIDE/PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS:** As stated above, the crew is doing some spot pesticide using their backpack sprayer and over-the counter pesticides. The need for aquatic herbicide treatment is coming up. Lisa is our licensed applicator, so she will need to be on-site for these applications. Here is our plan:

Copper sulfate- likely within the next 10 days. Verlyn will show Richard how we do the application. Lisa and Richard plus whoever he wants will do the actual application. Likely early the week of May 23.

Endothall- likely first part of June. The distributor will send someone to train our crew on this application and they will do the application.

Acrolen – likely early August . This will be done on a Friday as we will get someone from Owyhee Irrigation District to do the application. The Board may remember that we budgeted \$2500 for this because we did not want Ray to do the application. It is very hard on someone with asthma or breathing issues.

Our crew knows we want applicators license from each of them and have been given the study documents. Frankly, they have been too busy to have time to study. Hopefully, we'll have one or two soon.

**CITY OF HERMISTON PERMIT:** The permit is out for public review and comment. The hearing is June 6 and public comment is due June. 13. I have included a handout about the public process in the Board packet.

**DEQ COMPLAINT:** I responded to the DEQ complaint about an alleged oil spill. They have found in our favor.

**LATERAL 11 GRANT APPROVAL:** We have been approved by Reclamation for a \$25,000 grant to help with enclosing Lateral 11 in Boardman. We will work with Morrow County, who plans to start this work Nov. 16. Plans have been reviewed by Reclamation for the modified crossing that the county wants.

**STATE HISTORICAL REVIEW:** Reclamation is encouraging us to have all of the Boardman laterals reviewed for the Historical preservation process and just keep that document on file. They said it will be good forever, which is what the historical reviewer at Reclamation told us. So, I think we will have that done.

**WATER STORAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY:** We are recommended for approval of \$25,000 for our water storage feasibility study. The Commission meets in June for final approval. We have already started on this work with identification and review of several sites.

**WATER:** We started partial exchange on April 18 and stayed on until April 22 when we went back on the Dam. April 25 we started with partial exchange again and full exchange on the 26<sup>th</sup>. We are on full exchange and started paying for water around May 5. This is about a week later than last year and three weeks earlier than in 2014.

**IRRIGATION SHUT-OFF FOR NON-PAYMENT:** Lisa sent 110 shut-off letters out ten days ago. 17 have responded and made payment or arrangements. We plan to issue shut-offs on May 18 to the ditchriders. Nine hours were spent in the office doing these shut-offs. Here is a comparison to previous years when the shut-offs were done after the second half payment.

Year	Letters sent	Shut-offs issued
2014	52	24 July 25
2015	28	14 August 15
2016	110	55 (estimated) May 18

**ANNUAL AUDIT:** The auditors will be in the office the week of May 23 for the 2015 audit.

**SAFETY DATA SHEETS:** The new Global Harmonizing System for safety data sheets goes into effect June 1. Chris has been working on changing over our sheets from MSDS to SDS as required by law. She is working with Casey and Jim Ball to assure we have all our products covered. We will do crew training on this system before the end of the month.