

MANAGER'S REPORT - JULY 2016

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

OPERATIONS: Things the crew is working on, in addition to daily work, monitoring the IPS, pump maintenance, leaks and customer issues:

- Easement work on the Relocation canal
- Equipment repair – backhoe complete; excavator will need some repair before winter
- Getting the spray truck on-line
- Addressing slack water algae and pond weed prior to Recycled water intro
- Cleaning up Lat 7 project
- Repairing, replacing broken canal road gates
- Learning Irrigon system – Casey and Ben D to train – all will meet with Dave P later this month to review each pump station operation and isolation valves.
- Mowing wherever possible that won't interfere with canal water
- Thistles have been sprayed
- Getting the maintenance truck set-up; attaching portable welder, etc
- Addressing weeds at shop and pump stations
- Have done two copper treatments thus far. Acrolien scheduled July 29.
- Installing “No Swimming” signs at key locations (requirement for acrolien/safety)
- Doing more concrete patching in Relocation canal and at Lateral 86
- Assisting customers with screen issues and alerting to need to clean their screens
- Welding on the dump truck bed has been started, more to do
- Will do more weeding and cleanup into Three Mile preparing for public review of recycled water – mainly some mowing to be done. Richard has trained all employees to use the mower and they are sharing that work so more can get done.
- Working on telemetry system as some sites not yet working and had issues with radio

Looking this list over, it is a lot that we are getting done – every day. We have not had time yet to work on removing concrete along the canal, but we are not forgetting about it. Other priorities just keep coming up.

Today, Friday, we have been notified of a leak on our steel line at the UPS. We'll have an update at the Board meeting. This will not be an easy repair. And, this is just the way the summer keeps going – two steps forward, one step back. But, progress for sure.

HERBICIDE: As stated above, we are applying acrolien on July 29. Our vendor, Alligare, is bringing in an applicator from Vale ID for this work. The pond weed will just be starting to grow back and we have a elodea in our canal (which endothall does not touch). I think this treatment and one or two more copper treatments will do it for this season.

BOARDMAN DRAINAGE: Cameron Krebs sent a letter to Dalaire, Bob and me. The letter is in the Board packet along with various literature that I found addressing this troublesome topic (drainage water). This is a discussion item at the Board meeting.

NPDES PERMIT: OWRC submitted comments on the NPDES permit on behalf of the irrigation districts. The comment period has been extended, likely at the request of some of the environmental groups.

GRANTS:

STORAGE STUDY: We have received and signed the contract for the storage grant.

LATERAL 11 GRANT: I am still working on upgrades to the County's design and budget for this grant. All vendors have been contacted. I believe the \$25,000 from Reclamation will more than cover our out-of-pocket costs and will be matched by the County's investment in this project (well over \$100,000).

DISTRICT BUSINESS:

These items are for District business:

MCKAY RETURN FLOW PROTOCOL: As we are not able to move forward with the protocol outlined by Water Resources Department, our consulting team and Reclamation plan to submit a protocol to WRD. I would like to discuss this at the Board meeting.

IPS PROJECT: I updated the Board with an e-mail a few weeks ago. Vern, Bob and I met with Herb Stahl about the pump station on July 14. Here is where we think we are:

- 1) The pump is cavitating if just the 300 Hp pump is on. It acts as if it can't get enough water. The pump should be good up to 11,000 gpm, but we are getting cavitation at 6200-6500 gpm from what I have noticed.
- 2) The meter is likely working, but can't get a good read when the pump is cavitating. At this time, I don't see a need to run a test on the meter.
- 3) Folks have surmised that the cavitation is caused by either 1) air somehow getting into the system through the screen or fluctuating water level in the manifold or 2) something in the design allowing the water to vaporize and cause the air bubbles (Vapor pressure).
- 4) Turning on a 100 HP pump increases the line pressure and reduces or eliminates the cavitation. We will run various configurations over the course of the summer to see how the 100s work alone and if the 300 can work at all without cavitation.
- 5) Most importantly, as explained by James at Layne Pumps, we need to protect the 300 HP pump at all costs. It is very old (as we know) and he was fortunate to have an impeller sitting around his shop for the rebuild this time. That won't happen again. The next time there is a rebuild, we will be looking at a new pump with a cost of \$30,000 - \$40,000. I wanted to make sure this gets in the minutes, so although the Board knows this already, I am including it my report.

We have a few specifications to shore up and will keep discussion and observation on this system continuing. At this time, I recommend we pull the 300 at the end of the season so Layne can give us the condition of the impeller. We can do some modifications to the pump cans, if that seems necessary.

I have updated the project cost sheet and we can discuss payment options, if necessary. Stahls are fine to wait a bit while we work some things out. Also, I should note that \$70,000 of I-beam is being held at Ross' and they are trying to resell. We will have 25% of any cost difference and this is not included in the report that I've given you.

WRD/DEQ JOINT MEETING: The two State Boards of Commissioners will meet in Hermiston on August 18. We will have a chance to present the Recycled Water Project to them and participate in a tour that morning.

WID CONTRACT AMENDMENT – MITIGATION WATER: The contract has been signed by the WID Board. We need to have discussion at the meeting about assigning this water directly to the Tribal fisheries folks. They can take the water when they want and we will get direct credit for it. I would like Board action on this before it goes to the Umatilla Oversight Committee. I am already thinking that we will want some sort of "official credit" for this water.

ANNUAL AUDIT: The audit work is complete. The auditors have a couple of standard letters that, in the past, I have signed. They now want a Board member to sign in addition to the manager signature. Thus, this is on the agenda for approval.