

## MANAGER'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2016

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

### **OPERATIONS:**

We just completed a mainline repair in Irrigon. It was a 12-inch line where it had separated in a culvert. The crew had to close Idaho St. for 3 days, so it was a great project for learning. Utilities – hit a phone line, had to cut out the pipe, etc. They did a good job and fortunately, most of the traffic were folks just checking it all out.

The UPS leak is questionable and may be groundwater. We are keeping an eye on it and likely will not take action without more observation and research.

We did the Acrolien treatment on July 29 and probably should have done another in late August. But, it would have just been too expensive as we would have had to order product plus the applicator. So we will suffer this month with weeds breaking up. After looking at it all this year, I think we made a mistake thinking we could use the endothall product twice in the season and not use acrolien. Endothall doesn't take out all the pond weed. It does save us 2 acrolien treatments, and is safer. We are already making our plans for 2017 order. But, we need our guys to get their applicators license. Pressure has been put on them.

We have a few dozen lingering work orders that the crew will try to finish up between now and shut-off. Plus, we plan to finish the mowing, pick up some of the concrete, clean up the shop area and basically get the housekeeping done before we shut down and really get busy.

I've discussed the winter work with Richard, Walt, Abe, Jason, etc. Richard has been tasked with lining out the work and getting some quotes. We haven't had a chance to sit down for the planning, but will within the next two weeks. We'll have a work plan for your review at the October meeting and be prepared for 2017 budget meetings.

**SHOP:** We are getting realistic about a shop. I talked with the City and they are at least 5 years away from providing utilities to our proposed shop site on the 5 acres outside town. So, we are thinking of cleaning up both shop sites, using the 5 acres for storage, and putting a 40-foot container at the current site. Richard will be at the meeting to go over the plans. Abe has found a container and we'd like to move forward with this to "get er done" over the next month or so.

**EQUIPMENT:** I believe there is some work on the excavator and welding on the bed of the dump truck. Richard will be at the meeting to go over what we need before winter work and answer any questions.

**IPS PROJECT UPDATE:** We have drawings and are ready for discussion and direction. I understand that all Directors will be at the meeting. Dave Payne, who has led the way on this work since Ray left, will be at the meeting to go over our next steps.

**BOARDMAN LATERALS:** Lateral 7 is complete and a final cost report is in the Board packet. The over-run was due to fill material and hiring Jason Wise to lay the pipe. I have the grant contract for the Lat 11 project and have gotten bids on the project. So, the budget is right on. For this project, the County has to do the roadwork at Laurel and Wilson. They have not confirmed if that work will be done this winter, but it is in their plans. The engineer and environmental work is complete, so no holdups there. The next grant request will be for Laterals 12, 13, 15, 17, 18 as we had planned last year. This is the multi-year one and we will borrow under the Clean Water Program at DEQ for part of our share. This is a low interest loan with the possibility of interest being forgiven. We discussed this two years ago when we started the lateral project. We had to wait a year for new borrowing when we got the funds for the IPS project and that year is up now.

**CITY OF HERMISTON NPDES PERMIT:** We have the permit. We have the water. I'll see if we can show the video at the Board meeting. We took the water on Tues, Aug. 16.

**CITY OF UMATILLA NPDES PERMIT:** I think this permit will take a little longer than they had planned. DEQ isn't just stamping it since we have the Hermiston water. It will need a full review plus they may want to do a use attainability on the Phase I canal. I don't think we'll see this water in 2017.

**CITY OF IRRIGON:** Brief discussion with them about future interest.

**CROSSINGS:** The crossing agreements for the Port of Morrow and for Westland are complete. I will have them at the Board meeting in case you want to review them.

**UNION NEGOTIATIONS:** I have contacted our rep, Mike, and asked him to contact the employee's union so we can get started. I haven't heard back on anything yet.

**GENERAL:** It has been a very busy summer keeping up with everything and staying abreast with the crew. They are learning everyday and, as you can imagine, they don't know what they haven't learned yet so – well, learning continues. We really haven't run into any major issue that baffled us and the District keeps giving us all lots of new projects and customer issues to tackle. I am seeing the guys learning about each other and pulling together as a unit. This really needed to happen as they have such a variety of experiences and no one really experienced in what we do. The licensing continues to be the concern as we relied on Lisa's license all year, so she had to be on-site for all the applications.

**TIME OFF:** I will be taking the last week of the next four months off to visit my parents. I will, of course, have the laptop and keep in touch. But, I have PTO to burn and parents that need some assistance.