

## MANAGER'S REPORT - OCTOBER 2016

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

**SHOP:** Richard and crew has done quite a bit of work, preparing for upgrading our shop area. He will report at the Board meeting.

**CREW:** We made it through the season!!! Ben Svatonsky has his right-of-way license. He came to us with his CDL and got the haz mat endorsement. This is the first time since Dave Payne that we have an employee with all the endorsements that we want. Ben De Los Santos is going part-time for now. The plant he formerly worked for has been purchased and they are considering re-opening. They are running a trial for 60 days.

**WINTER WORK SCHEDULE:** Richard and I have put together our first draft of the winter work schedule. It will need some refinement and is enclosed.

**TOOL POLICY:** As mentioned at the last Board meeting, I would like to revise the tool policy. The employees have a wide variety of tools, depending on their job. For the District to “cover” such a range of tools could create quite a liability. I would like to consider an annual tool allowance and have redone our tool policy to reflect that. I think the allowance should be between \$50 and \$75, so put a \$60 amount in for discussion. Hopefully, we can have discussion at this meeting and I can rewrite to fit whatever we come up with and bring it back to the next meeting.

**WATER USE/SPECIAL ASSESSMENT:** I have enclosed the most recent water use information for 2016. WRD has provided figures through August. Thus, September and October are projected. Based on this, I propose a \$4 per acre pumping surcharge with a two-acre minimum. In 2015, we had funds in our budget to cover some of the cost and did a \$5 per acre surcharge. The budget this year is very tight and excess funds are not available.

**IPS PROJECT UPDATE:** The 300 HP pump and motor will be pulled on Oct. 28. I will have a letter for your review to IRZ at the board meeting.

**PROFORMA BUDGET:** I am working on a proforma budget, showing anticipated expenses to the end of FY 2016. I will have it at the Board meeting so we can review.

**SDAO BEST PRACTICES:** SDAO is requiring Districts to review their policies. This is done annually with a checklist. I have enclosed a copy of the checklist so we can go over it at the Board meeting.

**ETHICS POLICY:** The Ethics Policy is enclosed for Board consideration. We should adopt this. Please remember that we distributed the Oregon Government Ethics – “Guide for Public Employees” at the last meeting. I am also enclosing the District’s standards for Board members. No action is required for this document.

**MODELING MEETING:** Reclamation held their long awaited meeting about the modeling effort they have started. It was disappointing in that very little had been done other than laying out some plans. Also, the modeler was not clear about the purpose of the model. It was good to finally get things moving and have discussion with the actual person that will be doing the work. Unfortunately, very little groundwater work had been planned and seems to be out of the wheelhouse of the Reclamation modeler. Boris and everyone actually supports having a groundwater component so we can see how the Phase II exchange has affected the lower river and how various options under the CTUIR water right settlement will affect the lower river. WE, of course, want the model to further look at McKay return flows. This will be a discussion item on the agenda. I believe, in order to get this done properly and timely, we will need to hire a hydrologist that can work closely with Reclamation and WRD on this work.

**CTUIR WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT:** The Tribes have been holding individual patron and District meetings to find a way to get water for their settlement. I hear they will start their large group meetings soon. Discussion and update at the Board meeting.

**CROSSINGS:** The crossing agreements for the Port of Morrow and for Westland are not final yet. They were sent back to Reclamation for some language addition and clarification.

**UNION NEGOTIATIONS:** Nothing of substance on the Union negotiations yet. There is a new Union rep and she is likely getting up to speed. We understand that we will have a proposal to review soon.

**DRAINING OREGON:** This 41-page document, put out by the Oregonian, is causing quite a bit of discussion in the “waterworld.” I mentioned it in our fall newsletter and thought that you should each have a copy in case you haven’t seen it yet.

**FALL NEWSLETTER:** We are mailing the newsletter out now. A copy is enclosed for you.

**COLLECTIONS:** Lien notices were sent out and response has been good. Three notices of foreclosure also went out with all three responding with payment.

**DISTRICTS’ SOCIAL:** The social for all the District area Boards and Managers will be Thursday, Nov. 3 at the Frederickson home in Hermiston. Board members are reminded that this is not a meeting and discussion towards any decision or consideration of any issue is not allowed and would be in violation of Public meeting law.