

## MANAGER'S REPORT - FEBRUARY 2017

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

### WINTER WORK:

The drainage pipe along the Robbins property has been installed. The electrical work needs to be done and sump installed. Water Resources is meeting with me on Tuesday about whether we need a permit to pump the water back into our canal.

Boardman laterals – Brushwork is complete on 12, 13, 15, 7, 9, 11 and working on 31 and 30. Cleaning started once it could for some of the laterals. We will keep this prison crew for at least three more weeks on lateral cleaning.

Main canal. Canal cleaning will start in earnest Monday, Feb. 20. Repairs will be identified and a second prison crew will start Feb. 27. If all goes well, we will have them for three weeks. All of this is a best guess right now, you understand.

Canal and bridge at Headgate 86 – We did most of the work at the washout at 86 last fall. Stahls will remove the bridge for us to finish the work on March 1 (when they officially own the 20-acre small farm on the south side). We have two days there. Stahls will pour new footings, replace the bridge, and work with Reclamation as owner of that bridge.

IPS – pump is installed. We have road work to finish, install the fence we tore down and Daryl F needs to complete his work. This project is on target for April 1 completion.

All piping projects are on hold.

Several other small projects and headgate repairs remain. We plan to work crews on Saturdays from March 4 to start-up.

**WATER START-UP:** It is too early yet to set a target date for water start-up for the main canal. Internally, we hope to be ready the week of March 20. The Irrigon system will likely start April 5 - 10.

**CREDIT/DEBIT:** We now accept credit/debit cards. Fee is 2.9%. They will be in-person only for now, not over the phone.

**ASSESSMENTS:** Assessments are being prepared. The main canal ones will likely go out first as we continue work on the Irrigon water rights. The draft newsletter is enclosed for your review.

**RESOLUTIONS:** We have two resolutions that SDAO would like us to consider. They are enclosed and on the meeting agenda.

**GRANT/WRD REPORTS:** All quarterly grant reports were sent out. This includes the feasibility study grant report. I also sent an update to WRD as part of the Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP). We need to do this annually if we plan to use the transfer of water right for non-use statue. We plan for this on the Irrigon system (see below) as this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year after the certificate was received.

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION:**

**IRRIGON WATER RIGHTS PROJECT:** Lisa and I have been working on the Irrigon Water rights project. This is a complete overview of irrigation in Irrigon, sending letters to those who are not irrigating areas of their property or at all. We sent about 60 “warnings” last fall. Many responded, stating they will irrigate in 2017. We have identified 100 more properties with buildings and dry portions that will need to be notified. There is a process for this and we will review it at the Board meeting.

**INSTREAM LEASE:** We adopted an instream lease policy in March 2014. To me, this may be an option for some of our Irrigon folks who would choose this instead of installing irrigation to keep their water right. We will discuss and review this policy at the Board meeting. It is enclosed.

**TEMPORARY WATER RIGHT TRANSFERS:** In looking this all over, I would like to Board to revisit fees for those landowners who are allowing a temporary water right transfer. Especially in Irrigon where we have more folks that would like to transfer than we have a place to put the water right. This will be part of the discussion above.

**BOARDMAN MASTER PLAN:** I’ve enclosed the introductory pages to the Boardman Master Plan for your review. We should assure the wording in this document, which is basically the same as the original document, is correct.

**OREGON STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO):** I have been working with Reclamation and two other irrigation districts regarding the SHPO document that would nominate the federal irrigation districts as historic properties. Reclamation provided excellent comments to that document and asked for it to be delayed. Our letter requested the same. However, the advisory committee accepted the nomination, asking Reclamation to work with the SHPO staff to address the concerns and modify the document. This was Thursday in Portland. Reclamation is not sure how they will respond to this. I’ve enclosed letters and Reclamation’s comments for your reading. It goes to the State board for adoption March 17.

I’ve also enclosed the letter that Reclamation sent to SHPO about the Section 106 approval for our Lateral 11 project.