

MANAGER'S REPORT - MARCH 2017

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

WINTER WORK:

Boardman laterals: The lateral work, brushing and cleaning, in Boardman and Irrigon will be complete on Tuesday, March 22.

Main canal cleaning: Started on Monday, Feb. 20. Our prioritized work for cleaning was completed on schedule on March 17. Now, we'll start working in the desert area.

Main canal repairs: We started with a second prison crew on February 27, and they started on the main canal a week later. Other than the 86 area where a total of 47 panels were replaced between December and now, there had been no concrete work. For the past two weeks, crews have been forming and pouring with Richard on one crew and Frank with the second prison crew. We have two more weeks of work to do and will likely replace over 100 panels and lots of patching.

Misc work and work orders: There is a whiteboard full of work orders. Crews are picking them off in the afternoons and weekends.

IPS: Work is complete on the shortening of the pump shaft and it has been reinstalled. Discussion at the Board meeting.

WATER START-UP: At this point, we need two more weeks of work on the main canal. That would put burning the week of April 3. We'll take whatever time we have to burn and prepare the canal, but could go as early as April 5 if needed. April 13 is targeted for the Irrigon system.

EMPLOYEES: Casey Surber was dismissed. He failed a drug test that was taken due to an accident caused by him. His last day of work was Thursday, April 23. He left without incident. Adam Tomkins has been hired. We have three temps – Gary Kroske on the excavator, Kasey Kroske, laborer, and Jeremy Jeppeson, laborer.

ASSESSMENTS: Assessments are out.

IRRIGON WATER RIGHTS PROJECT: Lisa and I have been working on the Irrigon Water rights project. This is the non-use notification project we discussed at the last Board meeting. We sent 140 letters with 32 of those being certified to those with non-use issues. There were an additional 18 certified letters for lien holders. Response has been good – most folks thankful that they were noticed as they didn't know about the non-use. There are always a few that are unhappy. So far, buildings and driveways are being signed off for permanent transfer, folks are wanting to irrigate what they can and a few have requested temporary transfer. We do not have acreage figures at this time and likely won't have time to look at this for a few weeks.

WATER RIGHT TRANSFERS: We have started preparing water right transfers for 2017. They will be filed as they are ready to go. Requests will be coming in until the end of the month.

OREGON STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO) /RECLAMATION MEETING: Jessica Gabriel, a preservation officer from SHPO met with Warren Hurley, Boris Belchoff and myself on January 13 to review our system. We spent three hours looking at various sites. There are definitely several sites she was excited about preserving, which are Three Mile Dam, gatehouse at Three Mile and the spillway, two historic bridges. We discussed several headgates and perhaps locating remnants of the OLWC canal. I also pointed out two laterals in Boardman that could be declared historic – laterals 5 and 13 as we will abandon use, they are in good condition and they are accessible for cleaning and preserving. All of this would be mitigation for the District's plan to enclose its laterals in Boardman.