

MANAGER'S REPORT - MAY 2017

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

WORK CREW: We have set a work schedule and areas of oversight for the District crew. We are keeping Kasey “Cougar” Kroske on for the summer. He has equipment experience and will train as a relief ditchrider. Between Walt and I, we can continue crew training to broaden their skills and oversee projects. I’d like to give these guys time to learn the District and believe one of them will step up as a crew leader. This also gives our budget some relief, which we will need. Frank Villegas is working on his CDL. Unfortunately, our own dump truck has been at the shop for two weeks now – first a repair, then back because they did not properly complete the CDL review and needed more repair. That, and the work load, have set Frank back in his quest for the CDL, but he will take his first test by the end of the month. If he doesn’t pass, he can take the next week, then two weeks. He will get that license.

STARTUP: Many irrigators are still starting up for the season. This week (week of May 7) has many of our flooders coming on for the first time this season. Folks in Umatilla and Irrigon started their systems during the two day warm spell of May 4 and 5. As stated last month, many folks are finding broken valves and lines. That is keeping our crews busy and will continue past Memorial Day. We hit 100 cfs in the canal for two days, but it’s back to 80 cfs now. The Umatilla River has over 700 cfs on May 11.

CANAL CLEANUP: We intend to complete the canal cleanup work ASAP. That means burning and moving the concrete. Mowing on the main canal is almost complete and laterals about 60% done. Crews have backpack sprayers that they are using for targeted areas. Our sprayer is down for another week, waiting on a part. We intend to continue working to get the canal area cleaned up. We are already ahead of any previous year in that regard.

EXCAVATOR: In typing the minutes, I realize that the excavator should have had repair work done. That didn’t get scheduled, so we’ll get it done soon.

TELEMETRY: Unfortunately, another radio on our telemetry is not working. We are in dire need of addressing this issue as two sites are now down. I will have options at the Board meeting. Unfortunately, we don’t have anyone trained or knowledgeable about our telemetry (Richard and Casey took that on last season). Lisa is taking that on for now and we’ll work with a couple of guys during the summer to get them trained.

MEAKINS/DANIELS DELIVERY: I ran into an issue while finding a delivery for Doug Daniels. Basically, the line I thought was ours was actually installed by Meakins. I’ve talked to Warren Kemper about this and he has a recommendation to solve the problem. This will be on the agenda.

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR LICENSE: We will need to bring in the outside applicator for acrolien again this year. Ben Svatonsky has both his right-of-way and aquatic license, but no

experience with any aquatic application. Well, he did help with the copper last year. Fortunately, Lisa has that license and was involved with all the applications last year. So, once again, we will send her to the field. Ben de los Santos is studying for his right-of-way license. Our newest hire, Adam will study for the aquatic. Both plan to get both endorsements.

VARMENT CONTROL: Chris Lulay, Wildlife Specialist from USDA, stopped by our office. He is dealing with coyotes crossing our canal in Boardman killing livestock. They work on a contract with Morrow County for varmint control. I called his supervisor, Patrick Smith the Eastern Oregon Supervisor out of La Grande about contracting with them for our work. They are a federal agency and carry all the insurance and liability for their work. One of them will be at our meeting on Monday to discuss a scope of work and possible contract. So, let's be thinking about what we would like them to do.

STORAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY: JUB has been gathering information and determining our needs for both a regional storage site and WEID re-regulation storage. I need to review the sites of discussion at this Board meeting. Ben (JUB) and I are meeting early next week to start preparing the document that is due June 30. We will have a draft document to you in mid-June. Review with Ben will take place at the June 19 Board meeting. We have a \$40,000 matching grant for this work.

IRRIGON WATER RIGHTS PROJECT: We are down to about 15% of folks who have not contacted us regarding the first letter sent. Lisa has done calls. We will continue to complete this project.

WATER RIGHT TRANSFERS: Preparation of the transfers continue. We have two possible requests for In-stream lease.

SWCD/NCRS WORKSHOP: The April 24 workshop went very well. All flood irrigators on Lateral 11, except the Smith property (Chris Marston), were there as well as Jim Lands and Broadbents. NCRS engineers have followed up with those needing Russian olive tree removal and assistance with converting to sprinkler. This will be a good partnership as long as we keep folks coming in ahead of our work. We will plan the next workshop this summer or early fall.

BOARDMAN DRAINAGE: I have a call in to the Port of Morrow. I would like to get a small work group together involving the County, the Port and planning to start some discussion about the drainage issues. I have a meeting with WRD next week to talk about our concerns, now that they've targeted us for pumping the Robbins water. BTW, our drain is not doing much of a job. Our pump goes on, but the small opening and ditch that Robbins put in, which is about 6 feet from the one WEID installed, stays full. That is another story and to be determined what to do.

SDAO BOARD TRAINING – MAY 4: Lisa will report on the SDAO Board training which she and Vern attended.

ANNUAL AUDIT: Our auditors will start the audit of our books on May 30.