

MANAGER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2017

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

OPERATIONS: Crews have been busy working in Irrigon and planning for completing the Lateral 11 project.

Main canal: Walt has cleaned the main canal from Three Mile to Ramp Weir One. Silt is easily much more than any year he has seen, which we can see throughout our canal. We will need to be sure to clean the entire canal this year, not skipping any sections as we've had to do the past three years. Walt and Ben have also pulled out HG1, preparing it for replacement this year. Crew and backhoe can do the rest of the work later this winter. The excavator has moved to Boardman and is doing prep work for Lateral 11. After lateral 11, the excavator will start cleaning the Boardman canal and pulling panels.

Shop & IPS work: The work at the shop (concrete pad) is complete and the new walls at the pit should be finished soon. This completes the lingering work as part of the Irrigon Pump Station retrofit project. Alan came up with the idea that instead of putting walls into one of the current box cars for storing the pesticides, we can do some vent work on the boxcar that we are currently using and continue using that for our pesticide and chemical storage. Not only will this save us money, but it will keep the pesticides out of town.

Irrigon booster stations: The 7th Street pump station rebuild is underway. System has been pulled; pipe for replacing the old steel is on site and Daryl Frederickson has been hired to put in the new steel line. Replacing manifolds at the 6th St and 4th St stations is part of the work that Daryl will do. Manifolds have been pulled for him. Three pumps & motors were pulled after the season and have been reconditioned by GMW Industries in Arlington.

Lateral 11: Pipe and most of the fittings are on site. Excavator moved in on Thurs, Nov. 16 and started site prep work. We are going with a Clemons screen. Landowners are asking for a pressurized system and the Board will consider this at the board meeting. A decision will need to be made quickly so we don't hold up the project. Here are the project costs as it now stands (total figures from 2016 and 2017):

	Budget	Paid to Date	To be spent	Total	Comments
Pipe & materials	\$ 52,217	\$ 30,948	\$ 13,500	\$ 44,448	
Contractors	\$ 38,183	\$ 10,897	\$ 9,800	\$ 20,697	Road crossing Final engineer Electrical
Meters			\$ 8,200	\$ 8,200	
Contingency			5,000	\$ 5,000	
Sub-Total	\$ 90,400	\$ 41,845	\$ 38,500	\$ 78,345	
BOR GRANT	(25,000)	(10,000)	(15,000)	(25,000)	
TOTAL COST	\$ 65,400	\$ 31,845	\$ 23,500	\$ 53,345	

IRRIGON WATER RIGHT PROJECT: We've been working on the water rights project in Irrigon this year as it is the 5th year of "non-use" for folks that have ceased irrigating due to houses, outbuildings and so on or simply let their land go dry. At the end of all the work, most folks in Irrigon were able to irrigate and "save" their water right from potential forfeiture. We had 3.90 water right acres already signed off for transfer prior to the start of the season and picked up another 10.7 acres of water rights from 21 folks that had dry areas they agreed to move off. At the end of the season, we sent out 15 final confiscation letters. Three of those submitted affidavits of irrigation and the remaining will be filed for permanent transfer under the confiscation statute. This is an additional 9.15 acres. In the end, many folks in Irrigon are aware of the five-year non-use statute under Oregon water law.

The sub-divisions on the main canal have been protected and we are trying to get those folks to sign off their water rights where houses and buildings have gone in. About 40% did so after the first letter. We'll follow up for next year with the rest and may need to do a confiscation process for a few of those. The monitoring of water rights is something that will continue to be ongoing and does take up some time.

WATER DELIVERY ISSUES: There are three issues I have been working on. Here is where we are:

- 1) The alternate point of delivery for Kaizen Farms. The work is complete, waiting for the final maps, Kaizen signature and signature from Morrow County. Cost to date is \$1260. We have County fees, WRD fees and a bit more work from Molly. This should be filed next week, if all goes well. Who is paying the cost of this work?
- 2) Finding a permittee to take the City of Hermiston water. There is 900 gpm available. I left a message twice for Kersake Farms and McNamees have expressed interest. After all consideration, I think we should identify acres that can take the water all season. In this way, we can charge them the same as other district irrigators. Would there be any other management fees?
- 3) Pumping the groundwater or "nuisance" water from Root Lane into the Canal. I have yet to submit the application. I have identified three landowners interested in the water that are not currently being served and have one or two more in mind. More work needs to be done for this including identifying the well construction and preparing the application. Again, these irrigators should be charged the same as the rest of the District as their land is developed.

SDAO BEST PRACTICES: We have completed our work and should have the full 10% discount for our insurance in 2018.

PICKUP PURCHASE: We really need a new pickup. We added an employee last year and have been using a shop truck for that person. We'll have bids at the meeting. We'll need to order now as it is a 60 – 90 day turnaround for delivery.

LEGAL: Douglas is preparing the two letters we want (WRD and BOR) to put our issues on "hold." We are making the larger case with Reclamation about their obligation to protect the seepage and return flows.