

MANAGER'S REPORT - DECEMBER 2017

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

OPERATIONS: The pipe and Headgate work for lateral 11 is complete. Thus, the grant work was completed by Dec. 31 – on time. We have the pump design and the pump/VFD at our shop. That installation will occur sometime in March or early April.

The prison crew started Jan. 8. They will be used for cleaning the laterals and assisting with concrete work. In addition to shoring up the canal and laterals for delivery, our focus will be on getting the canal and laterals ready for herbicide application prior to water season. In the course of that, several areas of concern have come up as far as the north side of the canal. ON the opposite side of the canal and laterals, there is much encroachment throughout – mainly farming and fencing. A few landowners take care of that side, but most don't. Ben and I are proposing a discussion with the Board about this to have a two year plan to regain necessary access or landowner agreement and assure weed control can take place along both sides of our canal and easements. **AGENDA ITEM.**

Canal cleaning is well underway. Walt is the lead man on cleaning with Adam and Alan filling in the afternoons. One of the things I really like about the position we are in with our current crew is that they can look at the big picture of where we want to be. We've considered the work in the canal and laterals and have prioritized the work; what the prison crew can do; what our own crew can do; areas that are not necessary or can be skipped over and so on. In the past, for instance – the prison crew did every single lateral and an attempt was made to clean the entire canal. That was the direction given and that was what was done. Well, not every lateral needs a ten-man crew and not every bit of the canal needs to be cleaned. We can spend our resources in a higher priority area and be better off for it. Supervisor Ben is really grabbing this concept and I think in two more years, we will see what a difference this mindset will have done for us.

SYPHON BRIDGE: I have been working with Wayne Reffett to find material for the bridge replacement at the syphon. We really need to get this done as it affects our operation. He found railroad cars for \$8000 – 40' X 8'. While this seems expensive, it really is a good deal. He has also found a wooden structure that he's salvaged from a railroad site. He seems to want a couple thousand for this (not clear yet). Both will need to be installed by crane, will need lumber decking and will need some type of guardrail. I would like board direction on how to proceed. There are pictures of the wooden structure in the Board packet. **AGENDA ITEM.**

IPS METER: I need some direction from the Board about the meter issue at IPS. WRD expects it to work this season. I can get a quote on a new meter and advice from salesman, but I need to find someone who can advise us in the right direction . Here are my questions:

Why doesn't our current meter work?

Is there a meter that will work in the current location and what kind of meter is that?

Will our current meter work in a different location?

I could go to our engineer, have someone at GSI advise us or another consulting firm, use a technician from True Vision, or find someone local to advise us. We could replace that meter or move it downstream to measure part of the system and purchase a new meter to measure the rest if the location is the problem. I am just not sure where to turn. I could prep a short scope of work and get it out to a few folks. **ADVICE PLEASE and AGENDA ITEM.**

HG 86 & 87: Abe asked us to consider enclosing these deliveries and requiring the two landowners to cease flood irrigation. If so, I would recommend the 2020 irrigation season or later. Maps for this area are included in the board packet. **AGENDA ITEM.**

“NUISANCE” WATER PUMPING: We’ve been looking at the supplemental water issue and think that can be done. The Port’s consultant would like to file on the water along Root Lane and on the ponds at Bombing Range. Glen Chowning happened to call this morning and has some concerns about some water he is passing onto the blueberry land that he would like to reclaim and how pumping from Bombing Range may affect him. He wants to talk to the Board and can attend on Monday until 10 am. Miff will also be there. So – **AGENDA ITEM** to be moved early on the agenda please.

IRRIGON WATER RIGHT PROJECT: The filings were done on-time.

CLAIMS OF BENEFICIAL USE: We’ve have four claims of beneficial use (for previous water right transfers) that have been on my radar for quite some time. We were waiting for the McKay certificate to be finalized. Although the protocol is not settled, I thought we should move ahead with filings these claims. I’ve spent a lot of time just before the holidays and until now getting these done. I am getting the final maps from the engineer today and plan to have these ready to be mailed to WRD over the weekend. I say this because I am not sure if the Board understands all that goes into keeping the water rights in the correct place, doing the water right transfers and keeping transparency. Mapping is done at all levels – the preliminary, the final application and the final claim. Then, we need to update the maps in our office to correctly show where the water rights lie. Annually, we also need to update our maps with Morrow and Umatilla County data in order to stay current for any transfers we do each season. Just saying....we need money in the mapping budget to accomplish this and to keep our maps up to date for operational purposes.

BUDGET: I’ve reworked the budget; added some notes. **AGENDA ITEM.**

LEGAL: I have included the letter that we plan to send to Reclamation in the Board packet. I would like to Board to review this. I think it states our interest very well and will work as a placeholder while we allow things to settle down for awhile – pending the Tribal water right settlement. **NEEDS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION.**