



WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

WATER START-UP

We cannot predicate the exact date of water start-up, due to this crazy winter weather. These dates will be helpful.

MAIN CANAL:

Please close your valves and have your system ready by March 23.

Once the weather clears, we have 2—3 weeks of work to do on the main canal. As of March 1, our target date for start-up of the main canal is March 25.

Irrigon System & Pump Stations: We will start about two weeks after the main canal, so April 10– 15.

Please close your valves by April 9.

As dates get closer, you can call the District office to confirm start-up. 541-922-3814.



PIPING OF DISTRICT LATERALS

Over the years, the District has worked to conserve water by piping or upgrading various laterals. Work started in 1998 when a majority of the Irrigon system was piped and pressurized, and flood irrigation was eliminated. The concrete and steel lines serving the Irrigon system since 1981 were upgraded between 2007—2015. The biggest project was replacing 4800 feet of 26-inch concrete line with PVC providing pressurized water to the patrons. This cost us \$110,000 in 2009. That same project would be 60% above that cost today. During that time, most of the open laterals off the Irrigon part of the main canal were piped, again eliminating flood irrigation as piping improvements took place.

In 2016, the District started piping the open laterals in Boardman., looking for continued water conservation and operational savings. These laterals have been piped or eliminated thus far:

2016/17—Lateral 7	5900 ft.	\$191,000
2017/18—Lateral 11	4900 ft	\$182,000 plus Morrow Co work
2018/19—Laterals 5 and 9	5200 ft.	\$210,000

Thus far, we will see a water savings of 1600 acre-feet. This water savings will increase as the larger laterals are piped.

The District is installing pump stations with VFD and canal screens on the new systems. Thus pressurized water is provided to the landowners.

The District increased its rate by \$5 per acre in 2015 to help pay for these projects. Federal dollars have helped the cost of the projects. A federal grant of \$600,000 has been awarded to the District toward piping or elimination of laterals 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18. Morrow County NCRS has funds to help the landowners upgrade their own systems.

The above laterals will be piped between 2019 and 2022. For lands west of these, we would like to work with those living closest to the canal to upgrade their systems. The remaining laterals will be after 2022 and will be prioritized on water conservation and operational benefits.

A meeting was held with landowners off laterals 12, 13, and 15 recently. A meeting will be planned for those on Laterals 17 and 18 this summer and for the flood irrigators in the west part of Boardman. There is more information in the newsletter regarding the District work in conserving water and upgrading its laterals.



AQUATIC HERBICIDE APPLICATION OFFICIAL NOTICE

West Extension Irrigation District uses the aquatic herbicides ACROLIEN (Magnicide-H), COPPER SULFATE, AGROS (Chelated copper) and ENDOTALL in its main canal to treat pond weed and algae. The District has a NPDES permit from Oregon DEQ that allows it to apply the products.

Each product is applied two to five times during the season, starting in mid-May and continuing to mid-September. A notice of treatment will be posted on the door of the District office and on the WEID website 36 hours prior to each treatment.

If you have dairy animals or are delivering to a public site (schools, parks, mobile home park), you are required to close your delivery point during the treatment times. If you have livestock and are using irrigation water as stock water, you may want to close your delivery during treatment times.

If you would like further information on this notice or the aquatic herbicide products, please contact the District office.

If you would like to be directly notified prior to any application, please contact the District office in writing providing a telephone number with an answering machine or an e-mail address. We will contact you 24 hours prior to the canal aquatic herbicide application.

PAYMENT DUE DATES

First half payment due April 1.

Second half payment due July 1.

Account must be current in order to take water. Make sure that your 2018 power bill has been paid.

WEID CONTACTS

OFFICE: 541-922-3814

EMERGENCY:& WEEKENDS:
541-314-0005

E-MAIL: info@westextension.com

WATER ORDER: 541-922-9372

DISTRICT PAYMENT PLANS

Many landowners are taking advantage of the payment plans offered by the District. They need to be made with the office and must be in writing prior to **end of March**. If you start later than that, you 'll need to catch up the March payment. Here are the payment plans:

1. **SIX MONTH PLAN:** Six (6) monthly payments, March - August. If your account also has a power bill at the end of the season, this can be added to the payment arrangements, if completed by March 31.
2. **TWELVE MONTH PLAN:** Twelve (12) monthly payments, to include annual charges and an estimate of the annual power bill if applicable, available to landowners on a fixed income.

Interest does not accrue on these plans, if payment arrangements are kept.

**PAY YOUR BILL ON TIME OR SIGN UP FOR A PAYMENT PLAN
TO AVOID INTEREST CHARGES!!!**

BOARDMAN PIPING PROJECT Q & A

Why is the District doing its conservation and piping projects?

It's all about water conservation and the continued rise in the cost of water to the District and its patrons. Flows in the Umatilla River continue to decrease as upland irrigation districts are piping laterals and going to more conservative methods of irrigation. This has resulted in a steady decrease in flows available to WEID for its water supply. The District relies more and more on its pumped water from the Columbia River, which is much more expensive than the Umatilla water.

The CTUIR is negotiating its water right settlement. Some upland districts and irrigators off the Umatilla River will be trading their Umatilla River water rights for pumped water from the Columbia River. This water will be piped and much of the open delivery systems will be abandoned or piped. These actions will affect the District's water availability in the river.

What are the benefits to the landowners/irrigators?

- Water will be more reliable and readily available.
- Shared cost of pressurized delivery system.
- Screened water from the main canal.

Who is paying the cost of these Boardman projects?

The District has received federal funding for approximately 45% of the upcoming projects. It will match with labor and equipment and borrow funds for the rest. The District increased its improvement fees by \$5 in 2015, which is helping to pay for these projects.

What is the additional cost to the landowners?

Pressurized deliveries pay an increased annual fee. This is because not everyone in the District has pressurized water. The pressurized delivery covers the installation, repair, operation and ongoing maintenance of the pressurized system. Landowners pay their portion of the annual power bill for their water, based on actual use. This is shown by their meter. There is a minimum fee for the power, which includes keeping the weed screen working.

Landowners will receive a meter that will be installed by the District and belong to the property. Irrigators will need to winterize it and keep it maintained and in working order.

Where will the pipe be laid relative to my property?

For the most part, the pipe will be placed in the existing federal easement or private ditch. That is where the current rights for the ditch lie. In some cases, the District will work on getting easements from landowners, often relocating the ditch and the federal easement. We want to put the pipe where it makes the most sense and we have easement protection. We will begin working with landowners right away to determine the location of the final pipeline and keep folks informed as the plan is developed.

Will I need my own pump station? No. This is a pressurized delivery to your property.

How much water will I get?

The District's allotment is 8.5 gallons per minute (gpm) per acre up to 4.5 acre-feet of water. Water will be measured by your meter.

When will this work be done?

Laterals 12 and 13 deliveries will be piped after water shutdown this season, so November, 2019. Those folks should plan for the pressurized delivery for the 2020 irrigation season. Lateral 15 will follow the next year and Lateral 17 & 18 the next.

Who will pay the cost to upgrade my individual system?

This is up to you. The Morrow office of NCRS has identified funding and is working with the District to contact landowners to apply for that funding. Informational meetings will be held for the landowners.

DISTRICT INSTALLING DUCTILE LINER IN MAIN CANAL

The District is installing a ductile canal liner in a 300 foot section of its main canal. The liner has about the same cost as replacing concrete, but the time savings in labor and equipment is what makes this a cost-effective project for the District. We will see how this works for a year or two and consider it in other places where such a project makes sense. The real question we have is how our on-going maintenance, including removing sagebrush and blown-in sand, will affect the liner. Here is some information.

Check out this website if you want to learn more about the lining. <http://www.skidmarkgeomembrane.com>



Coyote Springs seepage area Fall, 2019. Note green overgrowth and lack of canal structure. This is a high seepage area, due to springs impacting the canal.



A reminder from Otto Otter that irrigation canals can be very dangerous. They are not a place for dogs or kids to play, swim or bathe.

BE SAFE. KEEP YOUR PETS & ANIMALS AWAY FROM THE CANAL..



WEID Crew on March 1—Laying, stapling & hot welding the liner in place.