

MANAGER'S REPORT - APRIL 2019

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

OPERATIONS: Ben has done an excellent job of keeping our crews moving and water start-up. This has been the smoothest startup I've seen in the years that I've been here. Water started on the main canal on Wed, April 3, then into Boardman on Friday, April 4. Since we missed the winds, there was just burning ahead of the water, so that saved a lot of time. The wet weather has tempered the urgency for water. Ben will report on where we are with getting folks up and running. Irrigon will start up on Tuesday, April 16.

LATERAL 9 PROJECT: We are still waiting for the notice to proceed from Reclamation, who has been held up by the CTUIR. We need this to complete removing Lateral 9 concrete and lay the 12-inch pipe. The crew is working on the pump station and deliveries.

LATERAL 7 – RIPPEE ROAD: We changed the screen pump a bit and should work better and save some money.

SPRAYING: Alan sprayed the canal right-of-way and started on the laterals. He is doing start-up now. Ben can report where we are.

WATER RIGHT SETTLEMENT: Thanks to Vern's questions, I realize that we need a refresher on how the District has identified its return flow declining problem. Most of you weren't on the Board when we hired John Koreny of HDR to do the work and fight for the 500 AF of water we got from McKay due to the Westland ID boundary change. I thought we'd spend some time at this meeting going over WEID history relative to return flows and catch you all up on the work we've been doing. You have documents in your folder for this and we'll have a presentation and discussion at the meeting.

WATER MARKETING: We need to set a rate for Hilltop to take about 1000 gpm from the canal, I would say approximately 400 acre-feet. This will be the City of Hermiston water. I recommend we charge \$25 per acre-foot. This will cover our O&M costs.

BOR WATER SMART GRANTS: A reminder that we are finishing up one grant – Rippee Road East and West (Lateral 5 and 9). We had that completion date extended to Sept. 30 due to the weather and being held up by CTUIR in the environmental review. We are waiting for notice to proceed on removal of the concrete and will need to bring in a monitor when we are digging to look for tribal artifacts.

LATERAL 12 PROJECT: We received a grant for \$75,000 for piping and installing a pump station of Lateral 12. I've had the kickoff meeting with Reclamation on this project, so it is moving well. I have to provide budget backup and other required information by April 24. I feel confident that this contract will be in place to start up November 1. We still have environmental to do, but it is being worked on.

BOARDMAN EAST PIPING AND PRESSURIZATION PROJECT: This is the \$540,000 grant for piping and pressurizing Boardman from Miller Road to Skoubo Lane (and east). A part of this will be covered in the Lateral 12 budget, so we may be able to move some dollars to another project. We would need to decide that soon. Our kickoff meeting isn't until June 20, so I don't think these funds will be available by November 1. We may be able to help some folks along the canal convert from flood to sprinkler or take a look at the Doherty/Poe/Campos problem.

DEQ CLEAN WATER REVOLVING FUND APPLICATION: I've included their latest materials in the Board packet. We will target the August 9 cycle for our application. I've talked with the grant assistant several times. I'll plan to have something for you at the June meeting. Also, you notice that there is a way to set up loans for our patrons through the District under this program.

GS/CTUIR RETURN FLOW WORK: I'll have some interesting updated handouts at the meeting (under Managers Report) Adam and Owen could not attend this meeting. Things are moving and we have a conference call with Mike Ladd next week to review their work. Reclamation is working on a meeting with us and WRD for early May to discuss the return flows above UMDO. We will try to add the 87872 issue to that discussion. We have contacted Joe Ely to set up a meeting with him when he comes in May. No word yet. I recommend that we set up a special Board meeting with Adam and Owen in early May.

CORPS PERMIT – PRIVATE LANDOWNERS/IRRIGON: Corps of Engineers is asking \$10,750 advance funds for their environmental and administrative work for the Winter/Coffman/Dribble pipeline easement in Irrigon. There is no alternative for them to get water without going through the Corps property. They have been contacted and sent a contract and payment plan. You may recall that the private landowners let their permit expire a few years ago. The Corps contacted us to take it over, which we will do in trust for these landowners.

WINDWAVE CROSSINGS – BOARMAN LATERALS: Reclamation and WEID gave permission to Windwave to cross four Boardman laterals and they are getting that done now.

FLOOD IRRIGATORS/IRRIGON: Letters have gone out to Acock, Payne and Proctor about the change in their irrigation for next year. We also sent a letter to Stice urging him to get funding to make that change as he is not selling his partitioned property yet.

TRANSFERS: I filed all the Claims of Beneficial Use on the transfers that we filed since 2001 (four permanent set of transfers through 2015). There were various things holding them up, most recently how to handle the McKay certificate 87872. But, it's done. It was a lot of focused work and it feels good. We have filed some temporary transfers for 2019 and will do the rest in the next two weeks. There will be another permanent transfer in 2019 as we have some subdivisions that have forfeited rights.

BOARD ATTENDEES: Jim Young will be at the Board so you can ask him any questions you would like about the canal liner. We have about 400 feet left that we plan to install downstream from where we are now.

We have been contacted by Marty Gardner, representing 3D Idapro Solutions. I've enclosed information about them. They need a place to put their processed water from dehydrating potato by-products. They make a powder for use in the dog food industry. Vern and I met with him on Thursday. He got our name from DEQ. Marty is on a tight schedule as he is losing his current site in 60 days. He is looking for a year-round solution, which we can't provide right now. But, you know I am always looking for potential partners on the regional water storage reservoir. The water is about 70,000 gallons per day, so a small amount. It would be hauled in by trucks. One idea is using above ground storage containers, we can release it at 50 gpm for a 24-hour period, but more likely would look at daytime use. Lots of details to work out if we decide to move ahead. He will be looking for a decision at this meeting if we are interested or not.

BEV'S RETIREMENT: I have a letter from Social Security now telling me that I must start taking SS in June and anything I earn after I turn 70 will not apply to my total earnings, So, I plan to take my PTO "payout" the end of May. Unless you fire me, I will be a retired person coming back to work full-time. I understand you may not be paying PERS on me at that time. I am not sure about Social Security. I will be going on Medicare as well, so some savings there. I need all I can to keep Gary working. He plans to continue work on cleaning up the canal right-of-way as long as we can keep him this summer. There is no question that the work need to be done. Ben and I are squeezing things in the budget to keep him.