

MANAGER'S REPORT - MAY 2019

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

OPERATIONS: We jinxed ourselves by talking about how smooth the water start-up has been at the last Board meeting.. The rest of this page provides how a series of failures came into play and by the 16th of May (now officially the worst day here), we were all pretty beat up. But, surprisingly, the biggest failure (the IPS) found us calm (or numb).

RELOCATION CANAL FAILURE: The morning after the Board meeting, we were notified by a landowner, Tony Osborne, that the end of the Relocation Canal had washed out. He had placed boards in the end check structure, causing the canal to overtop. It had likely run all night. Two concrete delivery structures fell into the canal area and a section of canal was washed out. We had just taken our equipment to the shop for R & M when the call came in. We got the dump truck running, but the excavator and backhoe were down for repair. We sent the backhoe to Pendleton for work. We rented a long reach excavator for this job. We took our own excavator to the canal to help with filling the dump trucks. We talked with Al Phillips, planning to hire him to do the pour. We were on it three days bringing in material and reforming the ditch. Al was tied up with other jobs, so we went ahead with the rebuild with our foreman and the prison crew. Another four days with the prison crew and concrete work and the water was turned back in on May 1.

We immediately saw a problem with the repair. One of the concrete boxes sank and a hole developed in one of the new walls. We had to shut it down again while we determined what to do. Water was up and down for a few days. We decided to hire Wise Excavating and Construction to do the work. We are able to run water for most of the folks by watching it closely. Strebin have not needed water yet in this area. We anticipate starting up again around the 18th.

Tony Osborne has been contacted by our insurance company, letting him know of possible damages. I'll have our costs for the first repair at the Board meeting. Strebin's pumps are OK and so far, no crop loss from them. I anticipate that we will send Osborne a bill for repair.

PROJECT LAT 9: We got the go ahead from the cultural folks to remove the concrete and finish piping the Boardman Lateral 9 on April 22. We were in the midst of the Relocation rebuild, but got started on Wednesday, the 24th. We had to hire a cultural monitor to be onsite for all that digging, which was 7 days. Frederickson Farms loaned us a dump truck for some of those days, which helped move quicker. We rented an excavator since ours had that oil leak, which we did not have time to address. Again, we moved our excavator to the fill site to load fill. The electrical work was completed by May 8 and water started through the system a day or so later. There was a pump issue and a few leaks but it was running fully by the 15th. The gravity lateral ran water on Saturday, the 11th.

Current status is the system is fully running, but not complete. There is quite a bit of fill to bring in to cover the pipe. The Port did some work at their site, so we had to pull out last week. We are working on getting our equipment repaired before going back to finish the project. All rental and borrowed equipment has been returned. The crew has some work on the screen to complete.

EQUIPMENT ISSUES: As mentioned above, we pulled our equipment in for R,O&M on April 17. We had trouble with the transmission filter on our own dump truck. The excavator had a leak in the motor that we could not reach, and the backhoe was down with vibration and not staying in gear. The backhoe was taken to Pape in Pendleton for repair. Vern's mechanic helped us work on the dump truck and the excavator. Ben can report at the meeting where things are. The backhoe still needs some work on a leveling mechanism.

MORE PROBLEMS: On May 9th, we discovered 137 cfs in our canal (we were running 85 cfs for our own use). Reclamation had tested their pumps, which they had called about that morning. But, I didn't know they were going to run 54 cfs in to our canal for two hours. This created some havoc, and we called landowners to start taking water. They did and we were able to dump the water in several places to get the canal back down.

A leak on one of the few steel mainlines remaining in Irrigon developed on the 16th. We shut down half of Irrigon and started draining the line. Wise completed that repair on Saturday, the 18th. There is still fill and asphalt to bring in, which should be done Monday.

IRRIGON PUMP STATION: We noticed a lot of air and fluctuation in Irrigon on the 16th. By the time I got the call at the office, I recognized it as trouble with our screens and we shut down. We meet Herb Stahl at the site and he had the same conclusion. They had been fighting the air in the system since the day before. Divers were brought in on Friday. We stayed down until Saturday, after the steel line was repaired. Ben and Adam spent over six hours restarting the system on Saturday.

WORK ORDERS: There were a lot of work orders piling up, including some folks that could not get water since both their valve and our valve were broken. I hired Wise to take care of two repairs in Irrigon, we squeezed in several others and we will do the last two on Monday. There are still a lot of work orders, but it is manageable once we get all systems up and running.

CORRESPONDENCE: Irrigators on the "down" systems have been sent letters advising of the problem and repair schedule. I also sent a letter to everyone in Irrigon and on Southshore Drive reminding them of the two valve system. One is the District valve and the second is the landowner valve - for their own use. I thought it would get better over the years that I've been here, but we keep going to the same folks (well, every few years) that are using the district valve for their own use and expecting the district to replace it at no cost. Basically, moving forward we will bill back a customer for the cost of repair or replacing the District valve if they do not have a customer working valve (or no valve). It's just time for that procedure to help cut our time and costs. We are also using our website to post updated information on outages.

WRD/BOR RETURN FLOW MEETING: We had a meeting with the folks from Reclamation and Water Resources Department to discuss the return flow issue at mid-river. Dalarie and Vern were able to attend the meeting along with our consultants. Since the work products for the meeting are under our legal contract, we will discuss this in executive session.

CORPS PERMIT – PRIVATE LANDOWNERS/IRRIGON: You may recall that the Corps of Engineers asked the District to “take over” an expired permit for three landowners off the Irrigon system who have allowed their Corp permit to expire. The Corps asked \$10,750 advance funds for their environmental and administrative work for this Winter/Coffman/Dribble pipeline easement in Irrigon. As I reported last month, there is no alternative for them to get water without going through the Corps property. We finally got a signed agreement from all three parties and either payment or a payment plan. We’ve sent the signed MOA and funds back to the Corps. The Corps has agreed to allow the pipeline to continue while they process the permit.

FLOOD IRRIGATORS: Ben did most of the inspections for the Boardman flood ditches to take water. He had a small handful left last week, but I told him we needed to move on. I think it was a good idea to inspect them and some folks did more work than usual. But, we just couldn’t hold up irrigation any longer on these few folks. There are several landowner issues on shared laterals where new owners have closed off ditches or caused some problems. These are small lots, but they do need to irrigate. We’ll be getting to those next.

3D SOLUTIONS: No further word from them, but we did get the testing results.

AGENDA ITEMS:

REVIEW OF O&M POLICY: I’ve included a copy of our Policy Standard that includes placing boards in the canal. We do not have a liability statement within the policy. This does not keep us from going after folks that caused damage. But, it may make sense to make a statement such as “damages caused by actions of District patrons are not the responsibility of the District.”

CITY OF UMATILLA DRAFT: I’ve included a copy of what we show as the latest draft agreement between the City and Reclamation, which we would need to agree with. There is some language here that, from my perspective, changes the reuse options of the water. I think the City is being proactive in case they want to reuse the water on City land. However, that changes the type of contract that would be needed for such use and would not be in the scope of what we have discussed at this time. I don’t believe there has been any agreement between the City and Reclamation at this time.

SUTER PARTITION: We received notice of Suter’s intent to legally divide the two parcels he owns in Boardman into two parcels. The land is divided by the main canal, which is a reserved right-of-way. I talked with the Ron McKinnis, the surveyor. Each parcel will own up to the right-of-way line. Many years ago (early 2000’s), Barbie Hill, then the real estate

specialist, sent a consent to use agreement to the Suters for their barn and fencing placed on the federal right-of-way. Discussion with Ron leads me to think this is the easiest way to handle that encroachment issue and is in-line with other such issues in the District. This will be on the agenda for discussion, in case it is needed.

PROJECT FUNDING – FUTURE PROJECTS: We are working with Reclamation and DEQ on project funding. There is no information at this time, but I can bring in the draft outline that we had at the last meeting to facilitate discussion.

DUMP TRUCK: Wise Construction has a used dump truck for sale and he will take \$18,000 for it. We are very interested in this purchase as a second dump truck. We have needed a second truck for quite awhile as we've been using one from Frederickson. We have been looking at anything under \$20,000. We paid \$17,500 for our current truck in 2004, which is the same vintage as the Wise Truck. Our crew believes the Wise Truck, having been used on the job, is in much better condition and is built specifically for the use we need. Plus, it will pass ODOT inspection, which we are having hard time with. It is already fitted with the pentle hitch that we use. It is a 16-speed which means our crew would get a full CDL, not conditioned upon the automatic transmission. We ask the Board to consider this seriously as the need for a second truck is crucial on the piping projects.

SHOP UPDATE: The City just sent a letter approving our water and sewer hooks. They placed a few conditions. A copy is in the Board packet for review. Ron McKinnis is completing the engineer review of the plans, hopefully this week (so he said).

REUSE WATER FROM BOMBING RANGE ROAD: The consultants for the Port would like to file the water rights for the water from Bombing Range Road. We need to decide where we would like the water. I would recommend one of the two:

- 1) All property in Boardman
- 2) Ag parcels in Boardman

I'm trying to make it easier to track, so one of these two would work and should be able to be tracked when a transfer is done. The reason I considered Ag parcels is that they likely will not have small transfers coming up for transfer. It really is this housekeeping issue only to be considered.