

## MANAGER'S REPORT - JUNE 2019

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

**OPERATIONS:** Ben will not be at the meeting on Thursday, so this will be the Operations Report.

Excavator: The excavator is in Lexington for repair. Despite several contacts with Ken Bailey, we don't have an estimate on the pins and bushings nor is the work that the excavator went in for complete. As of 6-13, he had it torn apart and was ordering parts.

We still have an excavator on rental to finish up the fill at Lateral 9. We had two weeks of hauling fill left to do and should finish it up by the end of this week. Having that second dump truck is very helpful. Vern loaned a loader for the site and we rented a water truck. Adam and Gary are looking at the water truck we got from the City with plans to get it running this summer.

Herbicide. We started with a copper sulfate treatment in Boardman on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We will do a Cascade treatment on Tues, the 19<sup>th</sup>. Following that, we plan a full canal copper treatment on June 26<sup>th</sup>, acrolien on July 10<sup>th</sup> and Argos (chelated copper) on July 17. We don't have to shut down the canal for the Argos treatment. We'll assess from there, but I expect at least two more acrolien treatments and two more copper sulfate or Argos treatments. It's all related to water temperature. I've enclosed a copy of what we did last year.

Three Mile Dam. We will need to do some work at Three Mile in July – silt removal both in front of the forebay and inside the forebay. We will need to rent a long reach excavator for that job so we can get as much out of there as possible.

District irrigation operations. The crew has been busy trying to keep up with the various problems that come with start-up. The work orders are caught up as far as immediate needs. The pickups are caught up for oil changes and repairs. There have been some problems with the Rippee rotating screen, and we think it's due to low water, since it's happening when the water in Boardman is below 50 cfs. We'll put a check in there for next season. Several pumps need packing – we hope to get someone on that next week. We are also trying to get to mowing and weed-eating. We some overuse and seepage issues that the crew is trying to catch up with.

**SHOP UPDATE:** We are moving along. Ron McKinnis worked with Payless Lumber on a design that will be stamped by their engineer. Right now, Ben and our contractor are looking it over before it goes to their Engineer. The City is preparing for the water and sewer hookup and waiting for our plans. I've looked at the property and decided on areas we can put some minimal landscaping to meet the City's requirements.

**3D SOLUTIONS:** No further word from them.

**CITY OF UMATILLA AGREEMENTS:** My last discussion with Reclamation was that the agreements are being looked over in Boise. I don't think the DEQ permit has been issued yet. Wendy (Reclamation Real Estate specialist) and I agree that the two documents we are concerned with – three-way agreement to take the water into the canal and our two-way

financial and liability agreement with the City – will be executed at the same time. The City’s attorney has done some work on the two-way agreement. I haven’t seen the latest copy yet, although I understand Reclamation has. All the documents will go to the Board when I receive the final DEQ permit and the Reclamation drafts. We may need a special meeting for that.

**AUDIT:** Our annual financial audit is scheduled for June 27 and 28. We have already requested an extension of time to file the audit with the State.

**RRA AUDIT:** Reclamation audits the RRA reports every five years and it was done last week. Ours passed with “flying colors” – no issues. We have two landowners that pay full cost – Anacapa and Cleaver. For any questions on the RRA, ask Lisa at the Board meeting.

**RECLAMATION PAYOFF INFO:** The Board asked for more information about paying off the Reclamation repayment contract. This is a 1954 contract. We pay \$2961 per year. We have \$127,202 left on our contract, which pays us off in 2062. There is no interest on the contract. This fall or winter, I’ll prepare information so we can consider whether to request title transfer. The first step will be to see if Reclamation is willing to support that.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

**IRRIGON PUMP STATION SCREEN PROBLEMS:** You recall that the screens were plugged totally up on May 16 and divers were called in to clean. They were plugged again on Saturday, June 1. The divers were called in to clean. Herb Stahl will be at the meeting to request assistance with paying the bill from Columbia River Divers and to discuss the airblast system costs.

In the meantime, I asked Dave Payne (who cleans neighboring pump stations on the Columbia) to check our screens. He dove today (Mon, June 17) and found the screens fouled and velocity well above the 0.2 required. The silt in the Columbia is still attaching to the screen. He spent two hours cleaning it. He charges \$175 per hour. I’d like to have him do this every 10 – 14 days, as needed, until we find another solution.

**OSBORNE BILL FOR RELOCATION REPAIR:** We have sent a preliminary bill to Osborne. I let him know we will discuss it at the Board meeting. He denies putting the Boards in and is very upset at getting a bill. He told me we would have trouble proving that he put those boards in. He, of course, wonders if he needs an attorney. I suspect we will need to send this to our attorney for collection. This is typically how these things go. Documents are in the board packet for your review. \*\*\*\* **If he states he will hire an attorney at the meeting, we should just ask him questions and let it go for now. We will need to discuss our notes and question our staff during Executive session.** \*\*\*\*

**CTUIR RETURN FLOW MEETING:** Our consultants will be at the meeting to go over the work they have done and our presentation to Joe Ely and Dan Hester from the CTUIR when we meet with them on June 25.