

## MANAGER'S REPORT - JANUARY 2019

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

**OPERATIONS:** First of all, we had to let Jose go as he was not properly documented as a worker in the U.S. At this writing, we are 11 weeks into the winter turnaround and 7 weeks to go until start-up. March 11 we will begin starting up the canal, which will likely be burning ahead of the water. We will plan to have water into Boardman by the end of that week, assuming all goes well.

We had the prison crew for 22 days. Here is an update of work completed over the past 11 weeks.

- Bridge at I-84 complete. We hired Shawn Sawyer to do the welding.
- Rippee Road project - pipeline complete.
- Lateral 9 – Cleanup done and all pressurized pipe installed for looped system.
- 140 panels on main canal in Boardman have been replaced and drainage work done.
- Headgate inspections are complete and 10 landowners contacted with screen problems.
- Six pumps/motors are at GMS in Arlington for repair/rebuild.
- Four rotating screens have been pulled and are repaired.
- About eight delivery screens need work and we are 60% through that
- Three days of cleaning on lateral 18.
- Some sagebrush and clean-up on the canal backside, as requested by BOR.

The prison crew comes back Tuesday, Jan. 22. We will have them for 28 days to do the lateral cleaning and assist with canal concrete work. Cate Gomes has agreed to run the prison crew for us this winter, so that is helpful. Here is what is left to start-up:

- The lining project – about 750' of liner will arrive Tues, Jan. 22. We starting prepping for this job on the 21<sup>st</sup> and will need 8 – 10 days of prep time which includes laying the drain pipe for about 140 feet on the back side. We anticipate liner to take two weeks. This 750' will affect approximately 190 panels and that much floor. We will lay the lining from the upstream drain to downstream of the badly damaged area for about 480 feet. The rest will go to a failing area downstream of this, above the RR crossing. This is a big job for us and we are looking forward to it. We need a minimum of 8 workers for the job and have six employees, counting our operator, Gary Kroske. We'll pick up 2-3 more as the prison crew will need some support. In order to start water on March 11, we need to have this project complete by Feb. 15, leaving three weeks to clean the canal. We are working with that deadline in mind.
- Canal cleaning – we will prioritize canal cleaning and Boardman is the prioritized area. Our excavator has been working all off-season. We haven't and won't be able to free it up for canal cleaning until after the lining project is complete. I am considering renting a piece of equipment to clean the canal and we have two guys that can operate, but are not operators. We'll see how everything plays out.
- Crossings – the two road crossings in Boardman are scheduled for Thurs Jan. 24.

- Lateral 9 – Headgate and pump station: We have ordered components and have a welder lined up to build the manifold. We have approval from Reclamation to remove the concrete and bury the new pipe, but are waiting for the State of Oregon. We have two weeks of work here and that will likely wait until after startup as long as the Headgate and screen are installed.
- Lateral & HG 86 – yet to be done.
- Redo the electrical/pump for Lateral 7.
- Install the repaired screens and complete any canal repair work. This will be done after the Coyote Springs lining project and before water startup.
- Spray the canal rights-of-way
- Several work orders, including clean-up of the ROW, as requested by Reclamation.

**LANDOWNER MEETING:** I had to cancel the landowner meeting with folks on Laterals 12, 13, and 15 about the piping project, due to my broken ankle. We have rescheduled it for Feb. 19 in Boardman at 6 pm. NCRS will participate.

**GRANTS/LOANS:** Due to my injury, I did not apply for a small grant for metering and also did not get in an application to the DEQ Revolving Load Program. We'll meet the next application cycle.

**LATERAL 39-10:** The folks on this lateral have not all signed the request – in fact only 4 landowners of the 10 have signed. So, we won't spend anymore time on this and will put it on hold for when they are ready.

**OFFICE:** Because of my injury and Lisa's recuperation of her ankle surgery, Chris has been covering the office. She has worked very hard to keep things going and we are all thankful for that, as it's not easy. Lisa is working six hours a day now and I am up to eight. We are getting things caught up slowly, but steadily.

**PORT OF MORROW:** I want to report that my meeting with the Port of Morrow and the new Manager, Ryan Neal, went quite well. Only the exit was flawed, due to my falling down their stairs. Their Commission has voted to support our request and work with us for the re-reg pond that we want/need at the current I-84 siphon. So, that is our next funding application. I think we'll get lots of match on this. Their consultant is waiting for me to give him a map showing where the groundwater (off Bombing Range Road) will go. I'll try to get to that after the Board meeting. They have agreed that they have the fill material we will need for our piping projects in Boardman. We had some good discussion on water issues in the area. We are fortunate to have such great support from the Port.

**PESTICIDE LICENSING:** The crew – Ben, Adam, Tassie and Cougar, have been doing study sessions with Lisa towards getting their Pesticide Laws & Safety testing done. Vern has been in to work with them once. I understand they will finish up this coming Sunday, then will plan to take the test. It looks as if this training has gone quite well. Time will tell.

**COMPUTER ISSUES:** We, along with many other folks, had problems with our computer and a new Windows update. We use Windows 7. Our computer geeks came in and solved the problem. We are aware, however, that Windows 7 will cease being supported in Jan of 2020 and we'll need to upgrade to Windows 10. We will lose our Address Book, which is our customer database. We'll need to decide what to do about that this year. We will also look at upgrading from Microsoft 2010 to 2016 at the end of the year. We also need to upgrade the bookkeeping computer. Total cost of these upgrades for all our computers is about \$1600. The cost of rebuilding our customer database program is unknown.

**BOARD MEMBER TRAINING:** SDAO will be in Hermiston on Tuesday, Jan. 29, offering the Board member training. It will be held at the OSU Extension Precision AG building. Thus far, we have Bob, Vern and Dalarie going. Lisa will also attend. If Abe or Warren find they can attend, let us know and we'll get you signed up.

**HERBICIDE APPLICATION MEETING:** On Jan. 29, Alan and I will attend a meeting in Kennewick between WA and OR area irrigation managers and applicators to discuss the herbicides and pesticides we are all using, product timing and how they work. It's been many years since this type of discussion has taken place – well before NPDES permits. So, we are looking forward to this and will find it beneficial to us.

**WATER START-UP:** As mentioned above, we are planning to start water up on March 11. That may mean starting to burn the canal and turn the water in from Three Mile to the 4X4 that day. In fact, that is the plan. If we can start water down the canal on Tuesday and finish up on Wednesday, we can get water into Boardman on Friday. As I see it, the only delay would be canal cleaning, some urgent concrete work or unexpected material in our canal. We will prepare ourselves to use a second burn crew, if necessary. But, it will be our own crew and we'll need a second water truck so we don't run into the problems we had last year.