

MANAGER'S REPORT - JULY 2023

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

OPERATIONS: Several items to report:

- The VFD for Southshore pump station has been installed.
- Problems with the VFD on both 7th St and Columbia Lane stations. Small pumps not kicking on. Gary Moore adjusted 7th St, waiting for Columbia. Training needed for Ben and Bob.
- Large motor on Columbia station being replaced.
- Shade cloths put up on all pump stations.
- Lots of overuse in Irrigon during the very hot weekends. Letters sent.
- Miller Road – another leak, this one a blowout. Crew is repairing today (Tuesday)
- Aquatic treatments continue. Lots of weed growth in canal.
- Private landowner issues with failing pipes or valves. We will send a letter to folks later this summer to remind them to replace aging valves.
- Shara has left the District.
- 1st Street line to MCSD replaced, part of City of Irrigon paving project
- All equipment is running. One pickup out for problems.

Planned priority work – complete Lateral 15 alfalfa valve to Broadbent line.

Leaks on Lateral 15

Repair of trash rack at Three Mile Dam (hit by excavator at some time)

Leak at RV Park off 13th Street

Mowing and cleaning Lateral 17. Several canal road areas and others.

Two issues for discussion –

- 1) Summer work at Three Mile Dam to complete debris and silt removal – work window is July 1 to August 15. We plan to bring Reffett in with his “new to him” jet-powered Army boat. We will also pull the damaged trash rack and repair it during this time.
- 2) Customer issues – Mark Keith and Vern Evans (Umatilla). Problems w. shared mainline Lateral 31 – ditch rebuilt by WEID several years ago is filling in

ADMINISTRATIVE: Lisa and Emma have been busy with collections, meter postcards, meter readings and reports. Lisa has one property ready legal action (official contact was made over 30 days ago with Notice to Proceed to Foreclosure). Because there is not an August meeting, she will have a short list of others that she plans to notice this month for formal collection proceedings. Approval from the Board will expedite this collection process. Remember that all these properties have received numerous statements (in various colors), shut-offs, phone calls and so on. They all owe at minimum 2022 and 2023 assessment.

MANAGER REPORT: I have been very pleased with Reclamation's follow-up to the City issues. There is more detail later in this report. Here are some other items I am working on:

WINDWAVE: Windwave is planning to install cable from Main Street to Tower Road on the north side of Kunze. We met with them to identify our crossings. We told them to contact Philippi for the location of county drains and their crossings in the area. Windwave offered to pipe the curbed ditch along the north side of Kunze. The issue is gravity flow. It would need to be a 24-inch gated ditch for flood irrigation. We should decide this and also how far below the laterals they need to be. We have been using 5-feet below the recently piped laterals. Ten (10) feet below the open laterals. Does the Board want to change that? They plan to get their application to Reclamation soon for work this fall.

PORT OF MORROW: At this meeting we learned that the POM plans to install a 24-inch freshwater pipe from Bombing Range Road to Tower Road, likely in 2025. They will be on the south side of Kunze, likely in the travel lane. I am not sure if they are following Wilson or coming through the Amazon campus, crossing our canal east of Miller Road. This was very preliminary discussion of their project..

EAGLE CREST/TAYLOR: We are close on finalizing our part of the Eagle Crest subdivision, which is the bridge crossing. Tying their LLC into the covenants is being looked at now. We need to be sure that every landowner knows they are a part owner of the bridge and have a share in the liability of the bridge. Conversations with Stiffler are going well. They, too, want to be sure they are protected from increased liability due to the new landowners.

GRANTS: All grants are in good shape. The extension received for the Canal Study to end of December. I will apply for an extension for Lateral 17. We have the contract for the new automated gates for the Relocation Canal. Meters are in for that grant and they will be installed in the off season. The infrastructure loan is proceeding with a request for cultural survey to Anderson Perry. Reclamation engineer has met with Ben and had some suggestions. I may apply for the pump station for 25, 26, 27. But, I am focused on finding money for Lateral 17 so we can finish that project.

CUSTOMERS: I am amazed each year at how many customer questions, comments and issues we have. It feels like we surely have answered them all, but new things keep coming up. I see that Lisa and Ben are growing in their knowledge all the time and more able to step up and address many of the issues with confidence, compassion and assurance. That makes me happy.

AGENDA ITEMS:

OSHA REQUEST: We have a letter and a follow-up phone call from OSHA about their inspection program. We have done a lot of safety work and our crews are trained, so I am not afraid of doing this. It's just the time. Direction from the Board, please.

NRCS 2024: Ben and I met with NRCS a few weeks ago in Boardman. They are very excited to get started on converting flood irrigation. We identified 48 acres of Philippi land, 45 acres of Pierce and 26 acres of Bebb. Plus there are 42 acres south of the canal that could be added. Now is the time to consider what we would like to do in this area as NRCS has the funding for next year. We have two years for the project. Our part is putting in the power, pump station and

mainline. We would apply for a small grant for this. We have delayed the Lateral 17 project to 2025. Maps are included for our review.

UPDATE GIS SYSTEM: We have met with JUB, discussed with the City of Umatilla, discussed with Vern F and Atrayu. Emma has done a lot of research. We are zeroing in on a couple of options to consider. In the meantime, we are working with JUB to get our current maps updated with new partitions, tax lots and names. This is a large undertaking, but one that we need to move forward not only for our own crews but for local utilities and contractors. Emma will be at the meeting to talk over where we are now in our search. We expect discussion and questions.

CITY OF IRRIGON INTERACTION:

- 1) New Dreams/Division St.: Letter from Reclamation and the District have gone to the City (copies enclosed). The City has not responded to me, nor has Kumar. They have, however, submitted applications to Reclamation for the utility crossings on our pipeline off Division St. In the meantime, UEC has completed their application and Reclamation's engineer has looked at the crossing request and asked for more detail from the engineer (Ron McKinnis).
- 2) New Dream project/Maple Grove: I sent letters to the City and requested that McKinnis file a correction of the partition plat. Letters enclosed. Reclamation is preparing a letter to the City notifying them of non-permitted crossings (sewer and water) plus we see that gas, telephone and power have crossed.
- 3) Irrigation facilities in Irrigon: Right after our July 15 meeting, I left a message for City Manager, Aaron, that I thought we should discuss irrigation water to City patrons so we are on the same page. Here is his answer: "We will need to discuss the feasibility and potential outcomes for WEID irrigation within the city limits and UGB. More to follow on this front."
- 4) Request to meet with City Mayor: I have gone thru the City of Irrigon ordinances, focusing on development. While, of course, they are required to consult and work with various agencies and special districts, there is not criteria, direction or even comments in the ordinances to do so. This is where I want to start the discussion with the City Mayor. On Saturday, I left a message for Mayor Michelle Patton, letting her know that I would like a meeting with her. Wendy and Chet called Monday and one of them would also like to join that meeting. No return call as of Tuesday.

PROPERTY BEHIND OFFICE: I sent a letter to the City, requesting they consider transferring ownership of the lot behind our office to the District. On Friday, I found out that our request is on the City's agenda this Tuesday. I plan to attend that meeting and will report back to the Board. Information for the Council is in the Board packet. I think Cecil will attend the City's meeting with me.

NOTE: I am planning a vacation from August 24 to September 10.