

## MANAGER'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 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 be at the meeting to provide updates on the crew and work they are doing.

**EMPLOYEE REVIEWS:** Ben and I are working on employee reviews this week. These are annual reviews, but it's been a few years since I sat down with each employee.

**SHOP UPDATE:** The engineer took longer than anticipated, but we finally have engineered drawings for the shop. They have been submitted to the City and we are waiting for the building permit. We lost the "window" of early September with our contractor. He will schedule once we get everything in order.

**IPS SCREENS:** There have been no problems with the screens once the airblast system was installed.

**IPS STATION:** The cavitation trouble with the 300 HP pump continues. It will start cavitating, from what we see, at about 5000 gpm. We note that the pump speed increases. If we do nothing, the pump speed will continue to increase, as the use goes up. We can start one of the 100 HP pumps (3000 gpm) and that will slow down the speed of the pumps. We have seen it go from 56 Hz to 48 Hz when this happens. I have attached pump tests from 2008. I want to state that after talking to Gary Moore, to Bob M today, and looking over these pump tests, plus thinking back about the operation, I realize that the 300 HP pump has been operating under its curve, likely for all the time that I've been here. Gary Moore will be at the meeting to discuss this with us and provide his insights and recommendations.

### **MANAGER:**

**PARTITIONS:** Four partitions have been taking up time over the past six weeks. They are Ault (new deliveries), Suter (almost ready to sign, waiting on his signature with Reclamation), Griffin (issues with plat corrected; waiting on an agreement), Baker (moving along without issue), and Cline (easement and deliveries solved; signed).

**PROJECT FEDERAL CONTRACTS / ENVIRONMENTAL WORK:** I've been working diligently on provided support materials for the two federal project contracts (totaling \$605,000). I believe they will both be signed this week. The environmental part of this project continues to be a concern. The reviewer at Reclamation has told us we need to investigate not only replacing the open canal, but any area that we will be putting in the new pipe with federal dollars – so on private property. Additionally, if we are in County ROW, we have to get permission from the State cultural folks to get a permit to work in the County ROW. This just keeps getting more and more complicated.

Kelsey Doncaster, historian at Reclamation, said if we get all the survey work to him by Oct. 1, he will try to have approval by Dec. 31. So, the folks from Anderson Perry have been out in Boardman, doing that work. This is another \$22,500 for the environmental work.

We spent \$14,000 on the project to look at all open laterals in Boardman from Miller Road west (we still owe them \$3100 of this). Then, Reclamation wasn't happy and Kelsey came in to look at our laterals. He worked with Stephanie from Anderson Perry, so a cost of \$4600 to edit the original report and mapping work. And now, a cost of \$22,500 estimated for the work on these three upcoming projects. This includes over 300 shovel tests and the report.

Once again, this money will be taken from the reserve funds resulting from out of boundary lands. The good part of this is that it lowers the cost of the work that Reclamation has to do. They have put \$23,500 in the contract for their work, so it may become close to a wash. In any case, the environmental work in the future will continue to get more expensive.

### **PROJECT MEETINGS & UPDATES:**

- We have a meeting with the landowners on Lateral 15 on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 6 pm at the Boardman Fire Hall. The NCRS folks will be there as well as Ben and I. This will be to have specific discussion on the project – it's path and what they can expect.
- The engineer has worked on design, so we have pump pressures at each delivery for both the Lateral 12 and Lateral 15 projects.
- For the Lateral 12 project, which will be this winter, I've discussed the easements needed with all folks and we are good. Marston will give an easement through his property for the Browne line, although Browne is still thinking on this.
- We will leave Lateral 13 open one more year for flood, which will allow Marston, Browne, & Hug to continue flooding. All have been contacted. Marston will put wheel lines in on his Smith property for 2020 and his home place in 2021.
- Lateral 15, Holmes and Tobin will give us the easements we need to put the line on their properties to stay off the Olsen Road County ROW. We are not sure yet of the final path, but we're working on it.
- I am trying to get a meeting set up for the folks on Lateral 17 sometime in mid-November. We are working on availability for NCRS.
- Ron McKinnis will be our surveyor. It is helpful to know the property lines relative to the ditch in several areas. This assists us and the landowner to know where their fences can go back in and knowing where our easements will be on the private property. We will do all the projects at one time this fall/winter.
- The County is doing work at Olsen and Kunze, which will be helpful as they will replace a crossing and some pipe that will be part of our project. However, they are having an issue right now. According to Matt Scrivner, the Roadmaster, VADATA is balking at paying for the road widening and the County does not have funds. We are meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss this. We had a preliminary meeting with Reclamation and the County a few months ago about the Boardman East project. This next meeting will be to look at the crossings and impact to the County ROW.

- Utilities. Locates were done along Miller and Olsen Road and at intersections for the Lat 12 and 15 projects. We don't see much problem with these two as we are in our own ROW or on private ground, mostly. There are some telecommunication lines, phones lines and several power poles to consider. The real problem will be on Paul Smith Road as there are different ROW dedications from the landowner, so not a "straight" line for property lines. We will likely do a utility meeting next spring to start discussion about the work.

### **QUICK REPORTS:**

- SDAO Best Practices – we are on task for the 10% discount, having completed the on-line training and attended two regional safety trainings.
- Mike Snyder agrees to represent us in the Union negotiation. He has asked for information sent to the Union (employee information) and current Union contact.
- I sent an email to Greg Juul to set up a meeting with him.
- We have received a letter from attorney for Tony Osborne. He is denying any responsibility for the incident and states he does not have insurance coverage.
- Three openings for director. Divisions 2, 3, 5. Dalarie has turned in her petition.
- Water shut-off looks like October 22 for Irrigon and October 30 for main canal, unless we get a lot of moisture.
- The office will be closed October 1 for Shelco to update the wiring for phone and communication.
- I will be gone October 1 through 30. Staff is well prepared and know how to reach me, if necessary.