

## MANAGER'S REPORT - MAY 2023

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

**CREW & SYSTEM STATUS:** We remain one person short and it is hampering the amount of work that we are able to get done. Spraying was completed on the north side of the canal. The open laterals in Boardman have not been done yet. The days that Alan has had available have been needed for him to do irrigation related work. He is on his 10-day ON, four days OFF schedule, so four of the ten days are running water. We are getting ready to start the aquatic weed control. Several crew members have started using the hand sprayers, but no much is getting done due to the amount of repair and customer work still on the list.

**INSURANCE CLAIMS:** We have had two insurance claims during start-up.

- 1) Matthews property on Dylan in Irrigon, claiming damage to his well house. He claims it was hit during construction of the pipeline. We do not think it happened then as the wellhouse is plenty of distance from the project. We know he had an "event" on the property over the St. Patrick Day weekend and believe it could have happened then.
- 2) Southshore Drive claim for a broken drain line. This caused flooding to an adjacent storage building. We called in "O So Clean" to mitigate the damage. The landowners are claiming that they have soft spots on their property where water can pool up. Likely old wells or septic systems. They have just built a new house, so are concerned. I will follow through with them, likely discussion and a letter.

We had work done on the Southshore motor this year. For some reason, we are getting fairly high pressure (100 psi) on the line. The system has always been susceptible to water hammer. We ordered a VFD and it will be there this week. In the meantime, we have asked the landowners to change their ball valves to gate valves and to be careful when shutting off their valves. We are only running daytime hours for now. Annually, we have failures at either end of the system, usually the drain valves. We are mystified, but with new owners and a new home on the west end, we will try to minimize the issue.

**UMATILLA RIVER:** The river is holding between 1200 and 1400 cfs above Three Mile. The City of Umatilla asked the Phase One pumps to go on for cooling water on Friday, May 13. They will pay for the 8 cfs being pumped until we go on Exchange.

**IRRIGON METER:** We have confirmed that the Irrigon meter is not working. Estimate for Flexim meter for 36-inch pipe with power supply, transducers, junction box and all cable and mounting devices (full package) is \$6308.00.

**TELEMETRY SYSTEM UPDATE:** There has been activity around the SCADA, but no change since last month - YET. We understand that Rock found a problem at the main unit outside the office and has ordered parts. Aqua Systems will be here next week. Cecil Rock is working on the permit for the new tower and the storage shed.

**COLLECTIONS:** The rest of the shut-offs (for folks owing the 2022 power bill) were done last week. Payments are coming in.

**NON-WORKING METERS/METER READINGS:** Folks with non-working meters were contacted after last season and earlier this year about getting their meter repaired. They have not been able to take water without a working meter (or a monitoring plan while meter is getting repaired). This is taking a big step towards getting all the meters working. We've had good response so far from the farmers about reading their own meters. We plan to send a letter out soon to remind folks and begin the meter readings in June for those who haven't called in. This will start the charging of \$25 to read meters.

**FINES/BILLBACKS:** We have paid attention to folks this year that should be billed back for private work or callouts that took our crew outside their standard duties. Folks are pushing back a bit. The most difficult are callouts after hours that are not emergencies. The Board can discuss this issue if they think it's necessary.

**CITY OF IRRIGON:** Easement issues with the City of Irrigon continue to mystify and frustrate me. My mind set is about protecting our facilities while finding a way for development to occur. I am working very hard to work with the City in a way that allows both to happen where we control what the contractors are doing. Right now, the contractors are controlling us. So far, I don't have the City on the same page, but I will continue to work with Aaron.

**EAGLE VIEW ESTATE:** This is the new subdivision south of the main canal in Boardman, off Root Lane. Wise completed the bridge approach and did a nice job, according to Ben. Instead of an assignment for Taylors' interest in the bridge, Reclamation has done an Amendment to the contract. I am reviewing that. I have sent the Shared Irrigation Delivery document to Taylor for signature. This agreement, which we normally file before the County accepts the plat, outlines the responsibilities of the landowners for the pump and delivery system. I also sent Taylor specifications from our engineer on the pump that is needed there. The pump he used for his farming operation is oversized and not the right fit. So, several loose ends remain before this is complete.

**TRESPASS ISSUES:** In addition to keeping our gates closed and trying to cut down on trespass along our canal, the walking trespass, typically kids, in Umatilla has increased. With all the new houses above the canal and the new school going in south of the canal, we need to give serious thought to how to keep kids out of the canal. They continue to climb over our gates, swing around barriers and cross the pipeline over the canal. One consideration, maybe for next year's safety grant through SDAO, is to chain link the entire ROW on both sides off between the Washington bridge and the 4X4, spillway. IN Boardman, we need to add at least one new canal road gate, off Root Lane to the west. The gate at Division will be repaired so we can close it.

**HB 3231** passed the House and is in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. No hearing is scheduled. A Coalition has submitted a letter urging passing or including it with the drought package. A copy of the letter without logos is included in your packet. Twelve agencies have signed onto the letter. I have a copy of the Drought package that I will bring to the Board meeting and also will report on the OWRD public meeting held in Hermiston on Tuesday.