



February 2014

WATER START- UP

If the soil remains dry, we will start the main canal the week of March 17. Water would come in to flush the upper canal early that week, then be decreased briefly for checkboards to be placed. We would take the water into Boardman mid-week.

CANAL IRRIGATORS: Please have all your headgate and screen work complete by Sunday, March 16.

IRRIGON PRESSURIZED WATER: Plan for start-up April 1—10 depending on weather conditions. Watch reader board at AC Houghton as date gets closer, Please close any open valves by March 30.

Don't forget to get your meters ready for the year.

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

2014 NEWSLETTER

**THREE MILE FALLS DAM
100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Thursday, May 22, 2014
Three Mile Falls Dam, River Road
10 am—2 pm
Lunch & ceremony at Noon
All patrons invited—Tours, History, Speakers**

WEID Updates from Manager Bridgewater:

Many of our outstanding projects were completed in 2013. The federal boundary change, our Water Management and Conservation Plan, finalizing both our Irrigon water rights certificate and our McKay certificate for return flows were all large projects involving many years and plenty of legal and consulting fees. Now, we are moving on to working with the State to figure out how to protect the Umatilla River return flows and to assure that our irrigators are using their water rights. (You need to be sure to use water one year out of every five to protect your right). We are also attending the Tribal water right settlement meetings and other local water meetings —lots going on with water in the Umatilla Basin.

DROUGHT?? Yes, we are anticipating a drought year. This means a potential for high amount of pumping costs and perhaps some restrictions. Definitely, our ditchriders will be monitoring for overuse. Please plan accordingly as water is likely to be short during the hot summer months.

LANDOWNER BOOKLET: We are sending a landowner booklet to each of you with this mailing (and your bill—there is a \$1 increase per acre for 2014). Take your time to review it, but please do so.

BOARD: Welcome three new Board members—Abe McNamee, Warren Kemper, and Bob Mueller. They join returning Board members, Dalarie Philippi (2000) and Vern Frederickson (2012). Two longtime patrons recently retired from the Board —Max Hellberg (2005—2013) & Doug Strebin (1996—2013). Thank you to all for serving on the WEID Board!

Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) FORMS—West Extension Irrigation District is a federal District for its main canal water users and falls under federal law. A reminder that RRA forms are due prior to taking water. This affects landowners owning or farmers farming over 240 acres in any Reclamation project and public entities owning over 40 acres. For more information, read the enclosed WEID Landowner Booklet.



AQUATIC HERBICIDE APPLICATION OFFICIAL NOTICE

West Extension Irrigation District uses the aquatic herbicides ACROLIEN (Magnicide-H), COPPER SULFATE and ENDOTHALL in its main canal to treat pond weed and algae. The District has a NPDES permit from Oregon DEQ that allows it to apply the product.

Each product is applied two to five times during the season, starting in mid-May and continuing to mid-September. A notice of treatment will be posted on the door of the District office 48 hours prior to each treatment.

If you have dairy animals or are delivering to a public site (schools, parks, mobile home park), you are required to close your headgate during the treatment times. If you have livestock and are using irrigation water as stock water, you may want to close your headgate during treatment times.

If you would like further information on this notice or the aquatic herbicide products, please contact the District office at 541-922-3814.

If you would like to be notified prior to any application, please contact the District in writing providing a telephone number with an answering machine or an e-mail address. We will contact you 24 hours prior to the canal application.

First half payment due April 1.
Second half payment due July 1.
Account must be current in order to take water.

City of Hermiston ReUse Water

The District is on target to begin receiving Class A recycled water in its main canal from the City of Hermiston in 2015. Construction is well underway at their plant off River Road. The plant's feature will be a membrane barrier filtration system to produce the Class A water that will be distributed either to the Umatilla River or the WEID canal. Reclamation has issued its permit and contract; DEQ has approved the application to the irrigation canal and EPA has approved the WEID canal to receive the water. The main criteria for WEID to receive this water is 1) it has to be safe for food products and meet organic food requirements and 2) there is no impact to the agricultural exemption for return flows. The District has held five public meetings about the project.

- FACTS ABOUT CLASS A RECYCLED WATER:**
- Incidental and direct contact is safe.
 - It is produced according to strict standards.
 - Strict monitoring protocols of treatment are in place
 - Agriculture is the main use of recycled water
 - Water meets food product safety standards

DEQ HEARING

There will be a public hearing in Hermiston regarding the City's application for their NPDES permit. This is the permit they need in order to discharge the water to the WEID canal. The notice of the hearing is included with this newsletter.

Your Delivery System - Your Responsibility

At this time of the year, we are all thinking about water and anticipating its startup. In getting ready, don't forget to clean your headgate area, your screens, filters, boxes, etc. It's also the time to think of replacing broken or wornout valves and nozzles. Don't forget that the District depends upon your help with the cleaning of open ditches along and through your property. We noticed that landowners with fences along our canal and laterals need to do some work to remove weeds and overgrowth into the canal prism.

Quite a few of you have shared delivery lines, especially our Umatilla County patrons. These resulted from property development over the years. Easements often weren't given for the pipelines that were privately installed. As they deteriorate, we hear concerns about whose responsibility it is for repair. The landowner through which the shared delivery line is running is responsible to repair the line on their property. Replacement of a line is typically a group effort of those benefitting from the line. We encourage you to get agreements in writing for these private lines.