

## MANAGER'S REPORT - APRIL 2022

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

### **WATER START-UP:**

**PUMP STATIONS:** With the cold and rainy weather we have been having, the start-up for Irrigon has been delayed a few days. Right now, it is scheduled for Monday, April 18. The pumps are installed and all is ready. No other pump stations in the District are on right now. Southshore was on for a day and McGraw has been on for a week, but shut-off Saturday (16<sup>th</sup>). We anticipate the pump stations coming on the week of the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**MAIN CANAL:** The canal has been running at minimum flow since start-up except for April 8 – 11, when it looked like the weather was clearing up. We started at 60 cfs and are now down to 52, due to the wintery weather.

**LATERAL 15:** The crew was able to gravity flow water to Stiffler (blueberries) on Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, right as the overnight freezes were starting. That water continues flowing. Both the backhoe and the excavator were down early last week, so we had some delay. They were both running by the end of day Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup>. Here are the loose ends and where we are:

- Labor crew with Alan are working on bedding the pipe.
- Daryl Frederickson will install the pump cans and pump, starting the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Rick Rock will finish the electrical after that.
- The cultural inventory report went to Reclamation on April 8<sup>th</sup> and they said they were send it off to Salem on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-day wait time, unless SHPO approves. They are busy too, so not likely.
- We have asked UEC to schedule the electrical work, which we know will be a month or so out.
- We are held up on installing the *deliveries*. We have hired Al Phillips and his son to do that work. But, the meters continue to be delayed. We have 24 meters (1/5 – 2-inch) ordered in December that have been delayed several times and they still have not shipped. Finding filters for the meters is another problem. These supplies are just not available. I am looking at alternatives that will get us to installations by mid-May.
- Bottom Line, Third week in May is the best case scenario for this station to start.

**DISTRICT CREW:** Tassie has offered to work full-time, as needed for now. She is training as the Watermaster and will ride the full ditch. This frees Ben and Alan to do other things during the week. They are hoping to get on a schedule where Ben has Friday afternoons and Saturdays off and Alan has Sundays and Mondays off. We have two temps that we will keep for awhile. The J's Labor crew is still working, having just finished the last of the lateral cleaning. They are burning the piles we have from our projects as they can. They are helping with bedding the pipe on 15. We have a lot more cleanup along the canal and several areas as well as more piles to burn. Right now, we are looking at keeping them to the end of April.

We have developed a description for a summer intern that will work on communications (both with customers and internally). This will be part of our water conservation program as well. I

have some ideas how we can make progress on water conservation in Irrigon, such as funding things like Smart controllers and Smart nozzles for folks; helping them understand how much water they are putting on; working with them on their schedules.; encouraging drip line for tree rows. Basically, taking a positive approach. This will be on the agenda for discussion. We have talked with one student about this job and have filed with SDAO to help with funding.

**BOARDMAN PUMP SCHEDULES:** This year, we will do away with special scheduling on the rest of the Boardman pumps, encouraging all to irrigate at their allotment of 8.5 gpm. It is taking time to get folks to move away from turning on a lot of sprinklers to staying within the allotment, mainly due to the On and Off days we have had on the pump systems over the years. The last one to get a VFD is 16D and we have ordered it. Having the irrigators monitor their own use is a necessary labor saving to the District.

**PARTITIONS:** Briefly, here are the partitions we are working on:

- Umatilla – Rothrock (Lee Estates replat) and Ruhe (partition)
- Irrigon – New Dreams, they have given up water rights and want to relocate our pipeline. I have proposed an alternate that will remove us from their subdivision and save them money. I need to talk to the City about this as their consultant doesn't seem to understand. Vandecar partition, just getting started on irrigation design. Crispin-Dunn (Wyoming) has completed their agreement and will need a new valve when they are ready. Same for Gale (1<sup>st</sup> Street by the school) although he is not in a rush.
- Boardman – Hearn is complete and deliveries installed (part of the new project). Hug has our agreement, so almost complete although we will need to install a new delivery for her. Eagle View has lots of issues to address, but is Taylors are moving it along.

**WATER RIGHT TRANSFERS:**

- 1) We had a Permanent Transfer to file for the properties that were “noticed” last year. It is complete.
- 2) Temporary transfers were all filed prior to water startup except for a few that are just showing up. We have about 15 acres of water rights that can still be placed. Two new areas are being added this year –
  - a) Close property south of Vern Evans. They purchased 1.2 acres of water rights from Sandra Downey-Eubanks. They will install their own delivery. Relative to this, Vern Evans has contacted me about his 3111 agreement where the District agreed to transfer 3.7 acres of 1893 rights to him. He didn't want it when we had it, but he wants it for next season. We should have some of it by next year, but likely not all as we don't have a “pot” of water rights for permanent transfer.
  - b) Aguilar property north of Depot Lane behind Joe McNamee. They have come up on our waiting list and are willing to take some of the temporary rights. This is an area we had targeted for growth when we put in the Depos Lane line in 2002.
- 3) Five year notices. We plan to send out some “Notices” of non-use this year as there are several areas that need attention. The plan is to get to that in May.
- 4) Claims of Beneficial Use. We have three claims that can be filed. Two are due by September and one would be early. I hope to get to these in June.

**GRANT APPLICATIONS:** Several grant applications of importance are due the end of April.