

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board meets monthly the 3rd Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Columbia Improvement District office located at 501 E. Columbia Ave, Boardman .

All meetings are open to public.

For any questions, comments, concerns, or information, please feel absolutely free to contact the District office at:

541-922-3814 or
info@westextension.com
www.westextension.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dalarie Philippi, Chairman
 Division 5 Director, Boardman W.

Vern Frederickson, Vice Chair
 Division 4 Director, Boardman E.

Bob Mueller, Director Div. 1
 Umatilla Area, E. of 15th St.

Abe McNamee, Director Div. 2
 South Irrigon Area

Whitney Coffman, Director Div. 3
 Irrigon Area

RRA FORMS NOW DUE

West Extension Irrigation District was built with the assistance of the federal government. The district is under contract to the Bureau of Reclamation for the operation of the irrigation project, and is required to follow federal rules. One of these rules is an annual form that some landowners must file with the District office prior to receiving water. These are called **RRA Forms**, for Reclamation Reform Act. The Act was passed by Congress to keep track of who is receiving water using their federal facilities.

If you meet any of the criteria listed below, you **MUST** file an RRA form with West Extension Irrigation District and with every district that is a federal project in which you have (OWN, LEASE, RENT, OPERATE, ETC.) land with water rights. Contact the WEID office to get the form. Also, if your status changes during the season (you sell, buy, lease or operate additional land), you must notify the District and file a new form within 30 days.

Here is the disclaimer that the District is required to state, "Improperly filed forms or forms not filed can lead to administrative fees charged to the landowner by the Bureau of Reclamation."

In West Extension Irrigation District, the thresholds for RRA in year 2022 are:

Qualified Recipient

- Individuals 240 acres
- Entities with 25 or less natural persons 240 acres

Limited Recipient

- Entities with 26 or more natural persons 40 acres

Public Entities

- 40 acres
- Landowners who lease from a Public Entity must report the leased land as if it is owned. Leased land is added into your total acres for determination of filing status.*

Trusts / Estates

- Benefiting 25 or less natural persons 240 acres
- Benefiting 26 or more natural persons 40 acres
- All trusts must be approved by Reclamation, regardless of the size of their landholding. Please contact the office if your property is held in a trust and you have not already submitted a copy of your trust documents.*

Farm Operators

- 960 acres
- If you feel you are in this category, or if you are a landowner who contracts with someone who might be considered a Farm Operator, please check with the office to verify the status of the forms requirements.*

Indirect Landholders (partners / stockholders / part-owners of entities)

- Your filing status is dependent on several things. Please contact the office.*

**For any questions, please contact Lisa at WEID office .
 541-922-3814 or lisa@westextension.com**

BILLINGS: The annual bill comes out in February of each year with 1st half due April 1 and second half due July 1. The power bill (for those on a District pressurized system) comes out in late fall. If a special assessment is needed, it will come out in the fall or with the power bill.

PAYMENT PLAN: Many landowners use one of the payment plans offered by the District. Interest does not accrue on these accounts, if payment arrangements are kept. If your account also has a power bill, it can be added on to the payment arrangements. These plans must be in writing. Contact Lisa at the District office for information.

A. Six (6) monthly payments, March - August.

B. Twelve (12) monthly payments, to include annual charges and an estimate of the annual power bill if applicable, available to landowners on a fixed income.

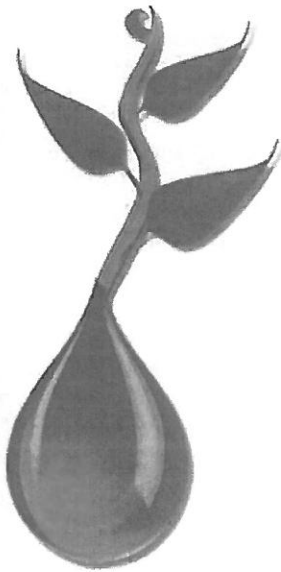
PAYING YOUR DISTRICT BILL: There are many ways to pay your District bill. Whether you pay all, half, or are paying on a payment plan, here are your options:

- 1) Pay at the office. Cash, check, money order, debit, credit
- 2) Drop payment through the mail slot in front door.
- 3) Pay by mail. Check or money order.
- 4) Pay by phone. Debit, credit, e-check
- 5) Pay on-line. Go to District web-site at westextension.com.

Look for the "PAY" button in the menu bar. You will need your account number (from the billing statement) and the amount you want to pay. To pay multiple accounts in one transaction, put the word "multiple" where the account number goes. The card company charges a 3% fee for using debit or credit. Using an e-check is a \$2 flat fee.

MANUALS: The District's Landowner Manual has been updated and will be mailed to all District patrons soon. It will come in a 5X7 envelope, so please watch for it. The new Development Manual is almost complete. It will help you help us protect water rights and pipelines. If you are planning any upgrades on your property (fencing, shop, etc) or dividing your property, be sure to stop by the office to pick up a copy.

Plant Smart Now to Save Water Later!



Beautiful yards don't need expansive lawns covering the entire property to be attractive. Autumn is the perfect time to replace grass with water saving plants. Drought tolerant natives and perennials are marked down at the end of the season and will come back year after year.

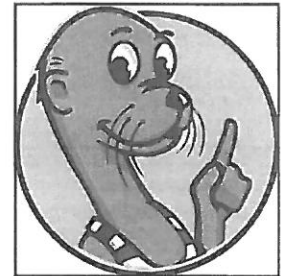
There is a better way...

- Plant something instead of grass
- Utilize drought tolerant and native plants
- Create a rain garden
- Use a rain barrel to catch rain runoff
- Add mulch to conserve moisture and prevent weeds

By converting your lawn to plantings you will:

- Save money on utility bills
- Enjoy more free time by doing less lawn maintenance
- Create a healthy environment for your family and pets
- Encourage a habitat for wildlife
- Protect your community's valuable water resources

Do your part, be WaterSMART 



A reminder that irrigation canals can be very dangerous as the water moves quickly and the liner is slick. Canals are not a place for dogs or kids to play, swim or bathe.

**BE SAFE.
KEEP YOUR PETS &
ANIMALS AWAY FROM
THE CANAL**