

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

FALL NEWSLETTER—2013



September 2013

Water shut-off Dates

Irrigon Systems

Wednesday, Oct. 23
7 am—8 am

Main Canal

Thursday, Oct. 31
7 am shutdown in
Umatilla

(Water will take a day to
drain)

If weather turns wet or
cold, shut-off may occur
earlier with no notice.



WEID NEWS

Over the past year, many of our long-standing administrative issues have been completed.

FEDERAL BOUNDARY CHANGE: After 45 years of discussion, starts and delays, the federal boundary change for the District is complete. The Environmental Assessment was completed with a “Finding of No Significant Impact”. Reclamation has accepted the document and sent a letter acknowledging the boundary change. This includes all lands taking water from the main canal as well as lands for future delivery when other irrigated lands are retired (transfers of water rights).

WATER MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION PLAN (WMCP): The plan is complete and has been accepted by the State. The WMCP will be used for operational planning, grant applications and to assist with assuring our water rights are being used and not subject to forfeiture for non-use. Copies are available at the District office for review.

CERTIFICATE FOR WEID’S CLAIM TO RETURN FLOW AND SEEPAGE WATER FROM MCKAY RESERVOIR: The 1928 claim filed by Reclamation for benefit of WEID recognized WEID’s right to return flows from McKay Reservoir. The stored water is used by upriver irrigation districts (Westland and Stanfield) and some private irrigators with return flows coming to the Umatilla River. They are then picked up by Hermiston Irrigation District through its Maxwell Canal and by WEID for delivery to our patrons. Starting in the 1950’s, with pumping and shallow wells, this “return” water has diminished. Oregon Water Resources Department and the Bureau of Reclamation have found that WEID’s claim to the return flow water was valid. A certificate was issued this spring. Unfortunately, Westland Irrigation District (WID) has filed a legal challenge to that certificate.

IRRIGON COLUMBIA RIVER CERTIFICATE: In December of 2012, the District received Certificate No. 87799 for its Columbia River water rights in Irrigon. This is for the pressurized system in Irrigon and is not part of the federal project. There are 1144 acres served under this certificate. Now that the certificate is complete, water right transfers can now take place. The five-year non-use statutes also

start taking effect, so irrigators, please be sure to use your water.

COLUMBIA RIVER PUMP STATION SCREENS: The design and permitting of the new screens for our Columbia River Pumping Plant in Umatilla are nearing completion. This will be a very costly project, as the site presents several challenges in the backwaters of the Columbia River. We are planning for work in 2015/2016.



Columbia River Pump Station in Umatilla

For our station in Irrigon, we are working with a joint landowner to address the need for new screens at that Columbia River pumping station. This site has been in place since the mid-1970's and is in need of being updated. This project may happen in the next 18—24 months if funding can be found.

This is good news operationally, but will impact our budget in the future. Grant funds are harder to find, so we will likely need to rely on low-cost loans to complete these two fish screen projects.



Columbia River Pump Station in Irrigon

CITY OF HERMISTON REUSE WATER: The City of Hermiston and WEID have partnered with state and federal agencies to reclaim highly treated municipal wastewater (Class A), mix it with river water, and deliver it to customers in the WEID. The initial amount of water to be received is about 3.5 cfs (the WEID canal flows 95—130 cfs typically) from

late spring until the end of the irrigation season each year.



City of Hermiston Wastewater plant under construction.

The entities will assure that the District will not jeopardize its existing agricultural exemption for its own discharge under the Clean Water Act, and the City is designing a fail safe process that will be kept in place so that no “untreated” water reaches the WEID canal.

Contracts and permits with Reclamation have been completed; DEQ has completed its process; EPA is reviewing the project. In the meantime, the City has started construction of their new plant off River Road. We anticipate receiving this Class A water (treated to the highest standards) in 2015. This is the first project of its kind nationwide and we are pleased to be a part of it.

NORTHEAST OREGON WATER ASSOCIATION (NOWA): NOWA is the new association formed by JR Cook. In a recent press release, JR stated that “Over the past two weeks I have been working with Basin stakeholders, municipalities and others to get the newly established Northeast Oregon Water Association up and running. We continue our push for a strong membership base as we begin to work on the goals and efforts necessary to grow our economy, take pressures off of delicate native resources and develop the conjunctive, redundant water supply necessary to prevent conflict and promote growth for future gener-

Your Delivery System - Your Responsibilities

During the winter, you will have time to take care of any problems on your irrigation system. Before you shut down, check the following:

- ◆ Valves and pipes for any leaks or problems
- ◆ Nozzles for wear
- ◆ Meters to assure they are working
- ◆ Clean your filter thoroughly
- ◆ Drain your valves, meters and filters



Main canal irrigators—after water shuts down:

- ◆ Check your screen at the main canal. Some have deteriorated and need repair or even reconstruction.
- ◆ The district is cleaning the canal starting this fall. If you “dig out” in front of your screens and delivery when the canal dries out, our equipment can remove the debris when they come through.
- ◆ If you have a delivery from the main canal please look for any problems that need to be repaired.

If you need help with any inspections of your screen or delivery, contact the office and we'll arrange for a ditchrider to meet with you.

BUDGET NEWS— PUMPING COSTS

Although spring was fairly wet at the start, it dropped off quickly and we were in dry conditions most of the summer. Pumping power costs will be high again this year—higher than the \$134,000 we have budgeted for our Columbia River pump stations. We may be looking at a special assessment again this fall to pay these costs. For reference, here is what we have paid in power costs for pumping over the past ten years:

2003—\$145,000
2004—\$133,000
2005—\$167,000
2006—\$124,000
2007—\$194,000
2008—\$115,000
2009—\$ 72,000
2010—\$ 88,000
2011—\$108,000
2012—\$126,000

UPCOMING OPENINGS ON THE WEID BOARD OF DIRECTORS

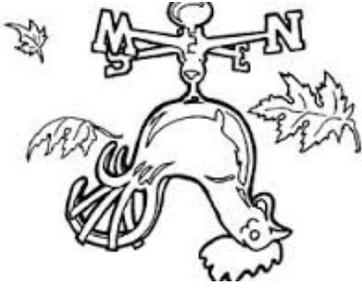
There are four openings on the Board of Directors that will be up for election in November. The Board of Directors meets at least monthly. They are responsible for setting District policies, budgets, and guidelines in compliance with federal, state and irrigation laws. Interested patrons, please keep reading.

Division One Director (Umatilla County/East Morrow to 15th St. in Irrigon) is vacant. There is one year remaining on the term. The election will be for the remainder of the term.

Division Two Director (South Irrigon area from Divison St. to I-84 south of the Relocation Canal) is open. Doug Strebin is filling that position. The election is for the remaining two years of the term.

The three-year terms for the Divisions Three (Irrigon area) and Five (West of Skoubo Lane in Boardman) Directors expire this year. Max Hellberg and Dalarie Philippi currently serve in these positions.

Landowners interested in any of the open positions are encouraged to contact the office and/or to pick up a petition packet from the District office. State law requires a petition to be signed by ten electors in the Division and filed at the District office by October 8, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. If more than one candidate files for any position, the election will be November 12. It will be a mail-in election. If only one candidate files for any position, that person is declared to be elected, in accordance with State law. For questions or information, contact Lisa at the district office at 541-922-3814.



SHUTDOWNS WILL START AT 7:00 A.M.
IF WEATHER TURNS COLD OR WET, SHUTDOWN MAY OCCUR EARLIER

Main Canal, Umatilla, South Irrigon, Boardman
Thursday, October 31

Irrigon Pressurized System and RL1 and RL2
Wednesday, October 23

System Shutdown Information

YOUR SYSTEM SHUTDOWN:

Don't forget to drain and winterize your system.
If you have a meter, remove or winterize it.
Be sure to call the final meter reading into office.

**WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 100
IRRIGON, OR 97844**

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