

## MANAGER'S REPORT - JULY 2022

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

**OPERATIONS:** Ben will provide more information at the Board meeting.

**PUMP STATIONS:** There have been a lot of issues with pump stations so far this year. We installed the VFD on 16D, but there were wiring issues. Garry Moore corrected the issue and we have Rick Rock looking at it to see what his crew may have done incorrectly. The motor on Donovan went out, due to bad wiring by our temp crew. We picked up a used motor from Garry Moore for \$800.

Blowout on Miller last week – we think air issue. Ben and Wise boys got it back up after being down for five days. Following this, a blowout on the leg of 15 heading to Allison. We don't think our crew poured a thrust block there. The small pump on 7<sup>th</sup> St station needs repair. It came back from winter service and does not run properly. Will go back to Kern Bros. IPS seems to be running fine and we are back to the meter not working properly. There has not been maintenance on the meter and we hope that will solve the issue. If not, we will have someone come in to recalibrate it.

Lateral 15 or Horseshoe Station as we will call it, has been running. The screens arrived last week. Darryl is working on the frame for them and they will be installed as soon as we can. There are temporary screens in place. Working with Coleman, we have pulled one of the pumps to remove debris that got into the cans. Ben can talk more about this issue at the meeting.

**DISTRICT CREW HIRES:** Ben and Lisa just hired a possible new crew member. He is working through Express now while we check references and so forth. He came to us through Indeed posting. He worked a few years at CID, leaving them a few months ago. He seems to have experience that will be very helpful to our crew. Tassie has a planned vacation coming up and Emma leaves us as well. We are still looking for one more crew member. We have pulled our ad from Indeed and are working with the local employment office through the pre-screening program. We are hoping for someone experienced with pumps and-or equipment maintenance.

**PICKUPS:** If we are going to order a new pickup for 2023, we should likely get it ordered. Ben can go over the truck situation with you. I will say that we spend time juggling pickups for just the crew we have, but they are leaving the 1 ton mainly at the shop. Ben has some ideas.

**PARTITIONS:** There are three partitions in the Irrigon area that we are working on. One is a subdivision along Oregon Street in the City limits. Water rights will be removed, but there is the issue of our mainline that needs to be protected. Vandecar's partition off 8<sup>th</sup> Street W has been completed and we were able to protect the federal easements and irrigation lines. During that review, I found he is irrigating 1.6 acres on Corps ground, so without a water right. He has a large area on his property that he hasn't irrigated for a few years, so that will remain idle for this year.

We will discuss options after the season, although anything on Corps ground will need to be temporary. A plat review just came through for Meakins off 8<sup>th</sup> St W. Dividing into two parcels and all looks reasonable. We can protect the federal easement and pipeline.

**MAIN CANAL OPTIMIZATION REVIEW GRANT:** We received a \$25,000 grant for our main canal study and planning. This will be part of our Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP) and is considered Phase II of our Optimization Review. Phase I was 10-12 years ago and we used that information in the WMCP.

**BOARD MEETING.** Here are my comments about several items on the agenda.

**BPA/WESTLAND CONTRACT:** After our meeting, I had a brief discussion with Curtis, the Manager of WID. We had trouble tracking Jim down as he has been taking a lot of time off and he is not big on communication. I talked with Dalarie and others; Lisa and I discussed the issue and I decided to let the contract go. We are not making much off it and would make even less with a new employee. Our employee is ready to move on and, in fact, had already been working another job (unknown to me at the time).

**BOR CONTRACT/INFRASTRUCTURE:** As you can see, they want about 10% of what we would borrow for their contract work. I did guide them to the fact that we don't have to pay prevailing wage to our own employees. We will still need a cultural compliance review for installing the drain pipe. My recommendation: We install the drainage pipe on our own, no federal dollars. We re-apply for infrastructure funds in the future and let this one go. At least we've gone through the process. Unless... they can come up with the additional \$60,000 that I applied for (a total of \$120,000 was in the application). Reminder, this work is for Wilson Road, past Gattenbein corner – approx 1 mile of canal rehab.

**LATERAL 17/PAUL SMITH ROAD MEETING:** Ben and I met with the City of Boardman and Morrow County about the work we plan on Paul Smith Road. Our canal is right on the Section line. So, the City's 30-foot easement is carrying the road and utilities while the County's 30-foot (or so, it varies) ROW is encroached by the landowners. Once we pipe, they will want to do work on the road. The City is considering annexing the area between Kunze and Wilson and that will bring sidewalk and bike path in the future. So, where do we want our pipe to be? We can move it west up to 20-feet. I offered to move it if the County will take care of the two road crossings and help with some of the fill that would be needed. I also told them the project has federal dollars, but we need more funding and will apply for a WRD grant. We will need their support and they offered it.