

## MANAGER'S REPORT - MARCH 2019

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

**OPERATIONS:** The liner project was finished during a small break in the snow activity. The canal cleaning is almost finished and we've returned the rental excavator. Crews will get back to lateral cleaning and concrete work this week. I have talked to the larger farmers and they feel the week of April 1 is when they might be ready, so that is our target.

**LATERAL 9 PROJECT:** Our welder has been working on the pump station and that is almost ready to be installed. We will have the screen and pipe in before startup. We will lay the lower section of 12-inch pipe and put in the new deliveries (eight of them) in the next week or two. Still waiting on BOR for the "go" to remove the rest of the concrete liner and install that pipe.

**PESTICIDE & LICENSING:** Three crew members passed their laws and safety test last week and one more has to retake it. They are working now on either aquatic or right-of-way to get their license. Alan and Ben are ready to start spraying the canal right-of-way as soon as we can.

**SHOP:** After last month's meeting, I reviewed prices; we talked with the ag building supplier who told us the price had gone up since last summer. I thought about Ben having to coordinate the concrete work with the building, the plumbing and electrical. I talked with the contractor who had quoted the job. We brought it to "bare bone" – the concrete foundation, building, doors, electrical, insulation, plumbing in place for water, gutters and settled on \$98,000. So, that's the plan. Crew has moved the containers and prepped the site for the work. We are working on getting water and sewer in. We won't have the sewer right away, but we do need the water for our own work.

**COLLECTIONS:** Most of the delinquent-paying landowners that you've reviewed the past two months have been getting their bills paid or making payment arrangements. Lisa will give you an update at the meeting.

**WATER RIGHT SETTLEMENT:** Thanks to Vern's questions, I realize that we need a refresher on how the District has identified its return flow declining problem. Most of you weren't on the Board when we hired John Koreny of HDR to do the work and fight for the 500 AF of water we got from McKay due to the Westland ID boundary change. I thought we'd spend some time at this meeting going over WEID history relative to return flows and catch you all up on the work we've been doing. You have documents in your folder for this and we'll have a presentation and discussion at the meeting.

**WATER MARKETING:** Although we weren't doing water marketing until we got the Amazon water from the City of Umatilla, which was originally scheduled for 2018 and now put off another year, I'd been preparing to market this water and folks are ready.

The Kerslake Family Farm dba Hilltop Produce (formerly Karl Smith) can take intermittent water as they have a Columbia River water right in Boardman that cannot provide sufficient water part of the season. The property installed a temporary pump station last season to take the water. We've helped this property out a few times in the past and they've paid conjunctive use rates. We need to put a better price on that water and they know this.

We can still honor the arrangement I've been working on by marketing the Hermiston WWTP to them this year. I've looked at this many times to try to figure out how to price it. I'll have some ideas at the meeting. They will be taking 1000 gpm and took 200 AF last season. I think they would double that. Because a water right is not involved, it can go on any of their acres. I suggest we charge per acre-foot of water. If they don't use it, we will keep it in our canal for our own use. This is on the agenda for discussion.

### **REVIEWS:**

- Pressurization tracking. We did not complete the review of this report.
- Pressurized billing procedures. This is a procedure we've used for quite awhile and came out of discussion with past folks on pressurized systems. The new 'wrinkle' we have now is the cost of keeping the screen running on these larger pipelines in Boardman. A \$30 base fee on the smaller systems seems like it needs to be more on the larger systems. Discussion item.
- Rate and duty procedures. This is a new SOP that I wrote out of discussion at previous Board meetings. I would like your review and approval.

### **CROSSINGS**

There are several crossings of our main canal and Boardman laterals in the works.

- 1) Columbia Improvement District plans to cross under our canal with a 72-inch mainline. It will be about 2000 feet downstream of the current crossing. The current crossing is downstream of the railroad tracks.
- 2) Windwave is planning to install 24 2" telecommunication lines on each side of Wilson Road from Olsen to Wilson. We are working with the county and Reclamation on this as they have different guidelines for the crossings. Reclamation likes to go under our pipe and ditches and want 10-foot separation. Morrow County wants this 2-feet under their asphalt, so over our pipes and ditches. I have asked for a meeting to work this out. My current thought is that over our pipe would not be too bad if it is at the asphalt.
- 3) Morrow County is widening the road at Wilson and Olsen. We'll get together with Reclamation soon to talk about that.
- 4) I've asked for a meeting with Morrow County and Reclamation in the next few weeks to talk about piping along Paul Smith Road. We will bring in County Planning, City of Boardman and utilities by this summer. Then, a meeting with the landowners.

