

MANAGER'S REPORT - APRIL 2024

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

NEW DREAMS SUBDIVISION: We will discuss next actions in Executive session..

CANAL BRIDGES: We have started gathering information for this project. Two bridges have already had issues brought to them outside of the District, both in Umatilla, so we will look at them first. Liz has started gathering information for that project. Again, we are only interested in ownership and protection from liability.

OSHA INSPECTION RESPONSE UPDATE: The OSHA folks have accepted our follow-up on issues as complete. The railcar is still closed. We have contacted someone to do the remediation, as mentioned earlier, but this has not been scheduled yet.

OPERATIONS:

STARTUP: Startup is still going on. Lots of broken lines, valves and so on – both district and private, throughout the District. Repairs seem very organized, and we have a small team right now focusing on those repairs while we continue startup. We had both pump casings split at McGraw pump stations (Kern is doing a repair for now and will order the casings). They froze, obviously, and Ben has figured out the cause after a lot of headscratching. He and Bob are brainstorming a solution. Sunrise 10 HP burned after running a week, likely on warranty. Other pumps are just getting started with no other issues so far.

The crew sprayed the Relocation lateral before starting it, ten days ago. They got the Boardman laterals sprayed last week. Laterals were all flushed prior to spraying, and we can start delivering water down those laterals on Wednesday and Thursday this week. The only lateral we do not have open yet is 31. We need to burn that lateral.

An issue with the Philippi pump station occurred with the high wind this week and sand blowing in from the Kerslake property. Kerslake is working on getting a berm in, but couldn't find enough hay bales. They have water down and we have hired Wise to remove the sand, at Kerslake cost.

The meters are not yet installed at the pump stations, but there is hope of that happening soon.

SUPERVISOR POSITION: Ben has stepped down as Field Supervisor and Bob has been appointed temporarily to the position. We contacted SDAO and, of course, we can look within our own group before we look outside. That is in our policy, so good. I will open this up very soon and would like one Board member to be on the interview and selection group with me.

CTUIR WATER RIGHT SETTLEMENT: The federal team is reaching out to the districts and private parties in the Basin. We had our meeting with them on March 4. We will give a report in Executive session.

AQUA SYSTEMS/SCADA: Aqua has been back to do the “wet testing” of the new upgrades to the canal gates. Rock Enterprises came in to troubleshoot the communication to the office. They also put up a temporary antenna at the office so we could receive the upper sites. (Note: until today, Tuesday, April 16 none of the SCADA info has come into the office). We now have communication. This will work until we get the new system installed later this summer.

SCADA: Lisa has been working on the SDADA and will give an update at the meeting.

RELOCATION CANAL GATES: We have cancelled that project for the automated gates. I will see if I can use the funds to assist with the upgrade to SCADA. We will install measurement at the end of the Relocation as part of the new SCADA system and look at automating the gate at the head of the Relocation.

CITY OF IRRIGON SIDEWALK PROJECT: The City of Irrigon sidewalk project at the east end of the City is well underway. The entrance to the office has been impacted the past two weeks, but folks are finding their way in. I think it’s a challenge, but they accept it. The curbing for the sidewalk was poured today. As we were told by ODOT, the entrance to the office will be open with sidewalk on both sides and a separate entrance for the Windwave property. It will work. They are building the sidewalk over the RL1 pipeline on 13th Street, which was a change from what Aaron had told me years ago. But, he found the funds and authorized that part of the project in March, according to City minutes. I contacted him about the federal ROW. He asked for a form to send to Reclamation and I sent it to him. Whether he completed it or not, I am not sure, but the sidewalk is going on top of our line. This will be like other areas where the City has encroached without a permit. It doesn’t affect our line and we will rely on the federal rightsif we have to dig it up for repair.