

MANAGER'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2020

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

HERBICIDES: We are very pleased to have kept a steady schedule for aquatic weeds treatment. Mowing and ROW sprays are not as much as we'd like – mainly due to all the wind well into June. Here is what has been spent this season on Herbicides.

Copper Sulfate, Argos - Algae	\$10,655	(5 applications)
Acroliein – Pondweed & Algae	\$68,302	(13 cylinders – 6 applications)
Right-of-way	\$ 2,605	
Testing & equipment	\$ 3,775	

TOTAL **\$85,337**

The budget was \$70,000, which is what we spent last year. We used 473.5 gal of acrolein in 2019 with four treatments. We used 689.6 this year with six treatments plus we did an additional treatment of Argos. This is what it would take in typical season such as the past three years where we've had weeds early. This year, we just got ahead of it and stayed there.

CONJUNCTIVE USE WATER: The good news is that our pumping costs for conjunctive use look like they will come in around \$110,000. I am working on the proforma budget for the Board meeting so you can see where we are.

LABOR DAY SHUTDOWN: The shutdown on Labor Day was a surprise, but we were prepared for it. The fire caused outages to Reclamation sites and problems at their end that took some time to fix. They are still fighting weeds in their Phase I holding pond. We had a lot of debris in our own canal that we cleared manually before we started back up. However, weed, leaves and debris have kept working through the system. I think we all underestimate the time it takes to start a system back up after its been down. In this case, it was 60 hours after the outage before had water to the end of the canal and two more days for the canal and irrigators to settle in. During the "start-up" we ran two overnight shifts because we started the water up at 4 pm on Tuesday night. There were some critical acres that needed the water.

EMERGENCY SHUTDOWNS DUE TO WEATHER: From what we've seen this season, there are many reasons the canal may shut down. In all cases, our first priority is safety. preference is to keep some water moving through it to keep weeds and debris moving. Barring that, shutdown occurs. Once we are down, we have to remove debris from the canal. Then, start-up will take two days. I have put a copy of the District's Canal Emergency Plan in the notebook. This is for your review. We update this annually, and I just added the fire emergency. If you have comments and especially recommendations, please let me know.

PICKUP STOLEN: There have been a flurry of thefts in Irrigon and our 2001 shop truck that our laborer uses was stolen one morning. He had left the keys in it. When he went out of the shop to go to the field, the truck was gone. It was recovered in Hermiston that evening, but the

thieves have a set of keys for the pickup. It is out of service now until we can replace the starter and door locks.

PIPELINE PROJECTS: Although we don't have approval yet on the Cultural side, we are moving ahead with planning for both Laterals 12 and 15. There is some work we can do that doesn't involve removing concrete or laying pipe – such as site clearing, pump stations and work on private property that was not part of the grant. The County is doing the crossing work on Wilson, west of Olsen, now and will tie us into the new HDPE pipe.

PROCEDURES/TRAININGS/JOB INFORMATION: We have spent time the last six weeks going over procedures, writing up new procedures and providing more training for employees. I've been working on a ditchrider manual. We have a good start on it and I've given the employees the job responsibilities. Basically, each ditch ride is lined out with areas of responsibility – when and where, how often and so on. Lisa has been updating maps of each system. She has also gotten equipment manuals and Bureau of Reclamation manuals on O&M. We have an equipment operators and basic maintenance information for each piece of equipment and dump truck, this plus maintenance manuals in the shop and a full set in the office. Our goal is to do away with “I didn't know” or “nobody told me.” This is a really great start in that direction. Next step on the ditchriders manual is to add each headgate or canal delivery and write up notes such as ownership, responsibility and drain valves.

WATER: The water went very well this year. Cougar has been the main water master and has done a great job of managing the water. Preliminary figures on the main canal delivery show about 32,000 AF of water used this season. This compares to 33,000 AF in 2019 and 36,700 AF in 2018. In Irrigon, the pumps have held and we have used two pumps most of the season to prevent cavitation. I've determined the meter is working and we will have about 3900 AF of use. 4200 is the full 4.5 AF allotment.

WATER SHUT-OFF: Weather dependent, of course.

Irrigon system and Division PS:	Wed., Oct. 14 - Oct. 20
Main canal PS	Wed., Oct. 21
Main canal	Wed., Oct. 28 – Oct. 30

PROFORMA BUDGET: As mentioned above, I am working on the Proforma budget which will give us an idea of where we will end up this year. I have asked Lisa to put it in the new format which will include the project budget. This will be very helpful to us all.

BUDGET 2021: I want to have some discussion of where we are headed moving forward – telemetry, pickups, equipment for instance. This will give me an idea of what options or inclusions you want in the 2021 budget. I will plan to have a preliminary budget to you for the October meeting and will be working with Lisa on putting that budget into the new format.

BOLI CLAIM: Wesley Brooks, applicant for Trainee position in January, has filed a claim against WEID for unlawful employment practices. Since this is an ongoing legal investigation, discussion will be in Executive Session.