

## MANAGER'S REPORT - JANUARY 2021

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

**WORK CREW:** We continue to be short-handed, but are moving steadily forward. We are keeping two excavators busy. We hired a six-man work crew from Independence Contractors and are very pleased with their work. They are cleaning the laterals now. They can work on concrete removal, if needed, and on burn crews. We will see how this goes. Alan is out with shoulder surgery, so we have 3 regular employees (Ben, Adam, Cougar) working plus one temp (John) and Tassie at part-time. Cougar and John are operating the equipment.

**UPS WORK:** Abe did some clean-up along the north side of the canal inlet to the Umatilla Pump Station site. Cleaver is getting the excavator in this week or early next. We've had Frank Long from CPC Environmental Services look at our pipe to give an estimate on relining. For building new headgates, I am not sure who to contact other than Ross Machine. I think that's a 2022 project.

**PIPELINE PROJECTS UPDATE:** Crews continue to work on the projects. Ben can provide that update. Here are a few notes from my end:

1. The pump for Lateral 12 was a concern. We had Abe look at it and brought Gary Moore back in. Gary plans to add a section of pipe to the vertical piece. Ben can provide details. He is sure it will work.
2. We are considering several screen designs for that location. Ben may have some drawings so we can get input from the farmers on the board.
3. The pipe and fittings for the two projects have arrived. When I talked to Lou at Elmers, he thought it is premature to order pipe for next fall. He doesn't expect today's prices to continue as they were fed by the hurricanes in the southwest. He asked me to send a list to him and he will have it on hand for this summer when prices may be down.
4. Easements are being obtained and all issues so far have been settled.
5. I have had two conferences with the Oregon SHPO employee that will work our project and Reclamation. The cultural approval is moving along. The State will want a mitigation agreement, but we expected that.
6. The survey of Lateral 17 shows the lateral is on the quarter section line. This is good news as that means the landowners are fenced off their own properties by 10 – 20 feet. I have contacted Morrow County to set up another meeting for that lateral. I will also catch up with Boardman City Manager, Karen Pettigrew. Once the three of us discuss, we will have a meeting with the utilities along the lateral.
7. The big expense left is ordering the pumps for lateral 15 and the screens. We will use turbine pumps for this site. I expect Ben will work with UEC soon to order the power. That cost is over \$32,000 and they will want that money up front. We just got the last order of pipe and fittings for the project - \$69,000. We may have a financial crunch and Lisa will go over that as part of her report.

**CITY OF IRRIGON / FEDERAL EASEMENT:** Most of you have heard about the development being planned in Irrigon for a Dollar General Store. Unfortunately, plans were being made by the City and developer without checking on encumbrances on the property- and there is a 1906 50-foot federal easement. I sent information out to the Board and four of you responded quickly to give your thoughts. Last Thursday, Reclamation informed us that they want a solicitor involved with any further discussions. So, we are hold for further negotiations.

**CHANGE IN PLAT OVERVIEW / DEVELOPMENT POLICY:** In 2017, the State adopted some standards that changed the way the Planning departments need to work with the District. I have attached those to this report. I talked with Tamra Mabbott, who is back at Morrow County. It won't change much, from her perspective, except they won't require us to sign off. They will still work to protect our facilities and water rights. In the meantime, we need to change our policies. With what happened at the City of Irrigon – I believe we need a Development Policy. It will cover any development on ground within the District boundaries. Here are my comments on the process:

1. We have a comprehensive Development Policy together that will address partitions, subdivisions, owner development, commercial development, meters, delivery valves and so on.
2. If a federal right is suspected, I will send the information to Wendy.
3. This policy will have requirements and a fee. We will have a compliance letter that we send to the appropriate planning department when requirements are met.
4. All the city and county planning departments have our boundary map. In ORS 92.104, the State added a requirement for submitting a report detailing district facilities, easements, rights-of-way. We have some maps, but Irrigon and Umatilla are not mapped. This would take an effort and funding that we don't have. Bill Kuhn suggests we use our boundary maps and add some language explaining the age of our rights and that some of the details will be researched as changes take place.

**CANAL ROAD WORK:** All landowners along the canal roads from Toms Camp to Poe's at the end have been contacted about the work with an estimate of their cost. Boor now has an agreement to use the road. Ben and I personally met with some folks and only Partlows had a concern. Ben is working with Wise to schedule the work.

**RIVERWARE MODEL FOR CTUIR SETTLEMENT:** We completed our peer review of the lower Umatilla model. Owen from GSI did the work for us. There were four reviewers and they all had lots to say about how the modeling was not transparent, it lumped figures together, it did not accurately reflect the current conditions and lots of technical comments. For us, they treated all our diversions as one, with no separation of exchange and conjunctive use. In other words, no one was pleased with the work they did. The scope of work had changed as it originally was to identify return flows and to documents how flows/return flows would change with the settlement. We haven't heard from Reclamation on the next steps.

**WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN (WMCP):** Good news. I submitted our annual report on our WMCP and found that we are good until July 2023. We should plan on submitting the update in 2022.