

MANAGER'S REPORT - JANUARY 2020

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

BUDGET WORK: Lisa and I have been working on how to present the budget so you have the information you need. The financials presented to you each month give you all the information on our cash position, payables and receivables for that month's end. How to put that into a budget is more difficult, as the cash position is a moving target and the year-end figures are typically not known until well after the budget process. That said, we are working on it and will have the budget ready for discussion and review at the Board meeting.

FIELD EMPLOYEES: Cougar quit his job in early January. I've talked with our crew and let them know that we would not replace this position, but are considering hiring an Operation System Manager Trainee – someone that would be considered for Operations Manager after the one-year training period. Gary will work until the end of March or water start-up. I am concerned about an equipment operator at that time, as Cougar was working out well in that position. The budget work will help us figure out what to do and I am working on options.

OP MANAGER SEARCH: I put an ad on Indeed.com for the Trainee position (mentioned above). We have received 22 applicants so far. Four have been selected for a job interview this week. In the meantime, one unsuccessful applicant (not chosen for an interview) has filed a public information request for the applicants that will be interviewed and is threatening to file with BOLI that we have not instituted a Veterans preference procedure in our hiring. This will put a halt to hiring, I believe, while we work through his requests and complaints.

OPERATIONS – WINTER 2020

- During January, crew plans to finish the Headgate repairs and lay the pipe for the Sample property. Canal cleaning continues. Due to the heavy silt and overburden, it is slow going and will likely take most of the time we have left.
- We have plan to order 1000 feet of liner (\$36,000) that will be installed upstream of I-84. The liner should be here in late February.
- We are in the process of checking the canal for concrete work. I anticipate about 60 panels of work, plus patching. However, a full canal inspection hasn't been made yet. The canal will be done in February and early March.
- We plan to bring the prison crew in ASAP.
- We have set March 10 as our time to be ready for start-up of the main canal.

DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY: The updated policy is included in the Board packet. This was prepared by Mike Snyder, our consultant, who also worked with Colleen Weinhoff, owner of Bio-Med. I recommend we adopt this policy, which meets State and Federal standards.

SURPLUS PROPERTY: We have an offer for property in Irrigon that we can discuss in Executive session.

ENVIRONMENTAL WORK: Reclamation has dropped the ball on this work. They did not submit to the CTUIR by the end of December as promised. They do not know when they can submit. In the meantime, I contacted the cultural department to get started on a contract for their archeologist. They asked me to bring an outline of the project, which I will do.

LATERAL 12 PROJECT: At this time, the best we can hope for is a February 17 start date. We will need four weeks for the concrete removal and pipe installation. The pump station and parts have been ordered. We will have everything done that we can without digging anything up. This would be the pipelines outside the project, the Headgate and screen and the road crossings.

PROJECT FUNDING: At this time, there are several considerations – A bond through SDAO, a line of credit at the bank, private funding. We plan to have enough information for the Board to have some discussion and direction.

PRISON INMATE LAWSUIT: The District and Ben de los Santos have been sued by a former inmate of Two Rivers Correctional facility for an injury he sustained while working on the inmate crew in Boardman two years ago. SDAO represents Ben and the District in this matter. The District portion of the lawsuit was set aside a year ago. The end of December, SDAO settled with the inmate for \$10,000. This removes us from the lawsuit, leaving his claim against the State and Two Rivers in place. Our portion of this is \$2500 and that bill has been paid to SDAO. We and Ben have been dismissed from the lawsuit.

OWC/NOWA ANNUAL MEETING: The Oregon Water Coalition and Northeast Oregon Water Association held their joint annual meeting Tuesday morning. Lisa and I both attended. It was very informational with good speakers.

STANFIELD CONJUNCTIVE USE CONTRACT: Reclamation has put together a contract for Stanfield to receive conjunctive use water. A copy is in the Board packet.

CITY OF IRRIGON: The City of Irrigon is starting an extensive sewer project which will be mainly north of Hwy 730, but will cross RL2. This will take an agreement with Reclamation for that crossing. You may recall that the City was platted in 1904 by the Oregon Land and Water Company and the assets of that entity were assigned to Reclamation in a 1914 court decree. About 10 years ago, the City and Reclamation discussed working to quitclaim the remaining assets in Irrigon (mainly the streets) to the City. That was not done and the leading parties are no longer with their respective agencies. So, starting again with new folks, but we are encouraging the City to work with Reclamation to get this done as it really is a piece of unfinished business. I assume the District will support this.

UMATILLA SUBDIVISION: The City of Umatilla has received a subdivision review request for the 12-acre property lying just north of the canal and west of Powerline Road. It no longer has water rights. Our comment will be to fence the right-of-way for safety purposes.