

MANAGER'S REPORT - JULY 2021

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

OPERATIONS:

- A new employee, Don Gerber, has been hired as Irrigation System Operator (ISO). This means we have a Field Supervisor and three Irrigation System Operators. We have a worker from BBSI who is receiving training and one part-time ISO. This means we have a full crew for the first time in a very long time (since Richard and Frank).
- Lateral 12 – Miller Road – project is complete.
- The telemetry is still down and crews are checking the canal/IPS three times per day.
- This additional ditchrider work is leaving us lacking in lateral mowing.
- Don and Adam have been able to do the brake repair on our equipment trailer and maintenance on all the equipment. Waiting for parts now to complete.
- We are catching up on safety work, including signage, for the various pump stations.
- We have kept a steady herbicide program in the main canal. Our new DEQ permit is requiring some added work (testing and time travel).

DEQ PERMIT FOR AQUATIC HERBICIDE: After five years, the new DEQ permit has been issued. We have worked under two aquatic herbicide permits in the past and now have one. There are a couple of changes: 1) a time travel study has to be done every five years. 2) monitoring is much the same, as long as the first treatment of each product's testing is within compliance. 3) Monthly reporting is now required. The new permit structure will save \$5000 annually in permit fees to DEQ, and will take more time for Lisa and Alan on reporting.

AQUATIC HERBICIDE: We have had to order additional herbicide – Argos, for a cost of \$8200. Argos is a chelated copper and we do not have to shut down the canal endspill like we have to do for copper sulfate drops. It is working quite well; there is no concern about flow returns to the Columbia; we save manpower (about 80 hours); and everyone gets water. We decided to add an extra Argos treatment in August that would have been copper sulfate due to the potential weather and the manpower required for a copper treatment.

IRRIGON PUMP STATION UPDATE: I have done all the research, discussed the Irrigon pump issues with various folks, and investigated their ideas. After this, I ran the existing parameters by Doug Strebin, who most of you remember was on the Board for many years and is very knowledgeable about these pumps plus has his own pumps on the Columbia. Doug reviewed the drawings, talked to Moore, the folks at Lewis & Staver, ran calculations. He came up with the recommendation we have been considering – tying two of the “cans” together with a 16-18 inch steel pipe. The tie needs to be on the 42-inch pipe to be effective. I have contacted Cascade Divers and they will be here as early as the week of July 26 to see what can be done. They did the installation work for the original project. They will do a dive to: 1) see how much silt will need to be removed 2) assure we can physically do the work,

and 3) look for any other obstacles such as any screen impediments. They will provide a DVD for us as well as results of their findings.

CONJUNCTIVE USE 2021: As of July 25, we have used right at 8,000 AF conjunctive use for an estimated cost of \$124,800. Through July in 2020, we used 3,583 AF. I estimate another 4000 AF to be used in August and September, with our credit of 470. The cost is estimated to be \$15.60 per AF for \$187,200.

DOHERTY UPDATE: We have been moving along with completing the research on the Doherty property at the end of the canal system. Several issues have delayed the completion of the research of the ROW along the Doherty property. We are trying to find several historic documents to ascertain ownership of the ROW.

TELEMETRY UPDATE: Rock Enterprises had several hold-ups, including complications getting the correct radios. The new radios are being installed. Once installed, their crew will go through each system, assuring information is coming to the District office. Then, we will troubleshoot for the operational issues we had before the failure.

BOR REVIEWS: Reclamation has done two reviews this spring/summer.

- 1) Environmental Audit. (copy enclosed in Board packet). There were several minor findings and we are taking care of them. Our action is noted on Page 11, which is a summary of findings.
- 2) Main canal inspection. (copy enclosed in Board packet). There were no new findings. We have outstanding recommendation from previous inspections about woody debris and vegetation along the south side of the canal in several places. They made several notes of interest.

OWRC BOARD MEETING: Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) is meeting in Hermiston at the Maxwell Center on Friday, the 29th. There is an informal dinner at Sno Road Winery on Thursday, the 28th for District Directors.

PARTITIONS/SUBDIVISIONS: I am currently working on two subdivisions and four partitions. Consequently, I will attend three planning commission meetings in two weeks. So far, the new criteria that we have adopted for development is working quite well.

Magateaux subdivision in Umatilla County, off Hwy 730

New Dreams subdivision in Irrigon along Thomas Street, east of Division (we will remove water rights on this one)

Crispin partition near Irrigon, off Wyoming

Two partitions in Umatilla, east of Lee Estates

Finishing up Marston partition in Boardman

Additionally, Garton subdivision off County Line Road, Gale partition off 1st St in Irrigon, and Gala Springs subdivision in Boardman are not final yet and appear to be on hold.