

MANAGER'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2021

This report provides an overview of District issues and projects that we have been working on since the last board meeting. Also, Lisa has taken classes (in person and online) over the past 2 years through the Academy at SDAO. She has completed the work. Congratulations, Lisa.

OPERATIONS:

- For three weeks in August, three crew members were out with Covid. Ben then missed a week with illness. Everyone is back and we are at full strength as of this week.
- Weed growth has been out of control along the canal. Last week, we were able to finish the mowing in the upper canal, but several areas remain a mess. Now, there is more mowing to do in Boardman. Besides just not being able to get it done, we still have a safety issue with the mower in that it is often on uneven ground, due to the buildup from overburden on the off side of the canal. This is an issue that has been a concern for many years and with the large weed growth, it was worse. The most concern is between Wilson and Lateral 15 and from 86 to the siphon. No surprise, they are out “wet” areas and thus more weed growth.
- We had the mower parked off Olsen Road along our ditch on the Tobin property over the weekend. The windows were shot out. We have turned the matter in to the sheriff.
- We have brought in the adults-in-custody crew from Two Rivers to assist with several overgrown areas along Lateral 31, 30 and 29. We will have them 3 -4 days.
- As mentioned at the last meeting, there are several areas where burrowing animals are active. Mowing found a few more. Because these same areas are where the weeds were very high and we now have mangled weeds, Ben and crew will need to come up with a plan for housekeeping along the canal. We need a plan so we can try to work the plan along with our other work.
- Right now, our priority is to continue mowing and clean-up in Boardman as well as addressing lingering work orders. We will move to Irrigon the end of the month and do work orders there after the shut-down (valve repairs mainly).
- The road work the Wise did is not yet complete. They have been tied up with the Umatilla Dollar General work and are now getting caught up on their backlog. We expect this work to be done over the next month.
- Dollar General in Irrigon has closed and we can do the work moving the pipeline. Wise is contracted for that work which is reimbursed by Dollar General.
- The piping project for Lateral 15 has been delayed from what we hoped would be an August start-up. Here are the current issues that have affected the pipe installation.
 - 1) Crew illnesses
 - 2) Alan Holmes has put in a new delivery to his 40 acres east of Olsen Road. He extended it from his pump station, which is downstream from what we had planned and discussed with him last year. But, he wanted to get water there. That means we have to move his delivery downstream and it will change some pipe sizes. JUB should have the new sizes by the end of the week.
 - 3) Pipe and pump orders we understand are out “months.” We will get what we need ordered by the end of this week.

METER READINGS/SHUT-OFFS: Crews were not able to find the time to do meter readings this year. They read the growers in July and the end of August and some of our known “overusers” from previous years. Several folks have been shut off.

WATER SEASONAL SHUTDOWN: Irrigon will be out of water by the end of the month. We sent letters to all the folks off the Irrigon systems a few weeks ago. Use on the system has been 28 – 35 AF per day for the summer.. We are at 15 AF daily now. We will shutdown September 29. Thus, here is the shutdown schedule for the District”:

Wednesday, September 29 – Irrigon

Wednesday, October 13 – Southshore and Boardman Pump Stations

Wednesday, October 27 – Main Canal

IRRIGON PUMP STATION UPDATE: I have continued research and investigating the issues with the IPS. I met with the divers. I met with Gary Weatherly from JUB. I have three options for you to discuss at this meeting and feel confident that we can find the best solution for this station. They are:

1-Continue as we currently have planned with the new 300 Hp pump.

2-Purchase the new 300 Hp pump and do the cross-over with the pump cans.

3-Explore installing a 150-200 HP pump instead of the 300.

The first realization the Gary pointed out to me is that we need about 264 Hp to meet our demand and we have 500 Hp now. Secondly, installing a like pump in the same circumstance may not lead to the result we would like. He recommends that we solve our problem by going to a smaller pump, using the 100 Hp more regularly. He will provide a memo for the board.

TELEMETRY: The work by the contractor on the telemetry has not yet solved the communication problems. They are having issues with the new antennas.

PICKUPS: Due to having a full crew, we are down a pickup. I recommend that we do the transmission work on the 2001 Chev pickup that we parked rather than consider any new vehicles for 2022. It has 142,000 miles.

RELOCATION CANAL: The Relocation Canal was discussed at the last Board meeting along with ideas to pipe or automate it. The headgate at the canal is failing and needs to be rebuilt or replaced for the 2022 irrigation season. My meeting with JUB included several ideas for this headgate and giving us an idea of pipe size for piping that lateral.

PARTITIONS/SUBDIVISIONS: As listed last meeting, there is a lot going on in the District.. I am getting some pushback from the City of Irrigon while trying to protect our irrigation easements between Division and 10th Street. It looks like I will need to have our attorney review and send them a letter. This is not a federal easement, but one that was dedicated to the District in the 90’s.

METER GRANT: We received a grant for the meters we need in Boardman.