

MANAGER'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2023

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

OPERATIONS: Ben and crew have been very busy. The new pickup was purchased from Dave Smith and was picked up on Friday. He will report on operations.

MANAGER REPORT:

CITY OF IRRIGON INTERACTION: The attorney from the City of Irrigon (Peter Mohr) called our attorney and me to set up a “time to talk” about our interaction with the City and to understand the issues. We did that last week with Reclamation involved. We laid our cards on the table, so to speak. Basically, as our attorney, Bill Kuhn stated – the City was built around irrigation and now that it is “in the way,” the City is choosing to ignore it. But, they can’t. The rights of the District and Reclamation are superior to the City and they must be recognized and managed. I told Mohr that the City code does mention working with special districts and agencies, but the code is not clear on how that should be done. That may be a place to start. It was quite a discussion. I have followed up with info to Mohr. I have also gone through the City code and made notes where I think changes could occur, but haven’t had time to get these organized and to Kuhn and Mohr.

BRIDGE CROSSINGS: After the last meeting, I did some research on bridges. We require our bridges to be to current State standards. That is 86,000 lbs. If they are not to that standard, they are to be posted. If folks are taking a higher weight over the bridge, they do so at their own risk. I contacted the Boardman Fire Department and they would take their vehicles over any of the bridges in Boardman, including Paul Smith. They have no issue with any of the bridges. Sometime this winter, we will send notices to all bridge owners reminding them of standards and to be sure anything they take across meets that standard.

EAGLE CREST/TAYLOR: The Taylor LLC is complete and we are waiting for Reclamation to prepare the assignment.

BRISTOL ESTATES/PHILLIPS: I have prepared the Shared delivery agreement for Philips, just waiting for water right acres from our mapper at JUB. He has met our requirements, and the final plat is being prepared. Surveyor, Ron McKinnis, added a signature line for us which we requested at the planning meeting for the subdivision. There are a lot of factors around this subdivision that Al has worked on. The County has requested our signature be taken off the subdivision plat. I sent them an email about this, and attorney Kuhn has contacted them on our behalf. Surveyor plans to leave the signature on.

PLAT ISSUES: From the above, you can see that we are going to push back with Morrow County and the City of Irrigon about the plat reviews. We do sign plats for the City of Umatilla and Umatilla County. It remains the one way we can all assure the irrigation rights and facilities are protected. Unfortunately, we are needing our attorney to engage in this. I sent Kuhn a copy

of the letter that Mabbott put out. This has been a frustrating part of my job the past few years, so I put this on the agenda just so you know where we are and I can get any comments from the Board. I have included information about this issue as part of our discussion.

SET BUDGET MEETING DATE: Since we are not able to have our budget meeting in November without all the Board present, I wonder if we could meet on Dec. 7 for a budget meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING: Reminder that since the third Thursday in December is the 21st. we have moved the December meeting to the 2nd Thursday, the 14th. That means, if we do the budget meeting on the 7th, we will meet on the 7th and the 14th.