

MANAGER'S REPORT - OCTOBER 2023

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

OPERATIONS: The irrigation season is winding down. The Irrigon pump stations were shut down, winterized and drained on Tuesday, Oct. 16. Meter readings were taken. The Boardman stations follow on the 17th and 18th. One or two stations will be left on for a few more days. Southshore and Westfall typically go down with the main canal shut-off. The main canal is scheduled to go off Friday, Oct. 27.

During September and October, the crew has been able to catch up on some of the system maintenance and finish the Lateral 15, Broadbent, project. They are working on their winter list and I plan to review that with them early next week.

SIDEWALK ALONG HWY 730: The City of Irrigon is moving along with the sidewalk along the south side of HWY 730. ODOT explained they would install an "open" sidewalk in front of our office because we are commercial. We are trying to confirm that plan. In any case, this winter is the time to add the drainage to our parking area (the area from the highway and from the lawn all slope to the curbing between parking and the lawn, causing water to collect during the winter). We would need to raise the parking area to have less slope from Hwy 730, to pave the entire parking area and rebuild our sidewalk to the office to get rid of the slope. Ben will work up costs on this for an upcoming budget meeting. In the meantime, check this out when you come by the office.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Collections have really picked up. Lisa can report on this at the Board meeting.

MANAGER REPORT:

CITY OF IRRIGON COUNCIL MEETING: I went to the City of Irrigon Council meeting Tuesday night. They approved the sale of the lot behind us, so that will get underway. The informational meeting with us, BOR and the Council has been postponed. I will request a hearing at an upcoming planning meeting to discuss our issues with New Dreams owner. I also think that is a good place to start with our presentation. It seems to me that a main issue is that the Planning code doesn't allow the City to consider irrigation facilities. We can resolve quite a bit by correcting that, in my opinion.

CROSSING PERMITS: Windwave is planning work along the north and south side of Kunze Road. We now understand that work is being planned for Wilson as well. Lumen is also doing work on their overhead lines along Kunze and Peters. We have reviewed the work and Reclamation is working on their reviews.

BRIDGE CROSSINGS: I have decided not to pursue annual fees for bridge or other crossings. Upon further consideration, they are agreements with Reclamation that we acknowledge. Our

role is to assure we know who the contact folks are. The contracts with Reclamation outline the responsibilities of the owners. We expect folks to abide by the contracts.

EAGLE CREST/TAYLOR: We are moving along on approving their LLC. We recommend that BOR gives a crossing permit each to Stiffler and to the Eagle Crest LLC, each for 50% ownership in the bridge. This way, they are not tied together and the larger corporation is not tied to the LLC. Any discussion on that point?

AGENDA ITEMS:

PICKUP PURCHASE: Please reference the Vehicle Inspection Report for this paragraph.. The #9 pickup, which is the 2011 Ford 2X2 with 185,535 miles, is having transmission problems. We have already surplused the No. 5 truck and recommend we surplus the #9 truck. The pickup that Ben ordered almost a year ago continues to be delayed and we fully expect that order to be cancelled. We are short one ditchrider now, but hope to replace that position when we can. We need one ditchrider truck and a pickup for Ben. Ben will try to have information on any available options we can find for discussion at the October meeting. If he knows what you will approve, he can keep his eyes open for the right truck.

SET BUDGET MEETING DATE: We would like to get started on the budget in November. The next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 16. Can we have a budget meeting at that time?

DECEMBER MEETING: The third Thursday in December is the 21st. Please consider moving the December meeting to the 2nd Thursday, the 14th.