

## MANAGER'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2023

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

**OPERATIONS:** The crew has been down one employee since the end of August. Others have had family matters and illnesses, but operations have been running fairly smoothly. Although weed control along the canal and laterals has suffered. Ben will report on the Operations.

**CANAL AQUATIC WEEDS:** The crew has done a great job of staying with the weed growth this year. We have complaints from the smaller landowners along Umatilla about their sprinklers clogging up more than in the past and have increased our flushing of those laterals. It seems that the past few years, as newer landowners are coming in and long-time landowners are aging, there is more demand for the crew to clean screens and drain lines. This is FYI for the Board, unless you want to discuss it. I am curious how things went this season for the farmer/growers.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:** We are preparing to get statements out, working on meter readings and still have delinquencies to catch up on. We have found a potential part-time bookkeeper to help in the office.

**METER READINGS:** There are many more people sending in meter readings than last year. We plan to send ditchriders out in the next couple weeks to check meters of several folks who aren't sending in and/or we have concerns about overuse. These folks will get the fee. This past week, a couple folks called because they are concerned about running out of water, so that part is working too.

### MANAGER REPORT:

**WINDWAVE:** Windwave continues to submit plans for their work along Kunze this fall/winter. It looks like they are now going from Tower Road to Olsen Road.

**PORT OF MORROW:** POM has purchased their pipe for the work down Kunze. They have not submitted a crossing request, so we are not sure when their work will be done.

**EAGLE CREST/TAYLOR:** I am working with Joe to finalize the bridge crossing, I meet with him Thursday afternoon. I've added discussion related to the bridge to the agenda.

**OSHA MEETING:** OSHA followed up on their letter and we set a date to meet with them for consultation on October 24.

**CITY OF IRRIGON INTERACTION:** I have been very pleased with Reclamation's follow-up to the City issues. Information below.

- 1) New Dreams/Division St/Maple Grove: There has been no forward movement on these. Although, we did get a crossing plan from their engineer. We will bring that to the Board meeting. I believe Reclamation is waiting for us to approve.
- 2) CITY COUNCIL” Reclamation folks, Chet Sater and Wendy Morrison, plus Ben and I met with the City Mayor. It was a good meeting. We have been asked to attend a Council meeting on October 10 where we can educate the Council about the irrigation district and open discussion on how to protect our facilities while not deterring growth.
- 3) PROPERTY BEHIND OFFICE: I have enclosed a letter from the City of Irrigon about the property behind the office. The Board may want to take action on this.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

**LANDOWNER MEETING/LATERALS 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29:** A meeting will be held with folks on these laterals and with NRCS on Tuesday, September 19. We will present area maps of proposed piping projects over the next few years. report to the Board. These are folks we have either identified for upcoming projects or have been asking questions.

**BRIDGE CROSSING FEES:** During all the discussion about the Taylor crossing, I became more aware of the lack of information we have on other bridges, which could easily become a liability concern. Specifically: Kurz Lane – an absentee owner owns that bridge. The same with the bridge to West Glen in Boardman. Rippee Bridge is owned by an LLC that has point of contact and they are to meet annually. The contact has long moved, so that needs to be updated. The other bridges are owned by entities (agriculture typically), except four by the County (expired contracts that the County has not renewed).

I recommend to the Board that we adopt a policy of an annual fee for the bridge crossings and a requirement of a Certificate of Insurance. In this case, it keeps us up-to-date on the landowners, requires the LLC to collect funds from their members, and assures liability coverage. Not a large fee - \$40 - \$50. Or, no fee, but the requirement for annual review. A form could be sent out and returned with the Certificate of Insurance. Something to keep our records straight and no complications in case of accident or injury.

**CITY OF IRRIGON PROPOSAL FOR LOT:** The City of Irrigon has made a proposal for WEID to purchase the lot behind the building and locate the tower on it. Here is the action needed:

- 1) Make a formal proposal to the City for purchase - \$7950.00
- 2) Apply to rezone the lot from recreational to commercial
- 3) Replat the current lot to include the new lot (so one tax lot)
- 4) Apply for modification of previously approved tower permit for new location.