

MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

West Extension Irrigation District

3/23/23 9:00 AM

Columbia Improvement District Office

501 E. Columbia Avenue, Boardman Oregon

–AGENDA TOPICS–

1. Call Meeting To Order / Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Special Business–Public Comments
4. Monthly Business
 - Approval of Minutes - February meeting
 - A/P List - February
5. Executive Session 9:30 am. An executive session will called per ORS 192.660 (2) (h) to consult with counsel concerning legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to occur.
6. Reports and Correspondence
 - Operations Report
 - Report on Three Mile Dam and spillway cleaning
 - Main canal water start update
 - SCADA/Telemetry Report
 - Administrative Report
 - Delinquencies & Collection overview
 - Managers Report
 - HB 3231
 - Budget/Operational expenses review & discussion
7. District Business
 - Canal ROW Trespass/Umatilla/Boardman area
 - Barquist plat–915 SW 4th –delivery issues
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

Meeting Procedures: Agenda items will be taken in the order listed, unless changed by the Chairman. The public is reminded not to interrupt the Board members during their discussion. If you have specific questions that are not on the agenda or addressed during the meeting, please ask a Director or staff prior to or after the meeting.

Public Comment: Public comments are welcome during the public comment section of the meeting. These should be relative to District policies, Board actions or items of general interest to the public. All speakers must be recognized by the Chairman prior to speaking. The Chairman reserves the right at any time to limit public comments due to time constraints and content. The public is reminded that all comments are directed to the Board.

How To Get an Item on the Agenda: First, be sure that your item is a matter of district policy or Board oversight. The Board sets the Policies of the District and delegates the authority of management of those policies to staff. Some of the questions you have may be management or operational questions and can be answered by staff. We encourage you to do so during regular office hours. If Staff is unable to answer your question, they will bring the issue to the Board as an agenda item. A Director may also request an agenda item. All requests go to the Board Secretary, Bev Bridgewater. Anyone having agenda items for the next meeting are asked to submit the request five business days in advance of the meeting in order to be included on the meeting agenda.

Executive Session: The Board may convene in an executive session. By law, an executive session is closed to all except the Board, District staff, legal counsel, members of the press, and persons reporting to it on the subject of the executive session or otherwise involved. Before convening such a session, the Chairman will make a public announcement and explain the necessary procedures.

If there are any questions about the agenda or Board procedures, please contact Bev Bridgewater, Secretary to the Board and District Manager, at 541-922-3814.

Upcoming Board meetings for 2023:

April 20, 2023

May 18, 2023

June 15, 2023

July 20, 2023

Sept. 21, 2023

Oct. 19, 2023

Nov. 16, 2023

Dec. 21, 2023

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 100 IRRIGON, OREGON 97844
PHONE: (541) 922-3814 FAX: (541) 922-9775

February 16, 2023

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on February 16, 2023 at 9:03 a.m. at the Columbia Improvement District meeting room located at 501 E. Columbia Ave. in Boardman. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Vern Frederickson, Abe McNamee, and Von Studer; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Field Superintendent, Ben de los Santos. Director Bob Mueller was on the phone from 9:25 – 10:45.

AGENDA: Chairperson Philippi asked for additions to the agenda. There were none. Frederickson moved to accept the agenda. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the January Board meeting. McNamee seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: McNamee moved to approve the January accounts payable list in the amount of \$112,803.38. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: De los Santos reported that there is a lot of silt in the canal: more than he's seen. The excavator is cleaning from the endspill, which it hasn't done in many years. The crew is working nine (9) hour days and 5-8 hours on Saturdays now to prepare the canal and laterals for start-up. The Kenworth dump truck is still at Woodpecker, waiting for parts. Discussion. Board wondered about sand blow into the canal. Farmers understand that once the District has cleaned an area, if sand blows back in, the farmer is responsible to remove it.

Ben gave canal crossing updates and discussed several landowner issues. He said the 2023 pickup has been ordered and is at least two months out from order date (mid-March then). He stated the 1994 Chev pick-up, needing a transmission, hasn't run for a few years and the District won't need it.

MOTION TO DECLARE SURPLUS: Frederickson moved to declare the 1994 Chevrolet ½ ton ditchrider truck as surplus and to sell it via sealed bid to the highest bidder. McNamee seconded. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Baum gave updates on several administrative issues she is working on:

- Update from the Morrow County District Attorney regarding the Coffman theft case. Since she repaid the funds, they won't move ahead with a hearing for now, but will keep the information on file in case a similar incident is reported in the future.
- The SDAO conference provided a lot of worthwhile information on cyber-security, customer relations, employee interaction, anticipated legislation, budget standards and purchasing. Bridgewater received the SDAO Manager recognition for her service to the community and the video was shown.
- The Best Practices for 2023 is about Emergency Planning. The District is up-to-date on its emergency plans. They are reviewed annually and copies will be provided to the Board after the 2023 review.
- The idea of employee orientation and employee onboarding was brought up at the conference. The District is doing orientation for new employees, but onboarding is a new concept. Basically, this is presenting various components of the District (facilities, water rights, customer service, safety, rights-of-way and so on) to new employees, so they learn more about the how the District works. It is an ongoing process. WEID plans to instigate this procedure.

MANAGER'S' REPORT:

JAMES CROSS WATER RIGHTS: Cross attended the July 2022 Board meeting asking about his water rights and delivery. There is a delivery to his property and his line is broken. He asked about removing his water rights because he doesn't want to pay for what he can't use. The Board agreed to allow the removal and also remove the 2022 O&M fees if he gave up his water rights. A letter was sent to him with a relinquishment form. He called in August and did not want to give up his water rights. Now, he is calling again to give up his water rights. Bridgewater talked to Toms, who gets delivery off the irrigation line through the Cross property. They haven't received water for years and agreed to sell their water rights to the District for transfer elsewhere in the District. They paid the 2022 fee. Bridgewater recommends we give Cross the same choice and remind him that he has delivery to his property. The Board agreed. (Follow-up, Cross sold his water rights to the District and paid his 2022 fees).

DISTRICT WATER REUSE POTENTIAL: Bridgewater met with a farmer interested in picking up drainage or tailwater from the District that would return to the Columbia River. His attorney is working on ideas to use this water as mitigation for Columbia River water withdrawn upstream as part of the Central irrigation

project. Discussion. The District supports ways to provide water for agriculture and has no objections to exploring this concept, at the interested parties' cost.

LATERAL 17 PROJECT: Bridgewater presented the updated map for the Lateral 17/Paul Smith Road project. The federal easement is 50-feet (25' on either side of center). The centerline of the canal is the center of the quarter section, according to surveyor McKinnis. This means that the road is entirely constructed on the east side of the Morrow County ROW (is actually outside the ROW north of Kunze). She has talked with Morrow County Roadmaster and the City about moving the WEID canal over to the edge of its ROW, and allowing for underground utilities and sidewalks. Discussion. Abe suggested we pothole so we can see how deep the pipe can go. Landowners will need to be contacted to move their fences. What about utility poles?

There are a lot of moving parts involving the City of Boardman and Morrow County. They have had turnover recently and are discussing the nitrate issue. Bridgewater recommends that because of this, and the overall cost of the project, that we delay it another season – to the 2025 season. We have about \$250,000 left in our WaterSmart grant and need an estimated \$500,000 more. Finding additional funding is the priority. The Board agreed.

Director Mueller left the meeting via phone at this time.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

VANDALISM/TRESPASS CONCERNS: No update for this meeting.

ADULTS IN CUSTODY (AIC) vs LABOR CREW: There was an issue with oversight of the AIC crew. The regular guard was on another assignment the week of occurrence and an instance occurred of incidental contact between an inmate and the WEID supervisor. There has also been at least one instance of sharing of food (peanuts). These were brought by the new guard to his boss at Two Rivers. The guards were pulled off and we haven't had the crew since then. We did our investigation and found no fault on our employee's part. However, the prison continues to investigate. Experience shows this takes a long time. Discussion.

De los Santos was able to get a crew from Independent. He anticipates needing them another month. The cost is twice what we pay the Oregon Dept. of Corrections for half the work (5 laborers versus 10 AIC). This will affect our budget.

EAGLE CREST SUBDIVISION: Joe Taylor filed the final plat for his subdivision in September, before completing the work needed by the District. The water rights weren't distributed, there is no shared water delivery agreement, the bridge is not built nor an assignment made to potential landowners in the subdivision, the District has not agreed to the irrigation system design or use of the currently oversized pump.

Discussion. County Planning had listed standards to meet WEID requirements in its final findings, but just didn't follow them. It seemed to be an oversight by the Director of Planning, and we discussed this with her. The Taylors, being the owner of the new properties, plan to continue the work to meet the District, standards which were provided to them in writing. Discussion.

AL PHILLIPS PLANNED SUBDIVISION/IRRIGON: Phillips has been working with the District for a planned subdivision across from Huke station in Irrigon. The District has a 15-foot easement on the property, originally obtained by Dennis Logan, for its 24-inch mainline. The easement is shared with Stahls. The actual pipeline appears to be much more than that, plus the fenceline is off a bit, according to the surveyor. Currently the property, formerly owned and irrigated by Pat McNamnee, has its own pump station off the IPS mainline. Phillips would like to add the subdivision to the District pressurized line. We will need to do research on the system design. Discussion. The board agreed to continue exploring options and report back at the next meeting.

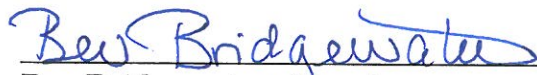
OTHER BUSINESS

Attorney, Spencer Rockwell of SDAO, would like to meet with the Board in executive session at the next meeting to discuss litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.

Signed:


Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:


Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson

West Extension Irrigation District
 Check Register / Accounts Payable List
 February 2023

CHECK#	DATE	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL	WEID EXPENSE	PAYROLL EXPENSE	OTHER REIMB.
		WEID GENERAL ACCOUNT:					
US 2/12/23	2/15/23	US Tax Deposit	Payroll	4,824.30		4,824.30	
US 2/27/23	2/28/23	US Tax Deposit	Payroll	4,383.10		4,383.10	
OR 2/12/23	2/15/23	OR Tax Deposit	Payroll	1,119.00		1,119.00	
OR 2/27/23	2/28/23	OR Tax Deposit	Payroll	1,142.31		1,142.31	
PERS 1/27/23 Pension	2/7/23	Oregon PERS	Payroll	2,050.56		2,050.56	
PERS 1/27/23 IAP	2/7/23	Oregon PERS	Payroll	539.67		539.67	
PERS 1/27/23 RHIA	2/7/23	Oregon PERS	Payroll	3.00		3.00	
PERS 1/21/23 IAP	2/20/23	Oregon PERS	Payroll	756.24		756.24	
PERS 2/12/23 RHIA	2/20/23	Oregon PERS	Payroll	3.50		3.50	
PERS 2/12/23 Pension	2/20/23	Oregon PERS	Payroll	2,783.29		2,783.29	
36333	2/3/23	A-1 Industrial	Pressure Washer	307.44	307.44		
36334	2/3/23	Bank of Eastern Oregon	Loan Fees	3,149.39	3,149.39		
36335	2/3/23	Elmer's Irrigation	SouthshorePS,HG Rep,Stock	5,054.73	5,054.73		
36336	2/3/23	Express Services	Leased Labor	1,548.91		1,548.91	
36337	2/3/23	Hermiston Auto Parts	PS, Telem, PU#7, Vehicle	369.28	369.28		
36338	2/3/23	Norco	Loss of Cylinder	1,364.87	1,364.87		
36339	2/3/23	NW Farm Supply	Pipe Trailer	27.59	27.59		
36340	2/3/23	Hermiston Quicky Lube	PU# 2, 6, 9	225.30	225.30		
36341	2/3/23	Special Districts Insurance Serv.	Health Insurance	6,531.50		6,531.50	
36342	2/3/23	Smitty's Ace Hardware	Shop,WrkCrew,PS,DR Tools	1,052.15	1,052.15		
36343	2/3/23	Streamline	Website Jan, Feb	400.00	400.00		
36344	2/14/23	Lisa Baum	Payroll	1,860.00		1,860.00	
36345	2/14/23	Bev Bridgewater	Payroll	2,259.03		2,259.03	
36346	2/14/23	Ben De Los Santos	Payroll	2,017.00		2,017.00	
36347	2/14/23	Daniel Rector	Payroll	1,596.76		1,596.76	
36348	2/14/23	Void		-		-	
36349	2/14/23	Alan Svatonsky	Payroll	1,485.03		1,485.03	
36350	2/14/23	Shara Weiss	Payroll	1,120.74		1,120.74	
36351	2/14/23	Bob Schlosser	Payroll	2,045.82		2,045.82	
36352	2/14/23	Bob Schlosser	Jan. Health Reimb.	866.04		866.04	
36353	2/14/23	Bev Bridgewater	Health Reimb.	695.46		695.46	
36354	2/14/23	Bob Schlosser	Feb. Health Reimb.	866.05		866.05	
36355	2/14/23	Bio-Med Testing Services	CDL Stewart	18.00	18.00		
36356	2/14/23	Commercial Tire	PU#2	230.85	230.85		
36357	2/14/23	Devin Oil Company	Fuel	1,647.11	1,647.11		
36358	2/14/23	Express Services	Leased Labor	1,992.26		1,992.26	
36359	2/14/23	First BankCard	Pstg\$2872, Ofc, Lic., Southshc	3,426.69	3,426.69		
36360	2/14/23	City of Irrigon	Utilities	439.73	439.73		
36361	2/14/23	Oxarc	Safety, Shop	309.35	309.35		
36362	2/14/23	Umatilla Electric Coop	Power	231.77	226.58		
36363	2/24/23	Stanley/Linda Toms	Purchase WR	519.61	519.61		5.19

West Extension Irrigation District
 Check Register / Accounts Payable List
 February 2023

CHECK#	DATE	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL	WEID EXPENSE	PAYROLL EXPENSE	OTHER REIMB.
36364	2/24/23	Bio-Med Testing Services	CDL Schlosser	18.00	18.00		
36365	2/24/23	CenturyLink	Office Telephone	251.75	251.75		
36366	2/24/23	Devin Oil Company	Fuel	1,508.26	1,508.26		
36367	2/24/23	Express Services	Leased Labor	4,611.74		4,611.74	
36368	2/24/23	Independent Transport	Leased Labor	10,022.28		10,022.28	
36369	2/24/23	J-U-B Engineers	Grant Engineering	120.00	120.00		
36370	2/24/23	OR Dept. of Corrections	Prison Crew January	8,280.00		8,280.00	
36371	2/28/23	Lisa Baum	Payroll	1,860.00		1,860.00	
36372	2/28/23	Bev Bridgewater	Payroll	2,259.03		2,259.03	
36373	2/28/23	Ben De Los Santos	Payroll	1,828.84		1,828.84	
36374	2/28/23	Jerry Haug	Payroll	843.82		843.82	
36375	2/28/23	Daniel Rector	Payroll	1,843.53		1,843.53	
36376	2/28/23	Bob Schlosser	Payroll	2,394.35		2,394.35	
36377	2/28/23	Alan Svatonsky	Payroll	1,502.51		1,502.51	
36378	2/28/23	Void		-		-	
36379	2/28/23	Shara Weiss	Payroll	665.71		665.71	
36380	2/28/23	Abadan	Copier Maintenance Agr	79.76	79.76		
36381	2/28/23	Cascade Natural Gas	Utilities	143.20	143.20		
36382	2/28/23	Independent Transport	Leased Labor	2,887.44		2,887.44	
36383	2/28/23	K.I.E. Supply	Lateral/Lines	11.72	11.72		
36384	2/28/23	NW Irrigation Operators	Dues	100.00	100.00		
36385	2/28/23	OR Water Resources Congress	Dues	8,232.27	8,232.27		
36386	2/28/23	Staples Business Advantage	Office Supplies	273.68	273.68		
36387	2/28/23	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phones	510.07	510.07		
36388	2/28/23	Adam Tompkins	2022 PERS Reimb.	110.33		110.33	
36389	2/28/23	Wesley Wise Excavating	Wetzel Driveway, Dylan Drive	5,650.00	5,650.00		
		TOTALS		117,271.72	35,667.38	81,599.15	5.19

West Extension Irrigation District
Vehicle-Equipment Mileage Summary

				12/31/22 Mileage	2022		2021		2020		2019		2018	
					Miles	Repairs	Miles	Repairs	Miles	Repairs	Miles	Repairs	Miles	Repairs
			TRUCKS											
#2	2010 Ford		Utility	158,732	9,703	\$409	10,567	\$743	9,986	\$1,268	9,703	\$768	10,323	\$1,270
#3	2004 Chev		Pickup	213,338	0	\$20	399		54		775	\$179	2,610	\$410
#4	2018 Chev		Flatbet	104,910	21,158	\$1,188	21,565	\$934	20,595	\$298	21,445	\$1,037	20,147	\$989
#5	1994 Chev		Pickup	196,208	0		0		0		0		128	
#6	2016 Ford		Pickup	47,517	13,867	\$778	12,775	\$523	12,768	\$739	13,401	\$1,257	13,159	\$259
#7	2013 Ford		Pickup	128,678	10,126	\$2,466	13,919	\$856	12,188	\$877	12,420	\$1,528	14,553	\$704
#8	2001 Chev		Pickup	141,912	492	\$1,037	0	\$142	5,220	\$527	5,166	\$2,901	188	\$156
#9	2011 Ford		Pickup	175,222	9,429	\$3,101	12,645	\$982	11,587	\$3,050	10,066	\$4,973	16,255	\$2,399
			EQUIPMENT	12/31/22										
#10	1986 Int'l		Dump Truck	123,557	515	\$6,848	765	\$868	440	\$2,906	3,312	\$9,050	2,079	\$727
#11	1983 KW		Dump Truck	328,894	633	\$1,674	227	\$403	180	\$1,098	11	\$1,740		
				9,696	164		1,137		1,058		549			
#13	2012 JD		Tractor/Mower	1,940	113	\$5,076	165	\$1,012	106	\$2,798	139	\$693	163	\$1,085
#16	Cat		Backhoe	6,633	304	\$2,149	301	\$11,861	180	\$8,081		\$4,269	382	\$1,389
#17	JD		Excavator	9,539	407	\$7,639	263	\$6,441	471	\$5,355	673	\$27,322	787	\$7,737
#19	1972 Ford		Fire Truck	8,177	0		0		0		0	\$219	0	

SCADA Basics: An Introduction to SCADA Systems & Telemetry Monitoring

SCADA and telemetry work in tandem to provide a combination of data acquisition, analysis, storage, and reporting. Additionally, SCADA systems allow operators to monitor and control system command functions from a remote location.

It's a powerful blend of hardware and software technologies that improve efficiency, cost, and productivity across various industries. But before we get too deep into the applications of SCADA systems and telemetry monitoring, let's start with the basics.

What is Telemetry?

Telemetry is a data acquisition technology that allows for the remote recording, transmission, and reporting of information. The process is primarily accomplished through the use of a telemetry unit (or telemetry system) that communicates wirelessly through a category of software known as SCADA (more on this shortly). It is worth noting that this process isn't exclusively wireless and can also be done using telephones and computer networks. Telemetry monitoring makes it possible for useful measurements to be sent and received remotely.

It is an efficient, real-time solution for monitoring environmental conditions and equipment functionality. The benefit of telemetry monitoring is that it provides immediate access to the most relevant information needed to make data-informed decisions. Due to the remote capabilities of this technology, data and measurements can simultaneously be available to decision makers, operators, and engineers. For the ultra-nerdy linguists out there, the Greek origins of the word "telemetry" are rooted in "tele" (remote) and "metron" (measure).

What is SCADA?

SCADA is an acronym that stands for "Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition". A SCADA system is an amalgamation of software and hardware that integrates with control systems. It is essentially a multi-faceted computer system that collects and analyzes data while providing remote control functionality for high-level processes.

SCADA systems monitor and control plants (such as our irrigation canal) and other complex systems that are spread out over large geographic areas. They do this by allowing for supervisory operation over a number of devices. Industries that make use of this technology include **water distribution**, **wastewater management**, telecommunications, energy, transportation, and gas and oil refining.

SCADA System Components

Remote Terminal Unit (RTU)

A **remote terminal unit (RTU)** is used to monitor and control a variety of devices and systems, usually in an industrial environment. They are similar to a programmable logic circuit (PLC) but have more in-depth functionality. These intelligent controllers assert supervisory control over other devices in order to automate industrial processes.

Radio/Modems

This allows for the transfer of data (usually wireless) across a large geographic area. A key component of a SCADA system is the ability to send and receive real-time data. Radio/modems are an efficient and reliable mode of accomplishing this feat.

Sensor/Transducers

A sensor is a type of transducer that can receive a signal from a physical system. It communicates information through the use of telemetry (and a control system). The sensor in a SCADA system serves to help operators measure and collect data from a remote location.

Repeaters

Repeaters receive and retransmit signals. They are able to transmit signals over large distances, even with the presence of a physical obstruction.

SCADA Master Station

In small SCADA systems, the master station is a single computer that communicates with controls systems and other equipment. In larger SCADA systems, this can include multiple servers, software applications, remote terminal units (RTUs), and programmable logic circuits (PLCs).

SCADA Monitoring Software

SCADA Monitoring Software is simply a set of data instructions that instructs the system how to interact with all of the hardware and other components. It is a way to easily monitor and control the performance of a SCADA system.

Human Machine Interface (HMI)

The **human-machine interface (HMI)**, as the name suggests, allows human personnel to interact with the hardware and software of a SCADA system. The HMI presents live data and measurements to operators and allows for the remote operation of the plant.

MANAGER'S REPORT - MARCH 2023

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

BUDGET: As reported to the Board members via email on March 7, we have some budget overages identified, mainly due to completing our telemetry upgrade and use of the labor crew. Here is what was sent by the Manager to the Board:

I have signed the purchase orders that will complete the needed upgrade on our telemetry and SCADA. The cost is significantly more than budgeted. I knew it, but also know how we all agreed that we need to have the sites working this year. Ben and I have already discussed where we can spend less money to cover the increased cost.

Here is what is going on and how we are handling this project.

1) Cecil Rock brought the estimate for the new tower behind the office by today. With equipment, installation and connection to the system, it is \$20,465. We had \$13,000 in the budget. It is in the improvement line item. There is \$7500 in improvements for shop equipment, We will not plan to spend that money this year, so both of these improvements totalling \$20,500 will go to the cost of the tower.

2) In 2016, we started updating the SCADA sites with hardware upgrades. We did two sites that year for a cost of \$9,050. The remaining sites need to be done and we will do four of the five - all four Boardman gate sites as they are all showing signs of failing. Today's cost for the sites, including travel and four days of work, is \$32,000. This is a total rebuild of the controllers, panels, HMI touchscreen interface, gate motors plus work on the software to read the new system. We have four days of vendor work built into this. Aqua Systems 2000 is our vendor for this and Bob from our crew will do the installation as he has done that at Roza, where he worked before. We are fortunate for his experience.

We budgeted \$12,000 for telemetry. I frankly, did not understand the full extent of the work needed and how the sites have failed, but Bob and Ben brought this to me, and we moved on it. Looking back, I realize that we planned for these replacements in 2017 and 2018, but with Ben coming onboard and changes at Aqua, plus the pandemic, we did not continue that upgrade. This is a different issue than the failure of the communication. In any case, Ben and I believe we can get \$10,000 from the main canal and weed control part of the budget. The other \$10,000 is not known yet, but we will hope for a good irrigation season without a lot of failure. If nothing else, we have \$20,000 in the budget for improvements scheduled to the Boardman pipe projects.

3) The third item I should mention is that we know we are paying significantly more for labor than using the AIC (inmate) crew. We have a 4 - 6 person labor crew from Independent plus two laborers from Express. In the budget, we had planned to bring another full-time person onboard in April. This would have been the operator position. We are in much better shape now

than we have been for a number of years with all of our crew being experienced. Right now, Ben plans to not bring in another full-time this year and use temps as needed. We are keeping a close eye on these costs.

We will go over the budget at this March meeting.

OPERATIONS: We anticipate water start-up the day of the Board meeting, so Ben may not be at the meeting. Here is the update I emailed to the BOD on March 13th, notifying of blockage at Three Mile Dam.

Three Mile Dam. On the 8th, Ben and I checked at Three Mile Dam. I had heard from the fish crews that logs had drifted in and settled in front of the dam. And we could see the logs hanging over the edge, which typically float over in high water. The one log that has been in front of our diversion since last spring remained, which we knew and were watching, waiting for a high water event to move it. IT IS VERY BIG. But, in the last three weeks, logs and silt have built up directly in front of the diversion extending out about 25-feet. This work is beyond what our equipment can do and we need to bring in a long-reach excavator. Wayne Reffett has one coming for us and will do the work at Three Mile once the equipment arrives. We understand it may be this week. We will also do some work at the endspill that we are not able to get to with our own excavator.

The update to this email is that the excavator arrived on Friday, March 17. Reffett cleaned at Three Mile over the weekend, then to the endspill We can report on this at the BOD meeting.

Spraying along the canal should be complete Tuesday. This is the north side of canal and next to canal. More work will need to be done along the road. Burning started on Saturday. The last concrete pours will be on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. It has been extremely difficult to get concrete this season, so we've done a lot of patching. The canal is planned to flush on Thursday. Water will go into Boardman Saturday or Monday.

DISTRICT CREW: As stated above, we have four of the full-time position filled. When Ryan left in early January, we did not fill that position. For now, we plan to run as we are with four full-time, a part-time and temps as needed. Emma will be here this summer. She can help out anywhere, including on the ditch.

CANAL & LATERAL WORK: The canal cleaning took a long time this year, mainly due to the amount of silt in the bottom of the canal and the amount of overburden in many areas, The only excavator we could find to rent was a mid-size with a 4-foot bucket. We spent a month with this one in Boardman, plus another week with our own excavator. The lateral cleaning is complete. Laterals 17, 18, 29, 30 and 31 are planned to be sprayed. Crews rebuilt three headgates/deliveries in the Umatilla area and two other slidegates, also in Umatilla. These are all District-owned deliveries. Delivery 10 in Boardman was rebuilt by the landowners. Crews rebuilt the screen at Hamilton. Dylan Road project is still waiting for the crew to complete. They will come back to it after start-up. The debris is removed. We have several critical leaks to repair at start-up: two on lateral 15 and two in Irrigon.

TELEMETRY SYSTEM UPDATE: Rock Enterprise has started the work to build the tower. The location schematic is attached. We have a verbal agreement with the city to place the tower on their property behind the office. We have agreed to complete fencing around the area as part of this agreement, which will be in writing. The tower itself will have safety fencing around it. Unfortunately, the cost of fencing has not been considered within our budget, so that will be something added to the budget discussion.

Aqua Systems will be in the District the week of March 20 to do the work on the SCADA. This will prepare them to do remote work once water gets in the canal and the new equipment that we need arrives. Did I state that of the four upgrades we ordered, only one was in stock and we are “backordered.” We will know soon how many gates we have that are operational and definitely will prioritize where the working components go.

CANAL CROSSINGS: We had several canal crossings that were completed in the last couple months – Windwave over the main canal at the siphon, Port of Morrow south of the railroad tracks, Zayo along Rippee Road. Windwave hopes for a crossing off Miller Road, to the west and a company called Metro Duct will bore under the river, railroad and main canal off Bensel Road this spring. They will wait until we go on exchange for that work. We do not have an update for Windwave crossing east of Miller Road.

PARTITIONS/SUBDIVISIONS: We are monitoring several:

- 1) **EAGLE CREST ESTATES:** We have not yet approved the irrigation system due to size of the pump and design. The lots need to have the Shared Water Delivery agreements filed with the County. The LLC for the bridge ownership is being reviewed by Reclamation.
- 2) **AL PHILLIPS SUBDIVISION OFF COLUMBIA LANE:** Al is planning a subdivision. The District pipeline is 80-feet onto his property. He would like to bring pressurized water to this subdivision. Our engineers will review the Huke design to be sure we have capacity before we get too far down this road.
- 3) **NEW DREAMS:** This is an 8.5 acre area that is being turned in to city lots. Water rights have been removed, but we have a pipeline through the subdivision. There has been a lot of activity this summer. We are waiting for the City to get the permit to cross our RL2 federal line with their sewer and new roadway (they are relocating Idaho and building a new road). They also planned to relocate the District mainline, but that hasn't been approved yet. So, we will see when water starts if the District line has been damaged.
- 4) **BARQUIST PARTITION:** The partition is very basic, but the irrigation delivery to the area is complicated. This area is north of Tony Osborne, off 4th and Wyoming. As the land is being developed, not all lots have access to the RL4 line. I would like to discuss a plan for this area at the Board meeting so we know where we are heading.

COLLECTIONS: As of March 17, we had \$61,858 receivables over 90 days, which represents 5% of the total accounts receivable. Lisa is working on collections, including shut-off and lien notices for those who owe all of 2022 (49 landowners). Foreclosure notices will go out to 20 of these who owe from 2021. Because of the 30-day “Notice to Proceed” for foreclosures, the Board won't see

the foreclosure list until the May meeting and, hopefully, there will be just a few remaining. Shut-off notices will go out to an additional 30 folks that still owe the second half of 2021.

WATER RIGHT TRANSFERS: I have started on mapping and preparing the transfers. There is nothing out of the ordinary to report this year.

GRANT/CANAL STUDY: JUB did the survey work needed for the canal study. We are looking for LIDAR info on our canal that will help assess seepage.. I think the rest can be done with the information we have and lots of written material. The State approved the extension to the deadline for the updated Water Management and Conservation Plan, knowing the canal study will be part of that updated plan.

NON-WORKING METERS: We have contacted several folks, including some larger water users, who had non-working meters at the end of last season. We let them know the meters should be working “No Meter, No Water” and I plan to stay with that. As long as they are working on repairing their meter, if it needs repair, we are very flexible as they can log their irrigation time until the meter is repaired. Several folks including Philippi, Stiffler, and Bellinger have done that as well as many smaller irrigators. You can see that I am anticipating a pushback, so just getting prepared for this. I think in most cases, they just need to clean out their meter. I hope to have the letters out to all the meter folks by the Board meeting, reminding them to check their meters at startup. Meter postcards did not go out this past fall, so there is that to do.

OFFICE STORAGE ISSUE: Anyone entering the office can see that we definitely have more paperwork than we have space to put it. Our storage shed is full. Lisa and I have talked about what to do and I’ve asked her to work on a plan for storage. This will include what we put on “the cloud”, store on-site and store off-site. Our storage building is 20 years old and is not set up for historic storage of documents. We have landowner documents, contracts and so forth to consider. Now that we have or are building the communication tower at the office site, it indicates that we have made a decision to stay at this site for the foreseeable future (as opposed to moving the office). I believe we need to plan for a permanent storage building behind our office where the file cabinets, storage shelves, maps and so on can be safely stored. It will need a work table for pulling and researching documents. I don’t plan any discussion today, but hope to have information later in the year so we can make a plan to address this issue.

STEPPING UP OUR GIS SYSTEM: Last year we were able to get our water order and ditchrider runs on-line. We are using the I-pads and Microsoft 365 for this. It has helped quite a bit. The next step is to put our work orders on-line. Time sheets and pickup tracking are all a possibility. In looking at this, I realize that I’d like to take the next steps that will send our GIS mapping and water rights that we have at JUB to the I-pads, using ArcGIS. We can easily add landowners and turnouts to this system. Once this is done, a software compatible with ArcGIS is used by many counties and special districts to track work orders, mileage, employees time and so forth. I think this is the way to go. Anything we get accomplished will be within our current budget and Emma will be very helpful to us this summer to see if we can get a good start..

HB 3231: WATER REUSE: I am very excited to let you know that Oregon finally has a bill before it that will authorize DEQ and WRD to develop recommendations to make Reuse projects in Oregon less cumbersome. And, there is funding for the bill! DEQ has been dragging their feet on this for years. From what I hear from my colleagues in Klamath and Bend areas, their DEQ contacts don't seem to be aware that such a project exist or how to authorize it. The work we all did hosting the South Suburban Sanitary District last year, and answering questions from around the state is finally paying off for others. Susie Smith from the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies contacted me last summer about our project and talked with the City of Hermiston as well. She has moved this project forward by getting a broad range of support, as you can see on the letterhead. They made a presentation to the House Committee on, well, you can see from her email below:

Greetings Bev!

I'm circling back with you to let you know that our presentation on water reuse to the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water, which featured the West Extension/City of Hermiston reuse project as a case example, was very well received and it resulted in a bill sponsored by Representatives Owens and Helm to direct DEQ (and provide funding) to work with us to evaluate the reuse rules and guides from the perspective of removing regulatory barriers. This is a big deal as we hope to focus a priority on greater access to the partnership type projects your district has with Hermiston.

Bobby Levy became a co-sponsor of the bill and a hearing was held on March 7. I have included information and letters from several entities, but know there were more. This bill has gotten steam, as it should.

It has passed the Committee with a "do Pass" recommendation. The committee added the funding on March 16. So, we will keep an eye on this and do what we can to make it pass. Once it clears the House, it will go to the Senate. I am not sure which sponsors they have lined up there.

House Bill 3231

Sponsored by Representatives HELM, OWENS, LEVY

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Directs Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with Water Resources Department, to develop recommendations and other resources to expand beneficial water reuse or recycled water programs or projects in state.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the development of resources to improve water reuse implementation in Oregon; and
3 prescribing an effective date.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with the**
6 **Water Resources Department and other relevant state agencies and interested parties, shall**
7 **address barriers to, and develop technical assistance resources to support, expanded benefi-**
8 **cial water reuse or recycled water programs and projects within this state.**

9 **(2) In carrying out the objectives of this section, the Department of Environmental**
10 **Quality shall:**

11 **(a) Characterize recycled water and beneficial land application project types that are**
12 **priorities to support water quality, water supply or use and habitat or ecosystem needs in**
13 **this state;**

14 **(b) Identify regulatory and other impediments to expanding water reuse;**

15 **(c) Identify environmentally protective approaches successfully employed by other states**
16 **with robust water reuse programs that may be applicable to Oregon;**

17 **(d) Identify potential regulatory changes, including but not limited to changes to internal**
18 **guidance, administrative rules or statutes needed to remove impediments, and propose an**
19 **implementation schedule for enacting proposed changes; and**

20 **(e) Develop technical assistance guidance, or other resources, for local jurisdictions and**
21 **industries to seek permitting and development of recycled water and other beneficial land**
22 **application programs that achieve the objectives of this section.**

23 **(3) The department shall submit a progress report on the resources developed under this**
24 **section in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, to the interim committees of the Legislative**
25 **Assembly related to water no later than December 31, 2023.**

26 **(4) The department shall submit a final report, including completed resources developed**
27 **under this section, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, to the interim committees of the**
28 **Legislative Assembly related to water no later than September 15, 2024. The department**
29 **shall, at a minimum, identify in the report under this subsection:**

30 **(a) Changes that agencies can make or have completed to internal policies, guidance and**

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in boldfaced type.

1 processes;

2 (b) Recommended changes that require an agency to amend administrative rules or adopt
3 new administrative rules;

4 (c) Recommended changes that would require the Legislative Assembly to create new law
5 or amend existing law;

6 (d) Programmatic needs to remove impediments to water reuse and beneficial land ap-
7 plication expansion and to support access to and acceleration of water reuse and beneficial
8 land application projects; and

9 (e) Technical assistance resources and incentives that would support jurisdictions in
10 evaluating and pursuing reuse and beneficial land application projects.

11 SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
12 ated to the Department of Environmental Quality, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023,
13 out of the General Fund, the amount of \$340,000, which may be expended for the purpose
14 of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2023 Act.

15 SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
16 ated to the Water Resources Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the
17 General Fund, the amount of \$100,000, which may be expended for the purpose of carrying
18 out the provisions of section 1 of this 2023 Act.

19 SECTION 4. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

20 SECTION 5. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023
21 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

22

Background on HB 3231

Introduced by Representatives Helm and Owens

What is HB 3231?

House Bill 3231 would fund and direct the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in consultation with the Oregon Department of Water Resources (WRD) and other stakeholders, to address regulatory barriers and develop technical assistance resources to support new and expanded beneficial reuse/recycling and land application of reclaimed wastewater in Oregon. HB 3231 would provide approximately \$500,000 in general funds for the biennium to accomplish this work (actual funding request pending information from DEQ).

Why is HB 3231 needed?

Timely state action is needed to evolve Oregon's regulatory framework so wastewater utilities can access an environmentally protective permitting path that is less onerous, costly, and complex, and that opens up a broader range of project opportunities.

While state agencies have developed rules and guidance to process proposals for recycled water and other beneficial applications of reclaimed water, communities across the state struggle to implement projects under the current regulatory framework. Oregon's permitting requirements are decades old, and wastewater utilities have found the regulatory process to be difficult, and sometimes too complex and costly, to navigate. This has deterred utilities (especially those that are highly resource constrained) from pursuing the types of water quality compliance projects that can have multiple environmental, community, and economic benefits. At the same time, DEQ has accelerated its pace of renewing wastewater discharge permits, and publicly owned treatment facilities face new or increased permit requirements for which beneficial reuse or discharges can provide great multi-benefit sustainable solutions.



Established State policies direct state agencies to increase support and encouragement for use of reclaimed wastewater for domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational, and other beneficial purposes in a manner which protects public health and the environment. These policies recognize that “the use of recycled water for beneficial purposes will improve water quality by reducing discharge of treated effluent to surface waters, reduce the demand on drinking water sources for uses not requiring potable water, and may conserve stream flows by reducing withdrawal for out-of-stream use.” (OAR 055-0007) Further, Executive Order 05-04 directs state agencies “to work together to overcome institutional and regulatory barriers and funding constraints” and to “improve its policies and internal operations to encourage more water reuse...”

Now is the time for Oregon to expand opportunities for recycled water and beneficial land application projects as part of the solution to water, climate, and economic challenges.

Beneficial applications of reclaimed wastewater can help Oregon address the following challenges...

- **Adaptation and resiliency in the face of growing climate change impacts:** When used to maintain riparian areas, wetlands, and other green spaces, beneficial application of treated wastewater can support community efforts to adapt and become resilient to climate change impacts and can help sustain declining

or stressed habitats. It can support community defenses against flooding and wildfires. Developing these approaches to water quality permit requirements also can avoid the addition of “grey infrastructure” projects like mechanical cooling and nutrient removal facilities that exacerbate greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, and chemical usage.



- **Water Quality:** Recycling and other beneficial application of treated wastewater can produce the best mix of environmental, social, and economic benefits for addressing numerous water quality challenges of growing concern, such as temperature and nutrients.
- **Drought:** Recycled water applications can help mitigate extended drought conditions, supporting agricultural or municipal irrigation and industrial process needs and leaving water in-stream for fish and other purposes.
- **Depletion of surface and ground water:** Recycled water can be used to offset consumptive uses of surface water and ground waters, which are under increasing pressure due to growth and climate change.
- **Affordability and sustainability of water utility services:** Recycled water projects match the appropriate level of treatment to the end uses which can save money, chemicals, and energy and minimize negative environmental impacts. This can help maintain stable utility rates.

How would HB 3231 expand opportunities for recycled water and beneficial land application projects?

Other states have modernized their rules to better harness treated wastewater as a highly-valued resource. And while Oregon natural resources agencies may recognize the potential benefits, they have not had sufficient resources or direction to apply the lessons and successes from other states, and to update the Oregon regulatory framework with the state’s policy objectives at the forefront. DEQ has taken preliminary steps over the past few years to evaluate current regulations, but the agency has insufficient resources to complete this effort in a timely and comprehensive manner. **HB 3231 would provide both the resources and the directive for DEQ to identify unnecessary regulatory impediments, expand opportunities based on other states’ successes, and develop technical support resources to aid communities in navigating project planning and permitting.**

HB 3231 will require DEQ, in consultation with WRD and other stakeholders, to complete the following steps toward updating the state’s regulatory framework for beneficial reuse and other applications of treated wastewater and report on progress, recommendations, and technical assistance resources to the Legislature in September, 2024:

- Characterize recycled water and beneficial land application project types that are priorities to support water quality, water supply or use, and habitat or ecosystem needs in this state;
- Identify regulatory and other impediments to expanding water reuse and beneficial land application;
- Identify environmentally protective approaches successfully employed by other states with robust water reuse programs that may be applicable to Oregon;
- Identify potential regulatory changes, including but not limited to changes to internal guidance, administrative rules, or statutes need to remove impediments, and propose and implementation schedule for enacting proposed changes; and
- Develop technical assistance guidance, or other resources, for local jurisdictions and industries to seek permitting and development of recycled water and other beneficial land application programs.

Reusing Water in Oregon

Summary

DEQ's mission is to be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water. Developing programs that allow water reuse while ensuring the protection of human health and the environment is one approach DEQ uses to achieve this mission. Water reuse means using water again that has been previously used for another purpose. Using recycled water for irrigation or other uses reduces the demand on drinkable water for uses that don't require highly treated water. The quality of reused water determines how it can be used and what restrictions may be in place.

The value of reusing water

Water in the environment continually moves through a repeating cycle. Here in the United States, public drinking water is obtained from a source, treated to very high standards, used for a single purpose, discharged to a wastewater treatment system, and then the treated wastewater is discharged to a river or stream or is applied to land. Reusing appropriately treated wastewater for irrigation, industrial, commercial and construction applications helps conserve water supplies and help improve our surface water quality.

Types of reuse water

DEQ identifies three general categories of water for reuse:

Graywater refers to water from showers, baths, bathroom sinks, kitchen sinks and laundries. Graywater can be reused for limited activities, such as subsurface irrigation, with minimal treatment.

Recycled water refers to treated effluent from a municipal wastewater treatment facility. Oregon recognizes five classes of recycled water that can be reused for specific beneficial purposes based on various levels of treatment.

Industrial wastewater refers to treated effluent from an industrial process, manufacturing or business, or from the development or recovery of any natural resource. An example of industrial wastewater is water derived from the processing of fruit, vegetables or other food products.

Recycled water in Oregon

Recycled water has been used in Oregon since the development of wastewater treatment facilities. Oregon first developed state regulations in 1990 to create a framework for the beneficial reuse of water and to

ensure the protection of public health and the environment. These regulations were updated in 2008.

Oregon now has over 140 recycled water systems across the state. From large municipalities in the Portland and Eugene areas to small towns in rural communities, recycled water is being used for irrigation, industrial cooling, and other beneficial uses.

Oregon is not the only state using recycled water. Washington and Idaho have very similar programs, and most other states either have an established water reuse program or in the process of developing one.

Permits controlling water reuse

Homeowners and small businesses can reuse graywater for toilet and urinal flushing with the appropriate plumbing permit from a local building department. Outdoor reuse of up to 1,200 gallons per day of graywater can occur by carefully planning reuse activities and obtaining a general Water Pollution Control Facility graywater reuse and disposal system permit from DEQ.



Recycled water irrigating plants outside an office building.

Municipal wastewater treatment facilities are required to manage and operate water reuse projects under an agency-approved recycled water management plan. These plans are specific to each facility and part of a facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or Water Pollution Control Facilities permit. Each proposed plan is reviewed by DEQ. Based on the proposed treatment and reuse, DEQ will consult with or request a full review by other state agencies such as the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Water



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Water Quality

700 NE Multnomah St.,
Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
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800-452-4011
Fax: 503-229-6124
Contact: Pat Heins

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

Resources Department, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Site-specific conditions, such as application rates, site soil conditions, setbacks to sensitive features, signage and other limitations may be required to ensure protection of public health and the environment.

Some industrial facilities can reuse their wastewater for other purposes with minimal treatment, while others may require more sophisticated treatment before meeting land application standards. Any industrial facility that reuses their effluent water outside of their industrial process must develop an operations, monitoring and management plan that must be reviewed and approved by DEQ before land application begins. The plan becomes an enforceable portion of the facility's water quality permit.

Allowed uses for recycled water

Although water reuse activities are limited to non-drinking water purposes, Oregon's regulations authorize a wide-range of uses, including irrigation of crops and pastureland, irrigation of urban landscapes such as golf courses, playing fields, and business parks, industrial cooling, dust control, street sweeping, and artificial groundwater recharge. Specific water reuse activities depend on the water treatment and resulting quality. More reuse activities can occur with higher-quality water.

Does recycled water put me at risk?

State regulations have been developed to ensure public health and the environment are not adversely affected by reusing water. These regulations require that each reuse program is reviewed and approved by DEQ before water can be reused. They also require regular sampling and monitoring activities combined with reporting procedures to ensure each reuse program is meeting regulatory guidelines and protecting the surrounding communities.

New research is continually being conducted to determine what effects chemicals may have on human health and the environment. As a result, DEQ continues to monitor and evaluate the water reuse program and stays attuned to this new science to ensure today's practices are protective of Oregon's communities and natural resources.

Public involvement

DEQ provides a public notice for recycled water use plans, new permits or permit renewals through GovDelivery. This includes permits with existing recycled water programs. You can sign up to receive these notices online at <https://public.govdelivery.com>. You can select the topics and counties you're interested in tracking. Based on the permit, there is either a minimum of 30 or 35 days to submit written comments. DEQ may provide a public hearing depending on the permit and conditions.

If DEQ receives comments that provide additional information to indicate the reuse program would not meet state standards, DEQ may request the water quality permit holder revise the plan and resubmit, which may restart the process outlined above. If DEQ does not receive substantive comments, and the plan meets state requirements, DEQ will approve the plan.

For more information

Visit <http://ordeq.org/water-reuse>

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.



Recycled water irrigating agricultural land.



West Extension Irrigation District

P. O. Box 100; Irrigon, OR 97844-0100
541-922-3814 (ph) 541-922-9775 (fax)
westex@oregontrail.net

March 6, 2023

To: Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
Re: HB3231

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Owen and the members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

This letter is in support of HB3231. As farmers, ranchers and irrigators continue to face water challenges throughout Oregon, the idea of reusing Class A water for agricultural and irrigation purposes is a concept that simply makes sense.

West Extension Irrigation District (WEID) is an irrigation district located in northeast Oregon and delivers water to 10,479 acres of land in Umatilla and Morrow counties. It is the downstream diverter of the Umatilla Basin Project. As such, it relies on return flows for irrigation. In the 26 years that I have been at the District, I have seen these flows diminish from an average of 80 cfs during the summer months to an average of 45 cfs today.

The WEID looks at every opportunity to shore up its water supply, and one of these was the Hermiston Reuse Water Project. It receives 930 acre-feet of Class A treated water each season from May 1 to November 1. This water is an important part of the supplemental irrigation water for the patrons: it is a sustainable, reliable source that saves WEID \$16,000 annually in pumping costs.

The journey to receiving this water spanned nine years and included the WEID, City of Hermiston (City), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Once each entity determined this was a compatible project, they moved forward. The WEID had three things to do:

- 1) Assure support from its patrons. The first general meeting that WEID held with its water users in 2010 to talk about the project was well attended. Folks had a lot of questions and there was resistance by some folks. However, by the end of that meeting, the patrons wanted to know how long it would take to build and where can we find more recycled or reused water.
- 2) Work with Reclamation to allow the water to come into the canal. This was a new concept for Reclamation, but the regional folks got on-board and worked to license and permit this water to enter the WEID federal canal.
- 3) Get its canal ready to receive the water. Working with DEQ, we changed the historical uses of our canal to how it is being used today: eliminating domestic, fish and habitat uses.

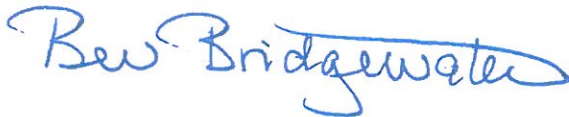
Reclamation and DEQ had standards to change, and they were completed in 2012. The project was built and the DEQ permit to the City was completed in 2015. On August 16, 2016, the first water from the City's Class A treatment plant was sent to the WEID main canal.

Following up on this success, the City of Umatilla was able to get a permit from Reclamation and DEQ to send industrial wastewater to the WEID canal. It was a different process, from DEQ's perspective, but the process for WEID and Reclamation was already in place.

In the last two years, a handful of folks from agencies around the State have contacted WEID about the Reuse Project. While we had hoped that a path for others would have been established by now, that isn't the case. Yes, Reclamation has put standard guidelines in place for reuse and related projects, and agencies can get through its process fairly quickly. State agencies, however, seem to provide little, if any, guidance to potential reuse water projects. It seems they have not had the time or funding to develop standards that can be replicated for timely permitting of reuse and related projects.

With the legislature's financial support and assistance, a cooperative effort that will study how to move this concept forward will make a big difference to the entities already poised to make such projects happen. We have one success story in Oregon, it is time for others.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this HB3231.



Bev Bridgewater
District Manager

**Oregon State Legislature
2023 Regular Session**

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources & Water
Public Hearing for HB3231

March 3, 2023

Legislators,

I'm writing today to support HB3231 as an opportunity to allow cities to work cooperatively with farmers and irrigators to maximize our highly valuable water resources in an environmentally beneficial way.

Hermiston is, at its core, an agriculturally based community, surrounded by thousands of acres of some of the most fertile farmland in the world. That is, if there is water to support the crops. As such, the growers in our region have become world leaders in the practice of precision irrigation and are capable of truly incredible things to maximize every drop of this precious resource.

Meanwhile, the Hermiston community has continued to flourish over the decades to expand and diversify our local economy in a way that continues to attract new residents and investment to Oregon. This growing bright spot in Oregon's arid eastern region is nestled next to the Umatilla River, which provides many benefits to the region, including playing a critical role in regional salmon habitat. I am very proud to say that, as a result of many years of work and partnership, Hermiston has been successfully re-using our community's water for the benefit of both agriculture and local fish habitat for nearly 9 years.

Hermiston struggled with the challenges of temperature discharges in to the salmon-bearing Umatilla River for many years. Through the hard work and dedication of many partners, Hermiston was able to begin processing our effluent to Class-A recycled water in late 2014 with the activation of our \$27 million treatment plant upgrade. We are now able to divert all of our 1.2 million gallons of recycled water per day to the West Extension Irrigation District during the hot irrigation season. This helps farmers grow our local economy while protecting fish and improving water quality in the Umatilla River.

It is my hope that HB3231 will allow other communities across our state to follow our lead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dave Drotzmann
Mayor of Hermiston



Office of the Mayor
DR. DAVID DROTZMANN



CITY OF KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

500 KLAMATH AVENUE – P.O. BOX 237
KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON 97601



Sister City
ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND

March 7, 2023

Representative Helm, Chair
Committee Members
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Subject: Testimony in Favor of House Bill 3231—a Bill to Direct and Fund the Department of Environmental Quality, in Consultation with other State Agencies, to develop recommendations and outreach resources that expanded development of beneficial reuse and land application projects in Oregon

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

The City of Klamath Falls fully supports House Bill 3231. It will provide the funding needed and the direction to DEQ to consult with other state natural resources agencies and wastewater utilities like ours to identify regulatory impediments that are unnecessarily deterring development of water reuse and other beneficial land application projects. Something we urgently need.

For over two decades the city has supplied treated wastewater for cooling tower use at a nearby Cogeneration plant; helping them be more sustainable and drought resilient. This is just one of the excellent examples of the environmental and economic benefits of using treated wastewater for beneficial purposes in our State.

When our wastewater discharge permit was renewed in 2020 by DEQ we found ourselves facing stringent nutrient and wintertime temperature limits. Temperature limits so stringent that we will need to cool our effluent during the winter if we continue discharging to the Klamath River.

We are currently studying the feasibility of implementing a broader beneficial reuse program. The city would prefer to implement a sustainable, broader beneficial reuse program that provides a resilient source of water to those in desperate need of recycled water for beneficial use. The city is investing in this study to find feasible alternatives for beneficial use of the effluent. The study considers the tradeoffs between a non-sustainable solution like cooling towers to the more sustainable option of beneficial water reuse. We have the support of the city council, the local agricultural community and the Klamath Irrigation District. They want our resilient source of water, but the regulations are such that our effluent, even when treated to the highest recycled water standards, cannot be conveyed in their irrigation canal system and would thus require a costly pipe network. The city needs viable water reuse options and the willingness of DEQ and other state agencies to work with the city to find ways to protect the environment and allow sustainable beneficial reuse projects.

It's frustrating as a municipality that resides in an area of persistent drought that has a water commodity that it can't use due to the restrictive requirements. We believe HB3231 will provide needed funding and direction to DEQ that will help our community realize the benefits of utilizing treated wastewater used for its highest and best purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Willrett, P.E.
Director of Public Works

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March 6, 2023

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House Committee on Agricultural, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St. NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Support for HB 3231

Dear Committee Members,

The City of Bend, Oregon is in support of HB 3231 which directs Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in consultation with the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) and other stakeholders, to address regulatory barriers and develop technical assistance resources to support new and expanded water reuse opportunities.

Oregon's permitting requirements are decades old, and wastewater utilities have found the regulatory process to be difficult, and sometimes too complex and costly, to navigate. This has deterred utilities from pursuing the types of water quality compliance projects that can have multiple environmental, community, and economic benefits. At the same time, DEQ has accelerated its pace of renewing wastewater discharge permits, and publicly owned treatment facilities face new or increased permit requirements for which beneficial reuse or discharges can provide great multi-benefit sustainable solutions.

The City of Bend is very much interested in exploring water reuse opportunities as part of its long-term integrated water management strategy. However, current regulatory policies at both DEQ and WRD make these opportunities far less likely for interested utilities.

HB 3231 is a step towards greater water reuse opportunities across the state.

Sincerely,

Mike Buettner

Utilities Director, City of Bend

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