

WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2023

**P.O. Box 944
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**Phone (541) 667-2030
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Dear Westland patrons,

2022 season was one for the record books. We finished the season with 8,950 AF carryover in McKay Reservoir which will help this season if the reservoir does not fill. The irrigation season is approaching! The crew has been hard at work making sure the canal is ready to supply water to all the patrons, as well as some smaller projects. The snow pack looks decent, but the warm weather over the last month has caused some of the snow to melt. McKay Reservoir is approximately 50% full with a steady flow coming in. You can see the snow pack on the NRCS web page by clicking on this link: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/snow/> You can also view McKay storage on the Bureau Of Reclamation HydroMet webpage: <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/umatilla/umatea.html> There are still a few months to go and some snow for the mountains is in the forecast.

On to district news...

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS & WATERSHED PLAN IN THE WORKS

As has been shared in previous newsletters to patrons, Westland is working together with Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) to develop strategies and improvements to benefit the district and increase its efficiencies in making water deliveries to patrons. The resulting System Improvement Plan will identify modernization methods and steps to improve operations and maintenance, district infrastructure, and water conveyance methods.

In addition, grant funding has been made available for Westland to work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farmers Conservation Alliance to develop a Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment through NRCS' Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (Public Law 83-566). Irrigation districts that complete Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessments can be eligible to receive up to \$25 million in federal funding to support irrigation modernization projects. The Watershed Plan process typically takes 18 months to two years to complete, with public comment opportunities occurring as the Plan is developed. We are currently in stage 4 of the Watershed Plan which is drafting the plan. We hope to have the Watershed Plan finished by spring of next year and sent off for funding. To learn more about the Watershed Plan process and see examples of Plans being developed for other Oregon irrigation districts, please visit: www.oregonwatershedplans.org

Westland and Umatilla County have reached an agreement for Westland to hold a capacity in the Ordinance Pipeline of 35cfs. When constructed and fully operational, this pipeline will bring new Columbia River water into the District. In addition, Westland and Umatilla County also entered an

agreement to pursue Umatilla River aquifer recharge testing on the Army Depot. If you would like more information on the watershed plan and the Ordnance Project Pipeline please don't hesitate to reach out on the district website, call the office, or stop by the office.

Finally, the District continues to work with the CTUIR on a settlement of the Tribe's reserved water right claims stemming from its Treaty with the U.S. The expenses associated with this work continue to be included in the annual budget.

The Board of Directors has reviewed the final expenses for 2022 and in planning for 2023, have increased this year's incurred charges. This increase is due to the increased cost of doing business and does not reflect the incurred expenses of the Ordnance Pipeline Project.

We will continue to update the patrons of the District as we move through these processes. If you have questions, please call the District Office.

The Westland Irrigation District annual meeting will be held at 6pm on April 25th. Check the website (www.westlandirrigation.com) or Facebook for the location. Please come join us to hear more about the tribal settlement and the ongoing district improvements. If you would like to join remotely, please contact the District Office for details.

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office (physical address): 77096 Highway 207, Echo, OR 97826

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Office Hours: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

PERSONNEL

District Manager, Curtis Engbretson	541-377-2408
Office Manager, Tina Richardson	541-667-2030
Field Supervisor, Bobby Bailey	541-571-1202
Maintenance, Steven Cleveland	541-571-1203
Ditch Rider, Dennis Whitaker	541-571-1201

DIRECTORS

Jack Bellinger, Chair
Hoss Hodges, Vice-Chair
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David Prior