

# ***WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER – MAY 2019***

**P.O. Box 944  
Hermiston, OR 97838**

**Phone (541) 667-2030  
Fax (541) 667-2031**

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Dear Westland patrons,

Flooding from Butter Creek last month sent surges of water into the Westland canals, causing canal overtopping in areas and shutting down the entire delivery system for a time. The Westland field crew has worked long hours this spring on repairs to the canal and cleaning out debris and tumbleweeds. Rain showers now – near the end of May – are causing the usual challenges of dealing with sudden drops in demand for irrigation water as storms roll through, but that's more the norm each spring. Please remember to call the ditch rider at 541.571.1201 to schedule your water use – he appreciates hearing from you!

On to District news...

## ***LITIGATION – ELH LLC et al vs. WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT***

**Settlement Discussions Continue.** Since the Court's Summary Judgement ruling in favor of the District, efforts have been ongoing to bring this costly and time-consuming litigation to an end without further Court proceedings. The Court gave the parties 60 days from April 1 to finalize the settlement or they will set a status conference to determine what is causing the delay. Most recently, after waiting several weeks for a response from Plaintiffs' legal counsel, the District has learned that all but one of the Plaintiffs is now ready to settle. Whether a final settlement with all parties can be reached before the District incurs additional costs from the Court-ordered status conference remains to be seen.

## **FLOW METER READINGS**

Beginning the week of May 27, Westland personnel will read flow meters as part of normal monthly operations for recording water use. Please help make this task safe and efficient for our employees by ensuring your flow meter is accessible and free of obstructions.

If you have dogs or other animals that may cause issues with District employees' access to your meter, let us know and we'll call in advance so you can make plans accordingly.

Currently, the District is still delivering early-season floodwater. When we get ready to go on McKay Reservoir stored water, you'll receive a postcard telling you what your McKay allotment will be for the 2019 water season and the starting date of stored water use.

## **WATER USE SCHEDULING**

First, and most importantly, call the ditch rider phone number at 541-571-1201 before 3:00 pm, 24-hours of when you want to begin irrigating. Tell the ditch rider when you would like to begin, how much water you will be using, and how many hours you would like to irrigate before turning off. We have to know what the water demand is ahead of time in order to have it available when you want to irrigate. We must know when you will be finished with the water in order to conserve as much as possible throughout the season.

***You must speak directly with the ditch rider to schedule water; voice messages or texts will not be recognized for water use scheduling.***

Lastly – it is your responsibility as a water user to monitor and keep track of your individual water use. If you have any questions on how to read your flow meter, don't hesitate to call the office at 541-667-2030 for assistance.

## **DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

Office (mailing address): P.O. Box 944, Hermiston, OR 97838

Telephone: 541-667-2030; Fax: 541-667-2031

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

## **PERSONNEL**

District Manager, Mike Wick	541-571-1200
Office Manager, Tami Sherer	541-667-2030
Field Supervisor, Bobby Bailey	541-571-1202
Maintenance, Steven Cleveland	541-571-1203
Ditch Rider telephone number	541-571-1201

## **DIRECTORS**

Jack Bellinger, Chair	Division 4
Hoss Hodges, Vice Chair	Division 5
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Patricia Horn	Division 1
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