

WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2020

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

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

Dear Westland patrons,

This past winter did not cover our local area in snow for an extended period as happened last winter, but the snowpack reports from the higher elevations continue to look good for the Umatilla Basin as we head into spring. The most recent Oregon Water Supply Outlook Report from the Natural Resources Conservation Service shows a positive outlook for water supplies this year; the current report can be found at this url: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/snow/> Our district's supplemental water supply source, McKay Reservoir, will fill to capacity. All told, the present overall outlook is for a good irrigation water year.

On to District news...

LITIGATION – ELH LLC et al vs. WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Litigation Concludes: After the judge's ruling in Umatilla County Circuit Court in which Westland's motion for Summary Judgment was granted in full and all motions and claims made by Plaintiffs were denied, the parties reached agreement to end further legal action and bring the case to a close. Ultimately, the Court ruled that:

- Plaintiffs have never been shorted water, no water has been taken from them, and they have never made a call or request for water from Westland that went unanswered.
- The undisputed evidence showed that none of the Plaintiffs have been damaged or harmed by Westland's water distribution practices.
- Westland's water distribution practices are consistent with Oregon law, and in compliance with Oregon Irrigation District Law and Oregon common law.
- Contracts executed by Westland in the 1980s for delivery of water are valid and in compliance with Oregon Irrigation District Law and Oregon common law.

The *Order On Motions For Summary Judgment* as well as the Court's *General Judgment* are included with this newsletter and can also be found by entering the following into your favorite web browser:

<https://bit.ly/2VyvEHQ>

DISTRICT PARTNERING WITH FARMERS CONSERVATION ALLIANCE & ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON

As reported in a previous newsletter, the Westland Board of Directors has approved entering into agreements with Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) and Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) to develop irrigation modernization strategies to benefit the District. The FCA's Irrigation Modernization Program involves working through four phases over approximately one year, with a resulting System Improvement Plan tailored to the District plus strategies for implementing priority improvements. More information on the Irrigation Modernization Program can be found on the FCA website: <https://irrigationmodernization.fcasolutions.org/process/>

COVID-19

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Westland Irrigation District office is closed to the public for in-person service. A drop-box is available by the door for payments during regular business hours and staff will be working on-site to take calls and messages during the day. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

CHANGE AT DISTRICT OFFICE

Office Manager Tami Sherer is moving to Baker City in mid-May to be nearer to family and grandchildren living there. Tami notes that she has very much enjoyed working with the Westland patrons and employees during her time here. We all wish her well and much success in her future.

May update: The District is pleased to announce that Tina Richardson has been hired as office manager. Please welcome her to her new position!

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, Tina Richardson | 541-667-2030 |
| Field Supervisor, Bobby Bailey | 541-571-1202 |
| Maintenance, Steven Cleveland | 541-571-1203 |
| Ditch Rider telephone number | 541-571-1201 |

DIRECTORS

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|-------------------------|
| Jack Bellinger, Chair |
| Hoss Hodges, Vice-Chair |
| Jordan Bennett |
| Patricia Horn |
| David Prior |