



## Manager's Message

As time marches on one-year ends and a new one begins. Likewise, as one chapter begins to close another will soon open. As we approach the close of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) development chapter we'll soon be opening the HCP implementation chapter. The Draft Habitat Conservation Plan (11 years in the making) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) were recently out for public comment from Oct. 4 through Dec. 3, 2019. This public process allows the public to weigh in on the HCP as proposed by the irrigation districts of Central Oregon. At the end of the comment period there were a total of 1,703 comments submitted on the 2 documents (HCP/DEIS) and for those interested all 1,703 comments can be viewed at the following link <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FWS-R1-ES-2019-0091>. As you can imagine the comments run the gamut of, we're doing enough to we're not nearly doing enough. Next up in the process is

wading through all 1,703 comments and formulating responses where practicable. This unenviable task will be undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service DEIS contractor. When it's all said and done, we anticipate completion of the final HCP in May of 2020 with a Record of Decision being issued and Incidental Take Permits being issued by years end.

Somewhat related the HCP has been a long and expensive process. In addition to ongoing HCP costs, the district like any other business has seen a continual increase in the cost of doing business whether it be labor, fuel, insurance, utilities, etc. – you name it, it's gone up – pitfalls of a robust economy? As a result of these increases and the lack of excess water in 2019 the district is realizing, what I consider, a sizable increase in assessments – as indicated in the enclosed assessment billing. In past years when excess sales were accounted for

the district could see as much as \$500,000 in excess water sales that in turn helped offset assessment increases. For 2019 there was \$504 in excess water sales. The last time there was little or no excess water sales dates back to the early 1990's during drought years. That said, in recent years the weather and the Oregon Spotted Frog have not been our friend by compounding the issues related to costs and water. All said I'm hopeful, as are many others, for a change in weather patterns that brings wet snowy weather, unlike what we've seen over the last decade, and I'm confident we can meet the challenges the frogs and fish will present to the district and its waterusers in the future.

## District Right-of-Ways/Easements

It's the season for maintenance and general upkeep of the project. All canals, laterals, roads and control devices of the District are within the right-of-ways established by the Bureau of Reclamation when the project was constructed. They were established to allow the District to operate, maintain and repair the District's works. Landowners and waterusers may not encroach on or restrain the District from free access

on these lands. The rights-of-ways are not to be used as public thoroughfares. Please keep these areas clear of buildings, fences, equipment, etc. Maps of right-of-way widths are available at the District office. Tree and woody vegetation removal from canals and easements is part of routine operations and maintenance, removal improves canal integrity.



The District office will be closed for the holidays at noon on December 24, 2019 through December 25, 2019. Also at noon on December 31, 2019 through January 1, 2020.

### District Charges

The 2020 District operating budget was approved and District charges were set at the board of directors' meeting on December 10, 2019. An explanation of the 2020 District charges is included with this newsletter.

The approved budget is available for review at the District office.

### Farm Fair Information

The 40th annual Central Oregon Farm Fair & Trade Show is scheduled for February 5 & 6, 2020 from 9am - 4pm at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

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**Happy Holidays**



**Seasons Greetings**



## Introduction of New Employees

The District is pleased to announce three new additions to the staff. Jackie Looney, Marc Chapman & Richard Pool

Jackie Looney has been hired to fill the position of Finance Manager/HR Generalist. Reporting to the General Manager the Finance Manager/HR Generalist performs a variety of accounting and financial functions, human resources and other administrative operations of the District.

A long-time resident of Redmond, Jackie is a graduate of Linfield College and an experience accountant. She enjoys camping and spending time with her family.

Marc Chapman and Richard Pool were hired to fill maintenance positions.

Marc and his family live in Madras, he has a welding, fabrication and mechanical background. Richard and his family relocated from Eastern Oregon, he is a certified welder, a licensed CDL driver and heavy equipment operator.

We believe our new staff possess skills that will prove beneficial to the District.

Please join us in welcoming Jackie, Marc, and Richard to the District.

## Customer Water Portal Class

All rides will be online at the beginning of the 2020 Irrigation season. NUID will be hosting a class to teach patrons how to use the water portal program. The class will take place March 5, 2020 at 10 am at

the Jefferson County Fire Department 765 5th St. Madras, OR 97741. Please contact the district office at 541-475-3625 or e-mail us at [nuid@northunitid.com](mailto:nuid@northunitid.com) with any questions.

## Board Member Election Results

Two petitions were received for Division 4 which resulted in a District wide election held on November 12, 2019 between candidates Vern Bare and Barry Dinkel. Vern Bare received the most votes and will serve another 3-year term beginning January 1, 2020. Director Bare has been on the board of directors since 2006.

Martin Richards ran unopposed for District 3 and will serve another 3-year term beginning January 1, 2020. Director Richards has been on the board of directors since 1997 and currently serves as the Chair.

Thank you both for your continued Service.

## Ownership Changes

Ownership changes such as, marriage, divorce, death, establishing trusts, LLC's or other entities all need to be reported to the District. It is important that our records are kept current and match the ownership documents recorded with the coun-

ty. These changes can directly effect those waterusers that are required to complete Reclamation Reform Act certification forms. Please update us as these changes occur.

## Temporary Water Right Transfers

The District has been participating in a pilot project for temporary transfers, which allows a landowner to dry up a piece of land and move the water right to another parcel for the water season.

Please contact the District office for a list of all requirements, procedures or questions. The District fee to process a temporary transfer is \$200 per transfer.

### Equipment Rental

Remember to schedule your equipment rental jobs before March 1, 2020 in order to allow District staff time to complete your project prior to the 2020 irrigation season. Contact Gary Calhoun for arrangements.

### Management:

**Mike Britton**, Manager

[mbritton@northunitid.com](mailto:mbritton@northunitid.com)

**Gary Calhoun**, Operations Manager

[gcalhoun@northunitid.com](mailto:gcalhoun@northunitid.com)

**Josh Bailey**, Watermaster &

Construction Supervisor

[jbailey@northunitid.com](mailto:jbailey@northunitid.com)

**Jackie Looney**, Finance Manager

[jlooney@northunitid.com](mailto:jlooney@northunitid.com)

### Office Staff:

**Pam Watson**

[pwatson@northunitid.com](mailto:pwatson@northunitid.com)

**Sue Light**

[slevitt@northunitid.com](mailto:slevitt@northunitid.com)

**Lisa Windom**

[lwindom@northunitid.com](mailto:lwindom@northunitid.com)

**Marie Kay Williams**

[mwilliams@northunitid.com](mailto:mwilliams@northunitid.com)

### Board of Directors:

Division 1: Phil Fine

Vice Chair

Division 2: Mike Kirsch

Division 3: Martin Richards

Chair

Division 4: Richard Macy

Division 5: Vern Bare

### Office Hours:

Irrigation Season

Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00

Saturday 8:00 - 4:00

Non Irrigation Season

Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30

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