

# Greenfields

## IRRIGATION DISTRICT

On Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. the Greenfields Irrigation District (GID) held its Monthly Board meeting. The following are the minutes taken from that meeting. Those in attendance were: Board President Tim Brunner, Vice President Bill Norris, Commissioners Chase Brady, Dave Gulick and Pat Brosten. District Manager Erling Juel and Board Secretary Jenny Gulick were also present. Also, in attendance were: GID employees: O&M Foreman Eric Mayer, Water Master Steve Lettengarver and Cory Copenhaver. GID Range Rider, Ron Wilson was in attendance, as well as Tracy Wendt with SRWG.

The meeting was called to order by President Brunner at 6 P.M.

**Approve Meeting Minutes and Monthly Warrants:** The first item of business was to approve the minutes from the January 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Minutes. No discrepancies were found in the minutes, and Commissioner Brosten made a motion to approve the minutes, with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. The Minutes from the Grazing Pasture Sub-Committee Meeting were also provided to the Board as an FYI. The Warrants List was then reviewed. A brief conversation was then had on the Dakota Sales warrant and the fact that it was for the next 8.6 miles of transmission line at Arnold Coulee. Also, there was clarification given regarding the warrant issued to 7 Electric, for the work they performed putting in bigger breakers at the inspection pit and in cold storage. Commissioner Gulick moved to approve the warrants and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the warrants were approved.

**Parties Presenting Issues:** None.

**Contacts to Execute:** None.

The next item of business was the Manger's Report:

**Reservoir and River Operations:** See M.R. for full details. Gibson Reservoir levels are 35% of normal, with varying outflows and not much inflow, it is 10 to 12 feet lower than this time last year. Willow Creek Reservoir is also lower than normal, 72.4% of normal. National Climate Prediction is predicting well below normal temps and well above normal precipitation for February through April, with May to July predicted to be normal temps and well below normal precipitation. Currently, the snow accumulation season is below the 30-year average.

**Water Rights:** Nothing new to report. See M.R. for details. The DNRC is still conducting technical review regarding GID's beneficial water use application and Manager Juel was told they had until April 13<sup>th</sup> to complete that review. Manager Juel will review and give the Board an update on the findings GID's water rights attorney sent over regarding the adjudication process.

**GID Staff Updates:** Manager Juel provided the Board with an overview of what the new Water Master position looks like. Steve Lettengarver has accepted the position and will begin immediately. A brief description of what GID's ditch rider situation currently looks like was then given.

**GIS Mapping, Plats, Database & Certification Updates:** Office Manager Gulick will be working with the new Water Master to begin preparation and implementation of the new field data collection hardware and software that Dustin with Edge Marketing is helping GID to design. Nancy is working with our data base consultant and mapping expert in preparation for this year's upcoming certification process. what that will look like for the ditch riders and new Water Master. Nancy is still working on

updating the infrastructure layers and mapping turnout locations. We have decided to hold off on purchasing the next generation of GIS mapping software until after next water season.

**Farm Unit Operations:** A request to subdivide FU 739 was made by landowner. No change in assessment or ownership will occur. Board will review in the Agenda portion of the meeting.

**Monthly Financials & 2023 Budget:** See M.R. for details. Of the \$613,005 January warrants, \$443,964 was for the Arnold Coulee project. Cash flow has improved with tax payments received.

**Office Improvements & General Administration:** There is nothing positive to report on MACO canceling GID's property and liability insurance coverage effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Manager Juel is looking into a similar policy from Payne West out of Billings.

**GID Vehicles & Heavy Equipment:** The John Deere excavator has a major issue that is expected to cost GID around \$40,000 with an added expected life extension of no more than 4 years. Eric is working on getting cost estimates from CAT, Volvo, Case and Komatsu on a new excavator, as well as warranty details and lending opportunities. GID is still looking for a job trailer and a large soil compactor.

**Pearson Lawsuit:** See M.R. for important dates. The most recent news that GID has received is that our recent motion to dismiss based on the fact that no request was made, therefore no discrimination occurred, was granted in favor of GID. Mr. Pearson still has the opportunity to appeal the decision. Legislation to amend and clarify how and to who acreage limitations apply to has been finalized. Testimony has been provided in support of the amendments and Representative Fitzgerald introduced the bill. GID lawyers had a meeting with President Brunner and a technical advisor on farm economics and he will give an account during the Executive Session Meeting to follow.

**Willow Creek Feeder Canal Maintenance & Lawsuit:** The next step is to get ready for depositions. Manager Juel will be the key witness in this lawsuit. There is a meeting scheduled with GID's lawyers on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, if any commissioners would like to attend.

**Hydro Updates:** Hydro Development Strategy: We are expecting to hear in February or March regarding the grant submitted for a WaterSMART WEEG grant at the end of July for \$4.3 million to address Pishkun Inlet Hydro, finish Johnson Drop site and would make the A-Drop site hydropower friendly. Arnold Coulee LOPP: 3.3 miles of poles have been planted with another 5.3 miles to go. Lead time for meters, breakers and step-up transformers is pushing over a year due to the war in the Ukraine, with prices continuing to rise, as well. Looking at other supplier options. A brief discussion was had on the electrical components needed. Transmission Easements: On-going issues with securing easements continue. Rosendale is working with SREC to help in trying to secure those easements still needed. The new landowner is currently requesting an alternative transmission alignment, and as such, a new cultural resources study will need to be done. SREC Interconnection Agreements: GID has received the final agreement from SREC and once completed, we will be able to facilitate a LOPP contract and PPA negotiations. Power Purchase Agreement: GID is currently drafting the PPA and will need to complete this step before NEW submits a request to the PSC to revisit the Avoided Cost Rate Schedule. Turbine Generator Purchase: GID made another 5% payment to CHC. To date we have paid 25% of both sites. GID will still need to pick up the last 6 reels of conductor this Spring. Construction: The top layer of rebar is to be tied week after next, after the anticipated snow is gone. The underdrain work is to begin in about a month or so. Pishkun Inlet Hydro: GID has submitted a WaterSMART WEEG grant for \$4.3 M and a request for a \$5.03 M grant through Reclamation's Aging Infrastructure funding program. Gibson Hydro: GID will need to build more transmission line before filing for a LOPP. Nothing new to report on the FERC process.

**GID Infrastructure Projects:** For Current and Planned, see the M.R. 3<sup>rd</sup> Mill Coulee Drop: Once weather clears up, it will take a week or so to finish up. A design review meeting is scheduled for the week of January 30<sup>th</sup> in Billings. Reclamation wants to issue a SOD order and hire GID to haul riprap and gravel. Sun River Bridge Replacement: An Agency kick-off meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 P.M., if any commissioners would like to attend. Brief discussion on what GID's options look like. Dewatering will take place this Fall. Tunnel #3 Roof Collapse: Board tour planned mid-March to inspect the tunnel and possibly remove bulkheads. Lower GSC Rehabilitation: Cultural Resources have already been completed, the design is being completed and work is scheduled to begin this Fall.

**Title Transfer:** Discussed Title Transfer at BOR-GID Coordination Summit in Billings on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Reclamation is still preparing the MOU and agreement to move forward.

**GID O&M Projects:** There has been considerable work being done on the PSC. Manager Juel provided an update. GID crews have been removing black Cretaceous-ages of carbonaceous shale from directly downstream of the former Tunnel #2 and has been reconditioning the channel profile with the black shale just downstream from the siphon outlet.

**GID Grazing Lease Program:** GID held a Pasture Management Subcommittee meeting to address pasture lease rules, issues, ways to maximize user benefits and pasture revenue increase opportunities on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Board Secretary Gulick provided notes taken from that meeting. Manager Juel will summarize and provide his thoughts for next month's Board meeting.

**Miscellaneous:** See M.R. for details. Board needs to make a decision on the SOQs received in response to the RFQ for the engineering services for the next 5-year IDIQ, 2023-2027. Manager Juel gave a brief overview of each firm's specialties. Manager Juel suggested that we might put all 4 on the ticket for the next 5 years. O&M Foreman Mayer is working on the historic gravel pit that was developed in the 1990's. It is to be turned back to the current landowner. A brief update was given by Manager Juel on the meeting SREC had with Merle Morris in an attempt to secure the last easement, which was unsuccessful.

**Short and Long-Term To-Do Lists:** See the M.R. for details.

**Agenda:**

- 1) Request from Bryan Klinker to split FU 739 and create FU 739.1, see attachment. There was a brief discussion held on the history of that farm unit. Commissioner Brosten made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.
- 2) Manager Juel's Annual Evaluation, tabled from last month, will be discussed during the Executive Session to follow.
- 3) Board to review and approve the Grazing Pasture Lease high bids submitted. There was a brief discussion had on isolated pastures and how they should be handled. Also, it was expressed that AUMs have about doubled since these numbers were originally set. Commissioner Brosten made a motion to accept the top bids received and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the new individuals were approved to take over the current leases.
- 4) Board to decide on SOQ approval of the 4 engineering firms. Commissioner Brady moved to approve accepting all 4 firms and Commissioner Gulick seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Tracy with SRWG provided the Board with a brief update, handout included. She received notice that HB7 passed. Next Saturday night SRWG has a fundraiser event. She is also

working with Clearwater Credit Union to sponsor their annual BBQ at the ballpark this summer. At March's Board Meeting SRWG will be requesting its Spring donation request to match funds.

Commissioner Brosten moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 7:58 P.M.



Board President



Board Secretary

**Board Action Recap:**

- 1) Board approved to split FU 739 and create a new FU, 739.1, Bryan Klinker
- 2) Board approved the high bids received and transferred rights to new pasture lessees.
- 3) Board approved SOQs for the 4 submitting engineering firms.



**AGENDA FOR:** Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Board President, Tim Brunner.

**Public Comment:** Prior to each agenda item...limited to 5 minutes...any Board action necessary will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** January 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes

**REVIEW AND APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT—**Approve January warrants and recap list.

**PARTIES PRESENTING ISSUES:**

**CONTRACTS TO EXECUTE:**

**MANAGER's REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1) Request to split FU 739 into two Farm Units
- 2) Manager's Evaluation- Tabled from last month

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- SRWG, Tracy Wendt, handout provided.



11:49 AM

02/09/23

Accrual Basis

# GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## Monthly Warrant List

January 2023

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Jan 23				
01/04/2023	wire	Canadian Hydro.Com	Arnold Coulee	-177,250.00
01/04/2023	wire fee	First Bank of Montana	Arnold Coulee	-75.00
01/03/2023	34586	DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	Arnold Coulee	-1,455.29
01/05/2023	34587	SUN RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OP	Arnold Coulee	-239,834.00
01/09/2023	34624	Uda Law Firm	legal fees for Arnold Coulee hydro	-1,600.00
01/09/2023	34625	Amara Bodkins	Ag Scholarship	-1,000.00
01/09/2023	34626	Republic Services	utilities	-132.40
01/09/2023	34627	Estop Business License	underground storage tanks	-216.00
01/09/2023	34628	Breen Oil and Tire Company	propane	-704.30
01/09/2023	34629	R&L Eagle Grocery	office, Commissioner Christmas	-195.61
01/09/2023	34630	Mountain View Co-Op	diesel and repairs	-4,919.00
01/09/2023	34631	Visa	phone, repair, supply, dues, shop	-962.39
01/10/2023	34632	Big Sky Hydraulics & Machining, Inc	shop	-54.81
01/10/2023	34633	Pacific Steel	Kessler and stock	-6,625.86
01/11/2023	34653	3 Rivers Communication	phone	-592.50
01/12/2023	34654	TB - MPERA	retirement	-5,427.50
01/12/2023	34655	TB - 941	81-6001490	-6,931.18
01/12/2023	34656	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-1,392.00
01/13/2023	34657	TB - UI Tax	031 1512	-1,135.13
01/12/2023	34658	Gary Kasper & Company, Inc.	accounting	-985.00
01/25/2023	34681	TB - MPERA	retirement	-5,676.33
01/25/2023	34682	TB - 941	81-6001490	-7,313.80
01/31/2023	34682	BlueCross BlueShield of Montana	247191	-2,837.94
01/25/2023	34683	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-1,449.00
01/31/2023	34707	Aflac	insurance	-106.20
01/31/2023	34708	MT Teamsters Employers Trust	health insurance	-21,300.00
01/31/2023	34709	Teamster's Local #2	union dues	-928.00
01/31/2023	34710	Western Conference of Teamsters Pension	pension	-1,608.38
01/31/2023	34711	3 Rivers Communication	phone and internet	-592.50
01/31/2023	34712	7 Electric	contract services	-2,754.00
01/31/2023	34713	A & I Distributors	shop supplies	-2,334.70
01/31/2023	34714	A Jay Concrete Pumping, LLC	Arnold Coulee	-2,490.65
01/31/2023	34715	Augusta Gas Station, Inc.	fuel/oil	-182.88
01/31/2023	34716	Breen Oil and Tire Company	propane	-536.55
01/31/2023	34717	Choteau Acantha	ad	-47.50
01/31/2023	34718	Cintas First Aid & Safety	first aid	-162.45
01/31/2023	34719	Computers by Sue	misc computer	-90.00
01/31/2023	34720	Edge Marketing + Design, LLC	monthly website hosting/maintenance	-168.75

# GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## Monthly Warrant List

January 2023

11:49 AM

02/09/23

Accrual Basis

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
01/31/2023	34721	Fairfield Drug, Inc	office supply	-7.98
01/31/2023	34722	Fairfield Sun Times	ads/printing	-40.63
01/31/2023	34723	Fastenal Company	repairs	-47.25
01/31/2023	34724	Gary Kasper & Company, Inc.	Accounting	-1,200.00
01/31/2023	34725	General Distributing Co	welding	-32.05
01/31/2023	34726	Great Falls Chamber Ag Committee	dues	-350.00
01/31/2023	34727	J & V Restaurant Supply	fire extinguishers	-483.00
01/31/2023	34728	Jon's Automotive	repairs	-448.09
01/31/2023	34729	Kelley Connect	printer contract	-976.96
01/31/2023	34730	Macon Supply, Inc	repairs	-2,567.00
01/31/2023	34731	MCI	long distance	-70.15
01/31/2023	34732	MDS Supply	repairs	-1,563.50
01/31/2023	34733	Montana Water Resources Association	repairs	-4,860.00
01/31/2023	34734	Motor Power	repairs	-102.63
01/31/2023	34735	Mountain View Co-Op	repairs/gas/diesel	-23,814.03
01/31/2023	34736	MRTE, Inc.	Arnold Coulee	-20,483.88
01/31/2023	34737	National Laundry	rugs/supply	-77.37
01/31/2023	34738	Northwest Media	website domain	-90.00
01/31/2023	34739	NorthWestern Energy	utilities	-1,065.29
01/31/2023	34740	Pacific Steel	pipe/rebar	-17,042.08
01/31/2023	34741	R&L Eagle Grocery	office/shop supply	-133.45
01/31/2023	34742	Republic Services	garbage	-129.90
01/31/2023	34743	Smith Oblander & Meade & Mitcham, P.C.	legal counseling	-193.05
01/31/2023	34744	Sun River Electric, Co-Op	utilities	-631.63
01/31/2023	34745	Town of Fairfield	utilities	-233.00
01/31/2023	34746	Tractor & Equipment, Co	repairs	-5,408.81
01/31/2023	34747	Truck Pro	repairs/interest	-438.36
01/31/2023	34748	Uda Law Firm	legal counseling	-775.00
01/31/2023	34749	United Materials of Great Falls, Inc	concrete	-927.45
01/31/2023	34750	UPL NA Inc.	weed control	-15,483.60
01/31/2023	34751	Victory Insurance Company	WC100-0010152-2022A	-377.00
01/31/2023	34752	Visa	training/office/misc/repair/gas/phone	-5,256.71
01/31/2023	34753	Western Water Consultants, Inc.	SRS Check & Canal Reg	-5,627.50
Jan 23				<b>-613,004.95</b>

Recap of January 2023 warrants:

Regular warrants

January 2023 payroll

Total

\$613,004.95

\$ 48,143.36

\$661,148.31

Approved by

President

Date

Submitted by

Bookkeeper

Date



# GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## A/R - Itemized Sales Report for Board

### February 2023

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Name	Amount
<b>Service</b>					
<b>MISC</b>					
Invoice	02/06/2023	230202	30" BANDS	ACCIACCA, TOM	1,175.00
Invoice	02/06/2023	230208	Reimbursement for office furniture	GULICK FARM FERTI...	772.00
Total MISC					1,947.00
<b>Pipe</b>					
Invoice	02/06/2023	230202	30" ANNULAR CULVERT	ACCIACCA, TOM	12,480.00
Invoice	02/23/2023	230205	36" CMP	KLINKER, MARVIN	450.00
Total Pipe					12,930.00
<b>Structure</b>					
Invoice	02/06/2023	230201	CONCRETE SUMP BOXES	MONTANA VALLEY IR...	2,400.00
Invoice	02/06/2023	230202	6' X 14' HEADWALLS	ACCIACCA, TOM	1,350.00
Total Structure					3,750.00
Total Service					18,627.00
<b>Other Charges</b>					
<b>Fin Chg (Finance Charges on Overdue Balance)</b>					
Invoice	02/28/2023	FC 35...	Finance Charges on Overdue Balance	Barker, Travis	13.40
Invoice	02/28/2023	FC 35...	Finance Charges on Overdue Balance	BOUMA, DOUG	2.79
Invoice	02/28/2023	FC 35...	Finance Charges on Overdue Balance	BOYD, ERIC	1.91
Invoice	02/28/2023	FC 35...	Finance Charges on Overdue Balance	MOORE, KIRK	1.00
Invoice	02/28/2023	FC 35...	Finance Charges on Overdue Balance	Skinner, Dennis	45.15
Invoice	02/28/2023	FC 35...	Finance Charges on Overdue Balance	Kessler, Ross	52.57
Invoice	02/28/2023	FC 35...	Finance Charges on Overdue Balance	Skinner, Dennis	-4.76
Total Fin Chg (Finance Charges on Overdue Balance)					112.06
<b>GRZ 2023</b>					
Invoice	02/23/2023	230203	Grazing Pasture Lease on Parcel #22	Hatch, Jerob	125.00
Invoice	02/23/2023	230203	Grazing Pasture Lease on Parcel #51	Hatch, Jerob	1,999.80
Invoice	02/23/2023	230206	GRAZING PASTURE LEASE ON PARCEL #33	Wipf, Michael	92.50
Invoice	02/23/2023	230207	GRAZING PASTURE LEASE ON PARCEL #30	RAPP, TIM	800.00
Total GRZ 2023					3,017.30
Total Other Charges					3,129.36
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>21,756.36</b>



# GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## Monthly Warrant List

January 2023

11:49 AM

02/09/23

Accrual Basis

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
01/31/2023	34721	Fairfield Drug, Inc	office supply	-7.98
01/31/2023	34722	Fairfield Sun Times	ads/printing	-40.63
01/31/2023	34723	Fastenal Company	repairs	-47.25
01/31/2023	34724	Gary Kasper & Company, Inc.	Accounting	-1,200.00
01/31/2023	34725	General Distributing Co	welding	-32.05
01/31/2023	34726	Great Falls Chamber Ag Committee	dues	-350.00
01/31/2023	34727	J & V Restaurant Supply	fire extinguishers	-483.00
01/31/2023	34728	Jon's Automotive	repairs <b>2005 Ford (Bobs)</b>	-448.09
01/31/2023	34729	Kelley Connect	printer contract	-976.96
01/31/2023	34730	Macon Supply, Inc	repairs	-2,567.00
01/31/2023	34731	MCI	long distance	-70.15
01/31/2023	34732	MDS Supply	repairs <b>POWER SCREED</b>	-1,563.50
01/31/2023	34733	Montana Water Resources Association	dues	-4,860.00
01/31/2023	34734	Motor Power	repairs	-102.63
01/31/2023	34735	Mountain View Co-Op	repairs/gas(diesel)	-23,814.03
01/31/2023	34736	MRTE, Inc.	Arnold Coulee	-20,483.88
01/31/2023	34737	National Laundry	rugs/supply	-77.37
01/31/2023	34738	Northwest Media	website domain	-90.00
01/31/2023	34739	NorthWestern Energy	utilities	-1,065.29
01/31/2023	34740	Pacific Steel	pipe/rebar <b>Tom Accacia</b>	-17,042.08
01/31/2023	34741	R&L Eagle Grocery	office/shop supply	-133.45
01/31/2023	34742	Republic Services	garbage	-129.90
01/31/2023	34743	Smith Oblander & Meade & Mitcham, P.C.	legal counseling	-193.05
01/31/2023	34744	Sun River Electric, Co-Op	utilities	-631.63
01/31/2023	34745	Town of Fairfield	utilities	-233.00
01/31/2023	34746	Tractor & Equipment, Co	repairs <b>LONG BOON</b>	-5,408.81
01/31/2023	34747	Truck Pro	repairs/interest	-438.36
01/31/2023	34748	Uda Law Firm	legal counseling	-775.00
01/31/2023	34749	United Materials of Great Falls, Inc	concrete <b>(SAW + GRAVEL)</b>	-927.45
01/31/2023	34750	UPL NA Inc.	weed control	-15,483.60
01/31/2023	34751	Victory Insurance Company	WC100-0010152-2022A	-377.00
01/31/2023	34752	Visa	training/office/misc/repair/gas/phone	-5,256.71
01/31/2023	34753	Western Water Consultants, Inc.	SRS Check & Canal Reg	-5,627.50
				<b>-613,004.95</b>

Jan 23

Recap of January 2023 warrants:

Regular warrants

January 2023 payroll

Total

\$613,004.95

\$ 48,143.36

\$661,148.31

Approved by

President

Date

Submitted by

Bookkeeper

Date

11:49 AM

02/09/23

Accrual Basis

# GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## Monthly Warrant List

January 2023

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Jan 23				
01/04/2023	wire	Canadian Hydro.Com	Arnold Coulee	-177,250.00 ✓
01/04/2023	wire fee	First Bank of Montana	Arnold Coulee	-75.00 ✓
01/03/2023	34586	DAKOTA SUPPLY GROUP	Arnold Coulee	-1,455.29 ✓
01/05/2023	34587	SUN RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OP	Arnold Coulee	-239,834.00 ✓
01/09/2023	34624	Uda Law Firm	legal fees for Arnold Coulee hydro	-1,600.00
01/09/2023	34625	Amara Bodkins	Ag Scholarship	-1,000.00
01/09/2023	34626	Republic Services	utilities	-132.40
01/09/2023	34627	Estop Business License	underground storage tanks	-216.00
01/09/2023	34628	Breen Oil and Tire Company	propane	-704.30
01/09/2023	34629	R&L Eagle Grocery	office, Commissioner Christmas	-195.61
01/09/2023	34630	Mountain View Co-Op	diesel and repairs	-4,919.00
01/09/2023	34631	Visa	phone, repair, supply, dues, shop	-962.39
01/10/2023	34632	Big Sky Hydraulics & Machining, Inc	shop	-54.81
01/10/2023	34633	Pacific Steel	Kessler and stock	-6,625.86
01/11/2023	34653	3 Rivers Communication	phone	-592.50
01/12/2023	34654	TB - MPERA	retirement	-5,427.50
01/12/2023	34655	TB - 941	81-6001490	-6,931.18
01/12/2023	34656	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-1,392.00
01/13/2023	34657	TB - UI Tax	031 1512	-1,135.13
01/12/2023	34658	Gary Kasper & Company, Inc.	accounting	-985.00
01/25/2023	34681	TB - MPERA	retirement	-5,676.33
01/25/2023	34682	TB - 941	81-6001490	-7,313.80
01/31/2023	34682	BlueCross BlueShield of Montana	247191	-2,837.94
01/25/2023	34683	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-1,449.00
01/31/2023	34707	Aflac	insurance	-106.20
01/31/2023	34708	MT Teamsters Employers Trust	health insurance	-21,300.00
01/31/2023	34709	Teamster's Local #2	union dues	-928.00
01/31/2023	34710	Western Conference of Teamsters Pension	pension	-1,608.38
01/31/2023	34711	3 Rivers Communication	phone and internet	-592.50
01/31/2023	34712	7 Electric	contract service	-2,754.00
01/31/2023	34713	A & I Distributors	shop supplies	-2,334.70
01/31/2023	34714	A Jay Concrete Pumping, LLC	Arnold Coulee	-2,490.65 ✓
01/31/2023	34715	Augusta Gas Station, Inc.	fuel/oil	-182.88
01/31/2023	34716	Breen Oil and Tire Company	propane	-536.55
01/31/2023	34717	Choteau Acantha	ad	-47.50
01/31/2023	34718	Cintas First Aid & Safety	first aid	-162.45
01/31/2023	34719	Computers by Sue	misc computer	-90.00
01/31/2023	34720	Edge Marketing + Design, LLC	monthly website hosting/maintenance	-168.75

WIRING COLD STORAGE

OIL

To: GID Commissioners  
Jenny Gulick, GID Board Secretary

From: Erling A. Juel, P.E., District Manager

Subject: Manager's Report 02/15/23

## 1) RESERVOIR & RIVER OPERATIONS AND PROJECTIONS AS OF 02/15/23

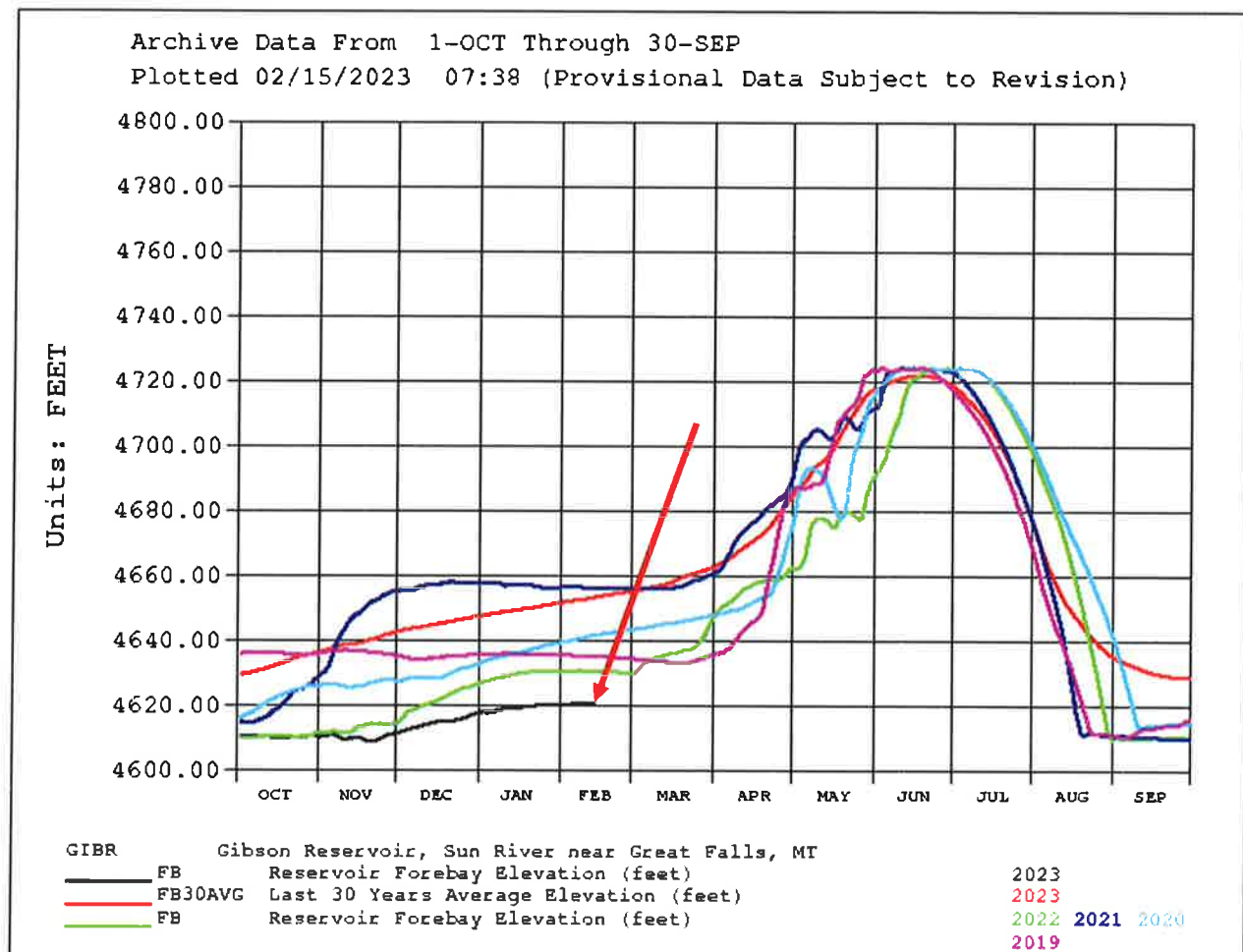
### A. Reservoir operations and levels over the last 5 days were:

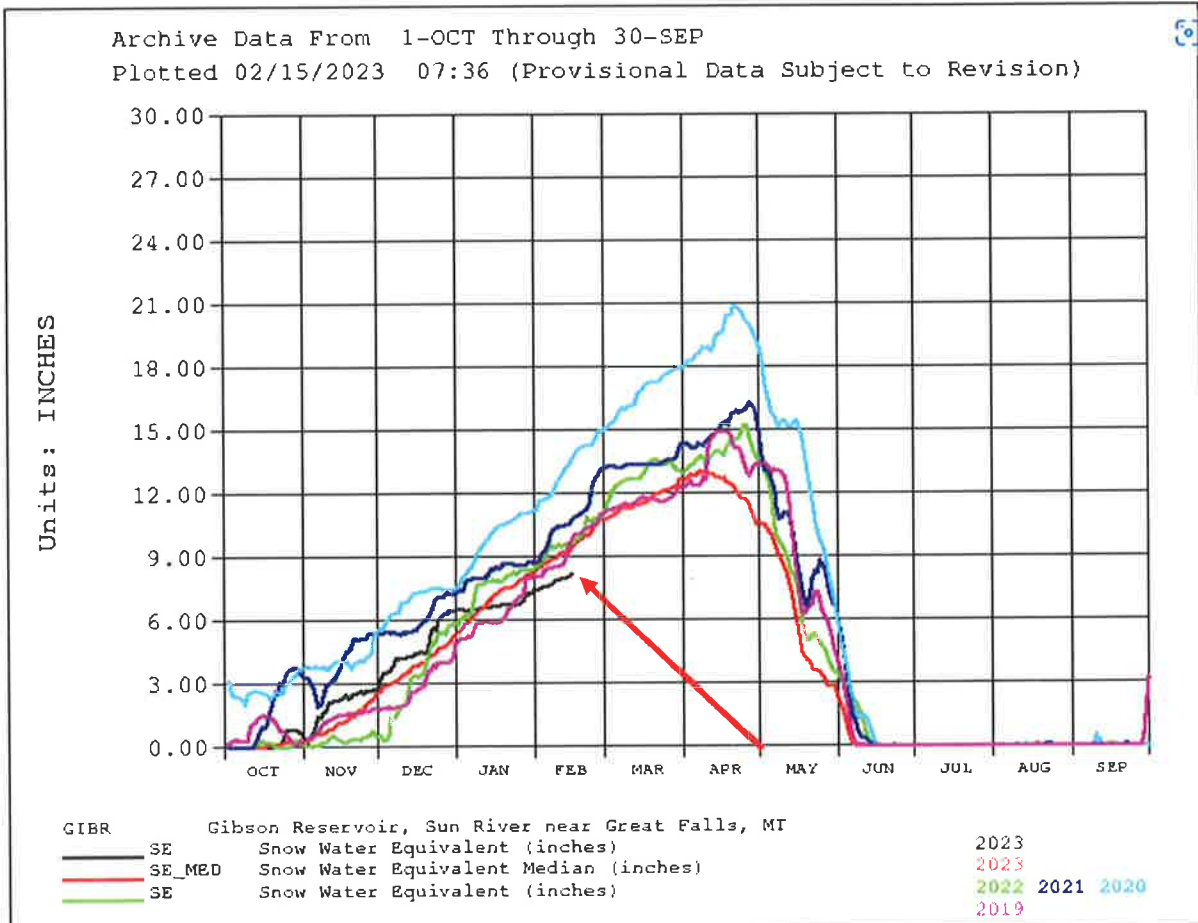
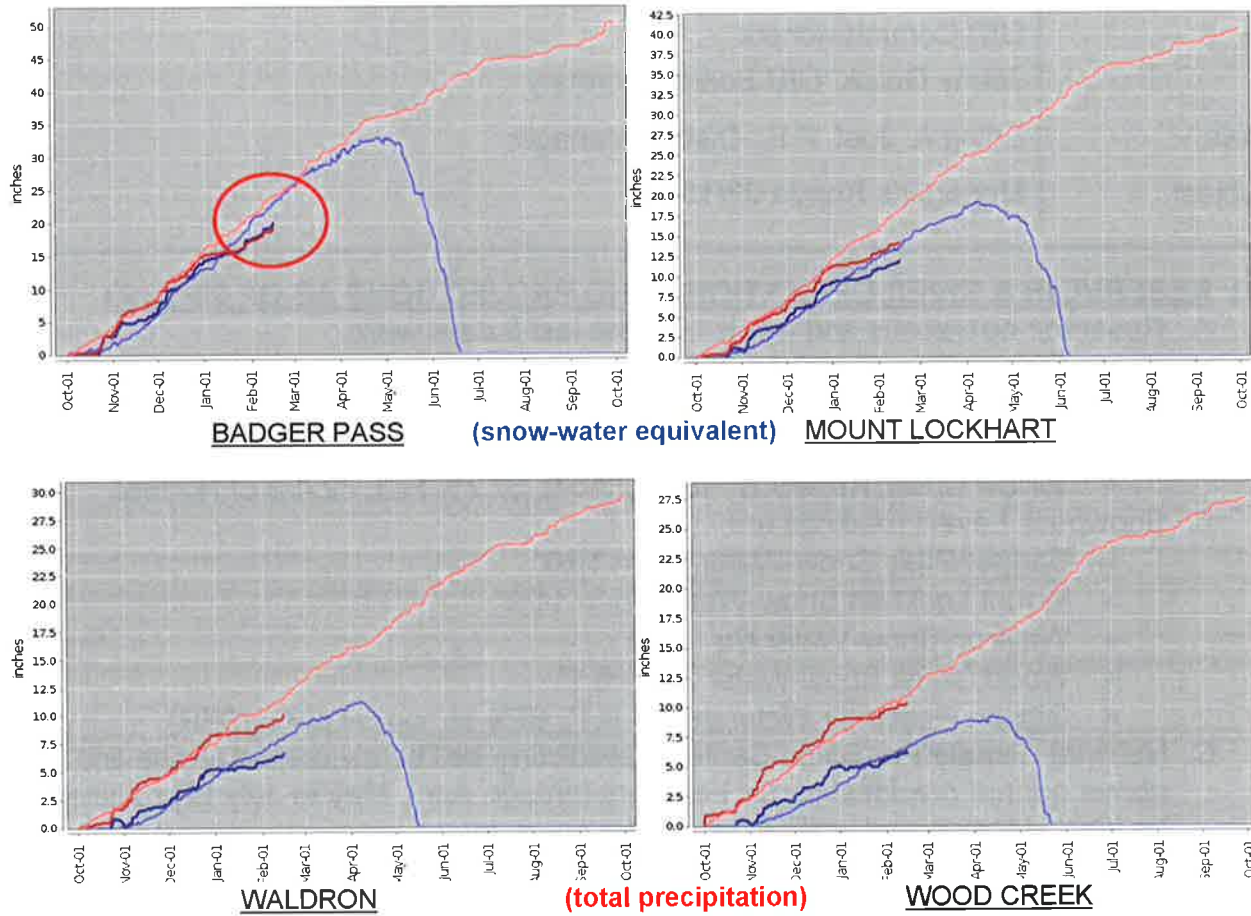
- Gibson Res.: 9,800 Ac-ft, 10% Full & 35% of Normal, Winter Levels
- Gibson Inflows: varying from 100 to 130 cfs, 60% to 75% of Normal
- Gibson Outflows: +/-100 cfs,
- Willow Creek Reservoir: 16,800 Ac-ft, 52.7% Full, 72.4% of Normal

### B. Snowpack Levels readings are:

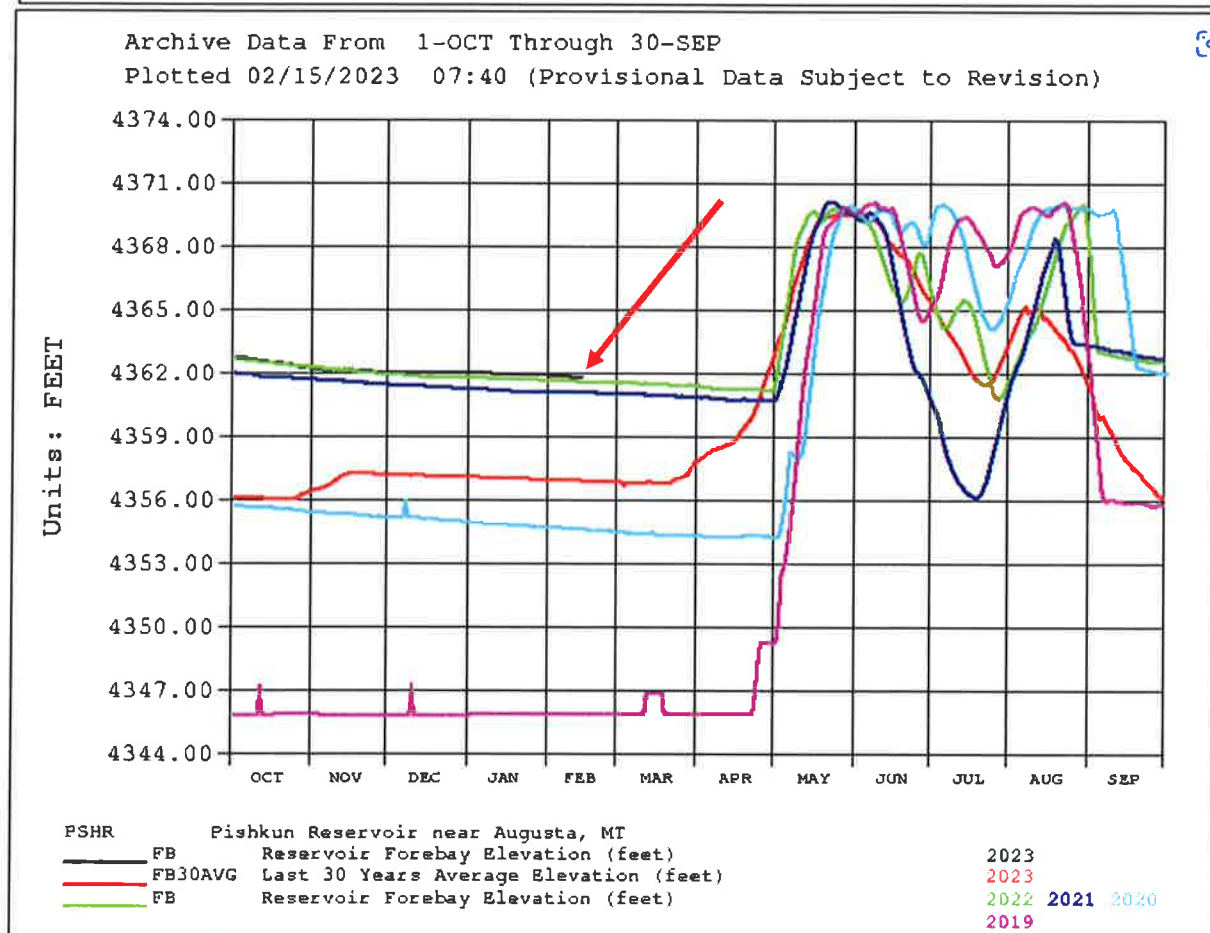
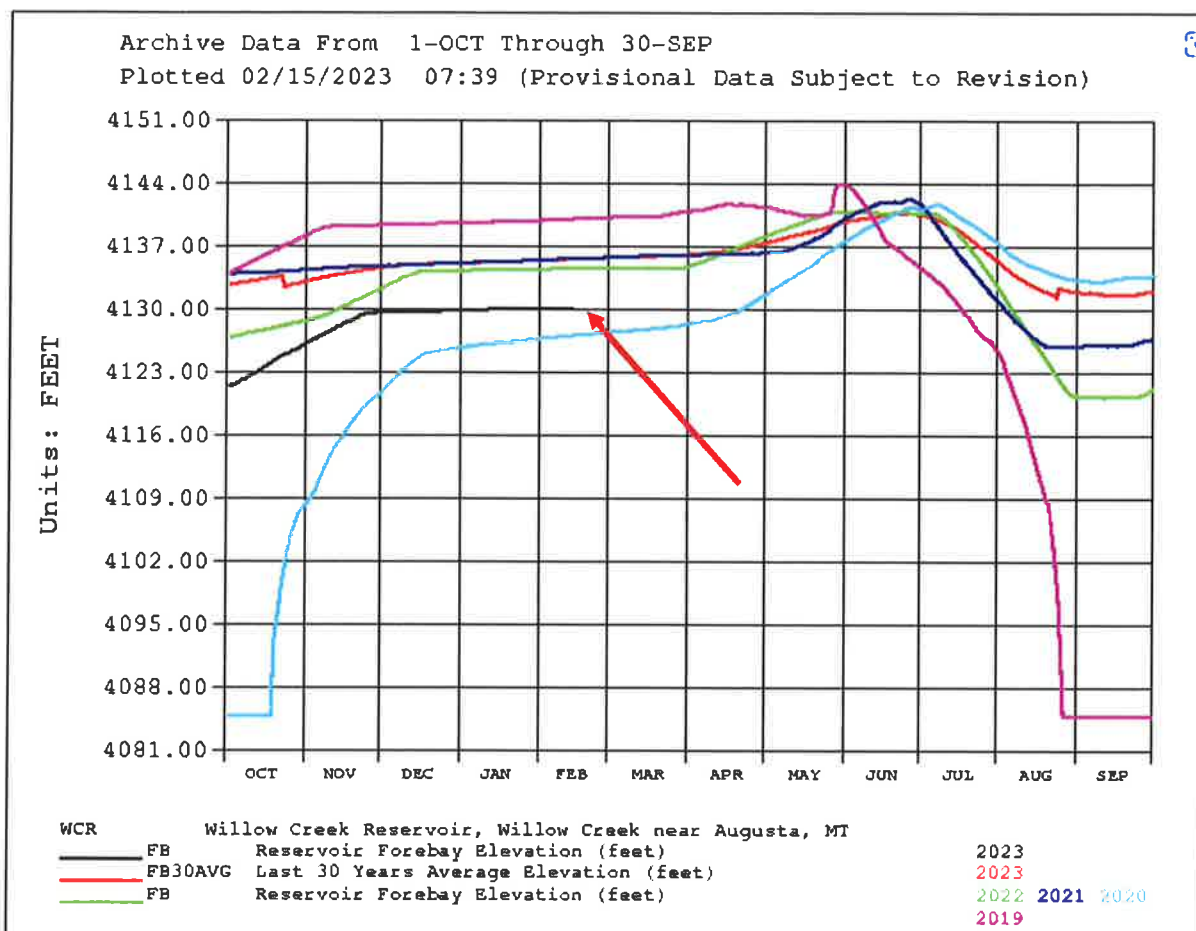
- Badger Pass Snow-Water Eq. = 19.9"
- Mount Lockhart Snow-Water Eq. = 11.9"
- Waldron Snow-Water Eq. = 6.6"
- Wood Creek Snow-Water Eq. = 6.1"
- Gibson Reservoir Watershed = 8.1", 87% of normal per (USBR)

### C. National Climate Prediction Center is predicting well below normal temps and well above normal precipitation for February through April. May to July is predicted to be normal temps and well below normal precipitation.









D. In summary.....

1. Its winter time, reservoirs are at or near winter levels and stream flows are at or near winter levels,
2. Currently, the snow accumulation season is below the 30-year average. Continue to accumulate snow slower than the 30-year average. Hopefully that changes over the next few weeks.

**2) GID WATER RIGHT ISSUES**

- A. DNRC is still conducting their technical review regarding GID's beneficial water use application request to simply utilize the Pishkun Supply Canal to generate electricity. I was informed that the State has until April 13<sup>th</sup> to make a decision.
- B. Water rights attorney just gave me an update on GID's adjudication process for Basin 41K. I'll review and forward to Board.

**3) STAFF UPDATES**

- A. We advertised for the Water Master position. Only one person, Steve Lettengarver, expressed interest. Steve agreed to be the Water Master. I can provide details of his employment if necessary, during an Executive Session.
- B. New ditch rider, Tom Davies, started Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>. He has a strong mechanic background and is working out well so far. Waiting more information on a second person who is currently in the USAF but will be retiring soon. He and his wife have bought a place on the Bench. Looks like we may get him on an apprentice program for a couple of months.

**4) GIS MAPPING, PLATS, DATA BASE, CERTIFICATION, & ASSESSMENTS**

- A. Jenny will be working with the new Water Master in order to begin preparing for the implementation of the new field data collection hardware and improved record keeping procedures by the ditch riders this summer.
- B. Jenny and Nancy are working with the data base consultants and the mapping experts from Houston Engineer on getting ready for this season's certification process.
- C. GID will need to invest in purchasing the next generation of GIS mapping software for more capable hardware for Nancy's workstation. Will hold off till August.

**5) FARM UNIT OPERATIONS**

**A. Request to Subdivide FU 739**

1. Landowner wishes to split FU 739 into two Farm Units to match irrigation practices.
2. There is no change in ownership, irrigation practice, nor irrigation coverage. The number of assessed acres will not change. No water delivery or other issues are known.
3. **Review handout and address during Agenda portion.**

**6) MONTHLY FINANCIALS & 2023 BUDGET**

- A. Total of the account receivables for January was \$15,615.
- B. Accounts payable for January totaled \$613,005 for the warrants as well as \$48,143 that comprises two pay periods. Of the warrants, \$443,964 was for the Arnold Coulee project.
- C. Cash flow has improved with an infusion of tax receipts. Still have not accessed our State of MT loan.



**7) OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

- A. Nothing positive on MACO cancelling GID's property and liability insurance coverage effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. It appears that each district will be on their own to find their own insurance coverage. Efforts to find a group solution to a group problem is not going well. Jenny is working on something with a new carrier with our current agent. I will seek a similar policy from Payne West out of Billings that we can compare against.
- B. Still have not received the 2020-2021 audit that Douglas Wilson & Co. is still working on. Recent email suggests a draft copy will be available soon.
- C. Looking to have the GID Water Users Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Jenny is making all the plans. Hopefully we can get a newsletter out before then.

**8) GID VEHICLES & HEAVY EQUIPMENT**

- A. The John Deere excavator has a major issue with the turntable seal and house drive mechanism. The cost to repair is expected to be in the range of \$40,000 with an added expected life extension of no more than 4 years.
- B. Birthday boy is working on getting cost estimates and payment options for a new replacement excavator as options. Given our other on-going commitments, we will need to get creative. A new excavator will be at least \$275K to \$325K and unfortunately the John Deere offers very little trade-in value.
- C. See looking/need a job trailer and a large soil compactor.

**9) PEARSON LAWSUIT**

- A. Recent news is that our motion to dismiss based on the fact that there was no actual discrimination because no water was actually withheld only alluded to as a possible outcome, was granted in favor of GID. Pearsons can refile a complaint.
- B. As you know, MACO and its outside legal representative sent GID a reservation rights letter letting us know that should GID lose, MACO may not cover the financial award will most likely not cover reimbursement of plaintiff's legal fees. This was further reinforced with another updated letter (forwarded).
- C. No word yet on the numerous motions filed on both sides previously.
- D. Legislation (HB418) to amend and clarify MCA 85-7-1837 on how and who acreage limitations apply to has been finalized. I provided testimony in the Water Resources committee on Monday. Ross Fitzgerald introduced the bill. Mike Murphy with MWRA and a representative with the Montana Farmers Union testified on behalf of all the other irrigation districts and family farms, respectively. Based on questions and comments, I submitted a couple more edits to solidify the clarification and forwarded onto Legislative Services Bureau for final polishing.
- E. GID lawyers had a meeting with President Brunner and a technical advisor on farm economics. (Tim can give an update in Executive Session if necessary)
- F. Important dates
  - i. Discovery Completion: November 14, 2022 (DONE)
  - ii. Pre-Hearing Motions: December 9, 2022 (DONE)
  - iii. Venue Selection: December 9, 2022 (DONE?)
  - iv. Hearing Subpoenas: February 21, 2023
  - v. Pre-Hearing Conference: February 28, 2023
  - vi. Hearing date: March 7, 2023.

**10) WILLOW CREEK FEEDER CANAL MAINTENANCE & LAWSUIT**

- A. The next step is to get ready for depositions.

- B. I will be the 30(b)(6) witness for GID on this lawsuit. This is scheduled within the couple of months.
- C. Have a meeting with our lawyer and our expert on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. **Do any Commissioners want to participate?**

## 11) HYDRO UPDATES

- A. Hydro Power Development Strategy –
  - 1. Expecting to hear in February or March regarding the grant submitted for a WaterSMART WEEG grant at the end of July for the amount of \$4.3 million. This grant would address Pishkun Inlet Hydro, finishing the Johnson Drop site and would make the A-Drop site hydropower friendly.
- B. Arnold Coulee LOPP –
  - 1. **LOPP** – The Executed LOPP Agreement has been finalized and is in our possession. The LOPP includes contractual contingencies and stipulations regarding the beneficial water right use and BLM's easement approval, both of which have yet to be obtained.



- 2. **Transmission Design & Construction** – The Contractor left the site in mid-December for an emergency job but has not returned. 3.3 miles of poles planted and another 5.3 miles to go. Still working on getting all necessary materials. Lead time on meters, breakers, and step-up transformers is pushing over a year due to the war in Ukraine. Prices keep going up as well. Trying to find other supplier options.



3. **Transmission Easements** – An initial alignment was established and the fieldwork for the Cultural Resource Inventory Study was completed in January. The Final Report reflecting that alignment was expected by early March. With the cultural resource study, the BLM and DNRC would have hopefully finalize easements across State Lands. Requested financial relief from BLM regarding their proposed charges. SREC is still coordinating with landowners regarding sections of the transmission line and the location for the substation. Here are the current issues:
  - SREC obtained easement across private land but did get them filed and recorded. Land was sold and the easement is not on the new deed. The new landowner is requesting an alternative transmission alignment and concessions.
  - Fieldwork for cultural resource study and transmission line alignment survey will have to be redone reflecting a new alignment.
  - It will cost GID more money and we lost at least 2 months we don't have.
4. **SREC Interconnection & Transmission Agreements** – Received final Interconnection Agreement from SREC. Need to get this completed in order to facilitate an LOPP Contract and the PPA negotiations.
5. **Power Purchase Agreement** – Currently drafting the PPA now that the LOPP Agreement has been secured. The LOPP solidifies our effort to establish a LEO (legally enforceable obligation). A lack of an BLM ROW is problematic. Need to submit PPA ASAP before NWE submits a request to the PSC to revisit the Avoided Cost Rate Schedule.
6. **Design Drawings** – Still reviewing a set of Preliminary Plan & Profile sheets. Working on the powerhouse design and internal components. Had a good meeting Team Sorenson on Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup>. Things are coming together, unfortunately prices are higher than initially estimated.
7. **Turbine-Generator Purchase** – GID made another 5% payment to CHC. To date we have paid 25% of both sites. Hoping to get the draft tubes and extensions this summer. Another 10% payment, \$354,500, is due Feb 27<sup>th</sup>.
8. **WEEG WaterSmart Grant** – Next quarterly report is due in April. Have yet make 4<sup>th</sup> reimbursement.
9. **INTERCAP Loan** – GID was granted an extension of our loan guarantee which was to have expired in November. One remaining condition still needs to be met prior to receiving access to loan funds i.e., verification of all easements.
10. **Wire, Widgets & Windings** – Still need to pick up the last six reels of conductor. Hopefully will get them this Spring using Pat's rig.
11. **Construction** – The final section of the by-pass weir floor containing the gate bottom seal is scheduled for next week, weathering permitting or most likely the week thereafter. Need to get going on the walls for the by-pass structure. Will be submitting Phase 2 construction drawings to Reclamation for the tailrace channel underdrain.



C. Pishkun Inlet Hydro –

1. **WaterSmart WEEG** – Again, no word on the WaterSMART WEEG Grant for \$4.3 million submitted in July. Expect to hear sometime in Feb or March. This grant would address Pishkun Inlet Hydro, finishing the Johnson Drop site, and would make the A-Drop site hydropower ready.
2. Submitted a request through Reclamation's aging infrastructure funding program on December 1<sup>st</sup> for \$5.03 million.
3. GID's \$125k RRGL Grant App ranked #1. Testified in support of our grant.
4. We are purchasing turbine and generator for this site.

D. Gibson Hydro –

1. Had a meeting with Reclamation regarding the Sun River Project authorization amendment legislation. Reclamation recommends that GID should file a LOPP request to develop power generation on Gibson as soon as possible. This will iron out Reclamation's and FERC's remaining and over-lapping relationship.
2. Nothing new on FERC's process of revoking the license for Gibson Hydro, although it is no longer an issue.
3. Nothing new on Thom Fischer's offer to purchase GID's half of the project, which I think is a dead issue.

E. Johnson Drop –

1. Nothing new to report.

F. A-Drop –

1. Nothing new to Report.

**12) GID INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS- Current or Planned**

A. Hwy 89 Ditch Crossings

1. Nothing new from MDT.

B. 3rd Mill Coulee Drop – Nothing new on this project. Waiting for a break in the weather. Don't want to replace this drop with an elaborate structure since the Ashuelot Bench has bigger plans.

C. Willow Creek Spillway Repair –

1. Attended a design review meeting in Billings Region office of Reclamation during the week of January 30<sup>th</sup>. At a minimum, Reclamation wants to issue

a SOD order and hire GID to haul riprap and gravel and stockpile it on-site in case of an emergency. Ultimately, a new spillway will be constructed to handle the design flood flow.

D. Sun River Bridge Replacement –

1. Agency kick-off meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb.16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. **Any commissioners want to participate?**
2. Geotech investigations and siphon dewatering with inspection planned for this Fall.
3. Ribbon cutting ceremony planned for Summer of 2025.

E. SRS 71 Check Replacement and Reregulation, Phase 1–

1. Received preliminary plans to replace the headworks for SRS-71. Need to order the Rubicon “smart” turnout in a couple of weeks.
2. Received \$125K grant to do this work.
3. Work is scheduled to start this Fall after water season.
4. Submitted a planning grant for Phase II, relocate and replace SRS check.

F. Phase III J-Waste Way Facility, Spring Coulee Headworks –

1. Need to complete wiring and calibration this Spring (Phase II).
2. Submitting a planning grant to complete Phase 3

G. Tunnel #3 Roof Collapse –

1. Awaiting outcome of Reclamation’s decision to grant GID’s request for low interest loans through Reclamation’s aging infrastructure funding program.
2. Already have been awarded a \$500k ARPA grant.
3. Need inspect tunnel when we pull the bulkheads. Probably should have a Board tour at that time.

H. Lower GSC Rehabilitation –

1. Received a \$75,000 WaterSmart grant.
2. Cultural Resources has been already completed.
3. Design is being completed. Work is scheduled to start this Fall after water season.
4. Need to order pipe once design is completed.

### **13) TITLE TRANSFER**

- A. Discussed Title Transfer at BOR-GID Coordination Summit in Billings on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Reclamation is still preparing the MOU and agreement to move forward.

### **14) GID O&M PROJECTS**

- A. No O&M’s list this month. Eric will provide a verbal update.
- B. Doing considerable work on the PSC.
1. Logging problematic trees.
  2. Removing black Cretaceous-ages, carbonaceous shale from directly downstream of the former Tunnel #2.
  3. Reconditioning channel profile with the black shale just downstream of siphon outlet.
  4. Submitted a planning grant to conduct a recondition survey and structure inventory assessment.





#### **15) GID GRAZING LEASE PROGRAM**

- A. Held a Pasture Management Subcommittee to address pasture lease rules and pasture use issues in order to maximize user benefits and pasture revenue.
- B. Meeting was held on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> at GID office. Good attendance. See Jenny's notes on the meeting.
- C. I will submit my summary to the Board meeting when completed. Jenny took notes as well.

#### **16) MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. Need make a decision on the SOQs received in response to the RFQ for the engineering services for next 5-year IDIQ, 2023-2027.
- B. Transferred background GID data to the Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) staff to assist with their efforts to provide a strategy to overhaul and modernization GID.
- C. Attended the annual MRWA Board meeting Jan 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Eric is working on the historic gravel pit GID received a notification of violation from the MT DEQ. This ancient gravel pit that was developed in the 1990's by Manager Nypen when considerable work was being completed for the Muddy Creek Taskforce. Looks like the current landowner would like to leave the pit as is. Once closed out we should get back a \$16,000 bond.

#### **17) SHORT-TERM TO DO LIST – FEBRUARY**

- Continue to advance efforts to secure Transmission & Wheeling Agreement with SREC.
- Submit PPA to NWE before they change the energy prices.
- Push SREC to finalize the necessary easements.
- Continue to push the construction for the By-Pass Weir for Arnold Coulee before the water conveyance season begins.
- Address the historic gravel pit issue.
- Continue to advance the construction drawings.
- Make 10%, \$354,500 payment to CHC on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Continue to find a solution to the insurance predicament. Jenny is working with our agent.

#### **18) LONG-TERM TO DO LIST – MARCH & ON**

- Finalize additional water rights from DNRC. Their due date is 04/13/23.
- Order pipe for tailrace channel underpass.
- Solicit for roller gates, transition pipe and entrance collar.
- Finish Cultural Resource Inventory Study for BLM's easement requirements.
- Get BLM approval for site easement and transmission line easement.
- Get State of MT-DNRC approval for transmission line easement.
- Finish delivery of wire reels.
- Finalize INTERCAP Loan
- Develop a 5yr/10yr Strategic Plan (Conservation & Management Plan)

#### **NEXT GID BOARD MEETING MARCH 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM**

X:\Admin\Manager\Reports\2023\2023-02-14 Managers Report.docx

