

Greenfields

IRRIGATION DISTRICT

On Tuesday April 9th, 2024, 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 Eric Mayer, Cory Copenhaver and Steve Lettengarver. Tracy Wendt with Sun River Watershed Group, Stevie Neuman with Cascade County Conservation District and Advisory Board Member Chris Ostberg were also present. Water user Bill Pearson, along with John Wipf were in attendance, as well.

The meeting was called to order by President Brunner at 6:04 P.M.

Approve Meeting Minutes and Monthly Warrants: The first item of business was to approve the minutes from the March 12th Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes. There were no discrepancies found and Commissioner Brosten made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Brady seconded the motion. All in favor and minutes of both meetings were approved. The Warrants List was then reviewed. Manager Juel gave a brief explanation that the warrant to Shumaker was a down payment on the rock, which is 35% of the anticipated tonnage that will be needed. He also explained that the Sun River Electric warrant was for our portion of the transmission and distribution costs. Commissioner Gulick moved to approve the warrants list and Commissioner Brady seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Parties Presenting Issues: Water User Spencer Pearson was not present to address his issue, but he provided a handout for the Board and District Manager. A brief explanation was given by Manager Juel, but since Pearson was not present there was no action required and the Board chose to respect his right to privacy and not discuss the matter without his presence. Manager Juel will draft a letter in response to his questions presented for the Board to review.

Contacts to Execute: None.

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

Reservoir and River Operations: See M.R. for full details. Snowpack levels are at about 64% of normal. The National Climate Prediction Center is now predicting above normal temps and normal precipitation for April through June, with July through September predicted to be well-above normal temps and well below normal precipitation. Pishkun is at normal winter levels. The Board held a Special Meeting last week to discuss this season's allotment, but a start date has yet to be determined. The Board will likely meet before the next Regular Meeting to reassess the start date.

Water Rights: Nothing new to report, other than the State DNRC is still trying to acquire shared ownership of private water rights which were applied on State Land through the Pettibone ruling. If successful, it could undermine our agreement with DNRC.

GID Staff Updates: The new ditch rider, Richard Hart started on March 18th. We are still looking to hire a couple more weed sprayers.

GIS Mapping, Plats, Database & Certification Updates: Jenny and Nancy are working to get ready for this year's irrigation certification process. We are still trying to address a handful of GID water users that are still irrigating outside the District boundaries.

Farm Unit Operations: Board to review various requests from landowners to move assessment, adjust boundary lines, and to split a farm unit and make a new one. Handouts have been provided and will be addressed during the Agenda portion of the meeting.

Monthly Financials & 2023 Budget: See M.R. for details.

Office Improvements & General Administration: See the M.R. for details.

GID Vehicles & Heavy Equipment: We picked up our new 4x4 pickup and the ditch rider fleet is now complete. The financing is in place at \$10,000 down and 0.9% interest over 36 months. The two new semi-tractors are now set to arrive in early May. We ordered a job trailer and the GID crew will finish the interior with lights and wiring.

Pearson Lawsuit: Judge Whelan has decided favorably for GID and upheld the Human Rights Bureau's decision to dismiss Pearson's complaint. MACO informed GID that Plaintiff's attorney indicated there would be no further appeals, but MACO will keep the file open for a while, just in case.

Willow Creek Feeder Canal Maintenance & Lawsuit: See the M.R. for the scheduling of events pertaining to this lawsuit. See copies of Plaintiff's Response to GID's MFSJ regarding the BOR's easement authority. Reclamation's easement predates the current ownership of the land. We will try to have our attorney give an update at next month's meeting.

Hydro Updates: General: The 2-day hearing with the PSC is scheduled for May 14th and 15th. Arnold Coulee LOPP: The Executed LOPP Agreement has been finalized. There is a lawsuit being threatened by a landowner against SREC, but ultimately it is in SREC's easement, and they will proceed forward. The transmission line will be done all the way to the highway by the end of May. Transmission Design & Construction: See the M.R. for progress. Reclamation has issued a FONSI to be applied to the project. Public comment is open until April 20th, but all online description looks quite favorable. The BLM website describes our project and Manager Juel encourages the Board to all leave positive comments. Brad with SREC is meeting with BLM officials in DC on the 22nd to share experiences with BLM's process. Pishkun Inlet Hydro: Reclamation/DOI granted BABA exemption for hydropower machinery. We have not started the process of the transmission easements or design and construction. See the M.R. for further details. There is nothing new to report on the Johnson Drop or A-Drop sites. Gibson Hydro: Another developer has expressed interest in partnering with GID on the Gibson Dam Hydro project. Manager Juel will meet with him sometime in May or June to discuss details.

GID Infrastructure Projects: For Current and Planned, see the M.R. Willow Creek Spillway Repair: New trucks and side dump trailers have yet to show up. A visit to the quarries and to the spillway was conducted with Reclamation staff, samples were collected and submitted to the lab for testing. We moved equipment to Willow Creek Reservoir and started earthwork and roadwork. An agreement will be put together by Manager Juel for the FSID Board. The FSID is to haul 17% of the rip rap. Sun River Bridge Replacement: Geotechnical work is to start on April 15th. The PSC may prove to be a limitation to bringing in girders to the east side. The FHWA is evaluating it. SRS 71 Check: Everything is done except the closing out of the project. Tunnel #3: Bids will go

out in another month, or so. Phase I will be completed right after the water season ends. The majority of Phase I will be paid for with ARPA grant funds, along with the engineering services. A draft repayment contract was provided to the Board with Manager Juel's comments. Repayment does not need to begin until the project is completed. A \$11.6 million guarantee loan is available through Reclamation's AIA program, if needed. Phase III J-Wasteway, Spring Coulee Headworks: We will submit a \$125K RRGL grant application in May to help with GID's matching requirements for the SRWG's WaterSmart grant. Lower GSC: Work is done, and project will shortly be closed out.

Title Transfer: Nothing new to report. We have received a draft MOU and agreement from the USBR to move forward, but Manager Juel has not had a chance to review it yet.

GID O&M Projects: O&M Foreman Mayer provided a very brief update.

GID Grazing Lease Program: Board President to sign 2 of the 3 new leases. The other hasn't been received yet.

FCA Efforts to Modernize GID Infrastructure: The FCA is now working to pursue DNRC and WaterSmart planning grants to replace and modernize the Mary Taylor facility. We will schedule a work session in early June to develop strategies.

Miscellaneous: See M.R. for details. GID received a notification of violation from the MT DEQ, at which time we sent an update back.

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

Agenda:

- 1) Board to approve and sign Resolution #2024-04 electing Pat Brosten and Chase Brady as Commissioners #2 and #4 by acclamation. Vice President Norris moved to approve and sign the resolution and Commissioner Gulick seconded the motion. All were in favor and the resolution was signed and attested to.
- 2) Board to review the request by Derek Gustafson to split FU 884 and create a new FU 884.1 and move assessment, see handout. Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the request with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All in favor and the motion passed.
- 3) Board to review the request by Mark Coverdell to adjust the boundary line between FU 058 and FU 059, see attachment. Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the request and Commissioner Gulick seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- 4) Board to review the request by Casey Dirkes to move acres of assessment from FU 164 to FU 243.1, see attachment. Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the request and Commissioner Gulick seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- 5) President Brunner signed the Grazing Pasture Lease Agreements for Mark Young and Brian Haynes.
- 6) Board FYI on new pivot installation for Laban Byers, handout provided. Water Master Lettengarver gave a brief explanation.
- 7) Board to review and rate the Ag Scholarship Applications and make a selection, handouts provided. There were 5 applicants, and all had very impressive resumes and recommendation letters. Commissioner Gulick moved to give all 5 applicants \$750/each and Commissioner Brosten seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion passed.

- 8) Board to review and discuss Policy B. 5) "The Board may, at its discretion, and without obligation to continue to do so, choose to deliver District water to qualified recipients with land in excess of the acreage limitations, see handout provided. Manager Juel explained that he sees this policy as being a temporary exception to unforeseen circumstances, not a permanent right given. He went on to explain that the Board could grant a 1-year compliance period, while the owner is working to resolve the excess acres acquired. The Board agreed that is what the policy was created to do, be an incidental, temporary allowance.

Public Comment: Tracy with SRWG gave the Board a brief update on upcoming events scheduled with a handout provided. Tracy requested the usual \$5,000 Spring donation that GID contributes during the Give Great Falls fundraising event where funds are matched by other donors. Commissioner Gulick moved to approve the contribution and Commissioner Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. Manager Juel gave a brief update on FSID operations and an explanation of the water that they currently draw every years, versus what their water right actually entails.

Commissioner Brosten moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 8:18 P.M.


Board President


Board Secretary

Board Action Recap:

- 1) Board approved and signed the Resolution #2024-04 electing the 2 current commissioners by acclamation.
- 2) Board approved the request to split FU 884 and create a new FU 884.1.
- 3) Board approved the request to adjust the boundary line between FU 058 and 059.
- 4) Board approved the request to move acres of assessment from FU 164 to FU 243.1.
- 5) Board made a selection for the 2024 Ag Scholarship Recipients.



AGENDA FOR: Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday April 9th 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: March 12th Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

PARTIES PRESENTING: Spencer Pearson to address the Board regarding

CONTRACTS TO EXECUTE: None.

MANAGER's REPORT

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1) Approve and Sign Resolution #2024-04 electing Pat Brosten and Chase Brady as Commissioners #2 and #4 by acclamation.
- 2) Board to review the request by Derek Gustafson to split FU 884, create a new FU 884.1 and move assessment to FU 884.1 and 885.1, see attachment.
- 3) Board to review the request by Mark Coverdell to adjust the boundary line between FU 058 and FU 059, see attachment.
- 4) Board to review the request by Casey Dirkes to move acres of assessment from FU 164 to FU 243.1, see attachment.
- 5) Board to approve the new lease agreements for Mark Young and Tryg Brosten and President Brunner to sign.
- 6) Board to review and rate Scholarship Applications and make a selection, handouts provided.
- 7) Board FYI on new pivot installation for Laban Byers, see handout.
- 8) Board to review and discuss Policy B. 5) The Board may, at its discretion and without obligation to continue to do so, choose to deliver District water to qualified recipients with land in excess of the acreage limitations, see handout provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT


- SRWG, Tracy Wendt, handout provided.

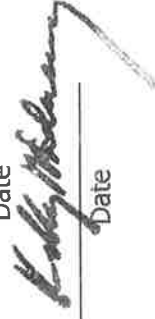
GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Monthly Warrant List
 March 2024

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Mar 24				
03/31/2024	eft	Aflac	supplemental insurance	-106.20
03/04/2024	36107	US Postal Service	POST CARDS FOR ANNUAL MTG.	-319.00
03/04/2024	36108	Montana Department of Agriculture	Annual License Application Fee	-200.00
03/05/2024	36109	Western Water Consultants, Inc.	Tunnel #3	-5,068.00
03/05/2024	36110	First Bank of Montana	prin. & int. payment	-369,522.05
03/05/2024	36111	BlueCross BlueShield of Montana	Ernest Keitzman March	-1,448.00
03/06/2024	36135	TB - 941	81-6001490	-7,671.62
03/06/2024	36136	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-958.00
03/06/2024	36137	TB - MPERA	retirement	-6,138.12
03/08/2024	36175	Jon's Automotive	#30 Water Master truck	-570.52
03/14/2024	36176	FARM IN THE DELL, ROCKY MTN FRONT NC	Golf Tourney sponsor	-100.00
03/18/2024	36177	B.A. Fischer Sales Co., LLC	GATES	-4,420.02
03/18/2024	36178	Western Water Consultants, Inc.	Pishkun Inlet	-888.00
03/19/2024	36179	The Log Cabin Cafe	Annual Dinner/Mtg	-3,500.00
03/20/2024	36198	Michelle Lauver-	cleaning supplies	-13.08
03/20/2024	36199	TB - 941	81-6001490	-8,000.38
03/20/2024	36200	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-987.00
03/20/2024	36201	TB - MPERA	retirement	-6,225.94
03/31/2024	36233	BlueCross BlueShield of Montana	247191	-1,658.33
03/31/2024	36234	MT Teamsters Employers Trust	health insurance	-23,168.00
03/31/2024	36235	Teamster's Local #2	union dues	-959.00
03/31/2024	36236	A & I Distributors	shop supplies	-440.39
03/31/2024	36237	Advanced Drainage System	pipe	-3,615.84
03/31/2024	36238	Best Oil Dist.	grease	-1,650.00
03/31/2024	36239	Computers by Sue	misc computer	-2,115.00
03/31/2024	36240	Consolidated Electrical Distributors	SRS Check	-159.48
03/31/2024	36241	Dave Gulick Welding & Construction	SRS Check	-170.00
03/31/2024	36242	Edge Marketing + Design, LLC	monthly web hosting	-2,460.00
03/31/2024	36243	Esri Inc.	computer maintenance	-460.00
03/31/2024	36244	Fairfield Sun Times	ads	-159.91
03/31/2024	36245	Fastenal Company	shop supplies	-228.77
03/31/2024	36246	General Distributing Co	welding	-33.42
03/31/2024	36247	Great Falls Redi-Mix Inc	Lower GSC/sales	-4,566.53
03/31/2024	36248	Home Depot Credit Services	SRS Check	-615.99
03/31/2024	36249	K's Auto Parts	repairs	-79.91
03/31/2024	36250	K's Auto Parts - Choteau	repairs	-449.70
03/31/2024	36251	Macon Supply, Inc	shop supplies	-34.05
03/31/2024	36252	MCJ	long distance	-71.01

GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Monthly Warrant List
March 2024

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
03/31/2024	36253	MDS Supply	shop supplies	-1,608.00
03/31/2024	36254	National Laundry	rugs/shop supply	-65.40
03/31/2024	36255	NorthWestern Energy	utilities	-3,410.51
03/31/2024	36256	Power Pro	repairs	-7.50
03/31/2024	36257	Shop Specialties, LLC	grease	-622.80
03/31/2024	36258	Shumaker Trucking & Excavating, Inc	Willow Creek	-121,275.00
03/31/2024	36259	Sun River Electric, Co-Op	Arnold Coulee/utilities	-51,472.20
03/31/2024	36260	TD&H Engineering	Other Misc	-55.00
03/31/2024	36261	Town of Fairfield	utilities	-141.00
03/31/2024	36262	Tractor & Equipment, Co	repairs	-201.80
03/31/2024	36263	True Value	repairs	-80.26
03/31/2024	36264	Victory Insurance Company	shop supplies	-2,630.00
03/31/2024	36265	Western Sky Electric LLC	WC100-0010152-2023A	-5,750.52
03/31/2024	36266	Western Conference of Teamsters Pension	SRS Check	-2,306.50
			pension	
				-648,857.75

Approved by  Date _____
President

Submitted by  Date _____
Bookkeeper

Recap of March 2024 warrants:
Regular warrants \$648,857.75
March 2024 payroll \$ 52945.76
Total \$701,812.51

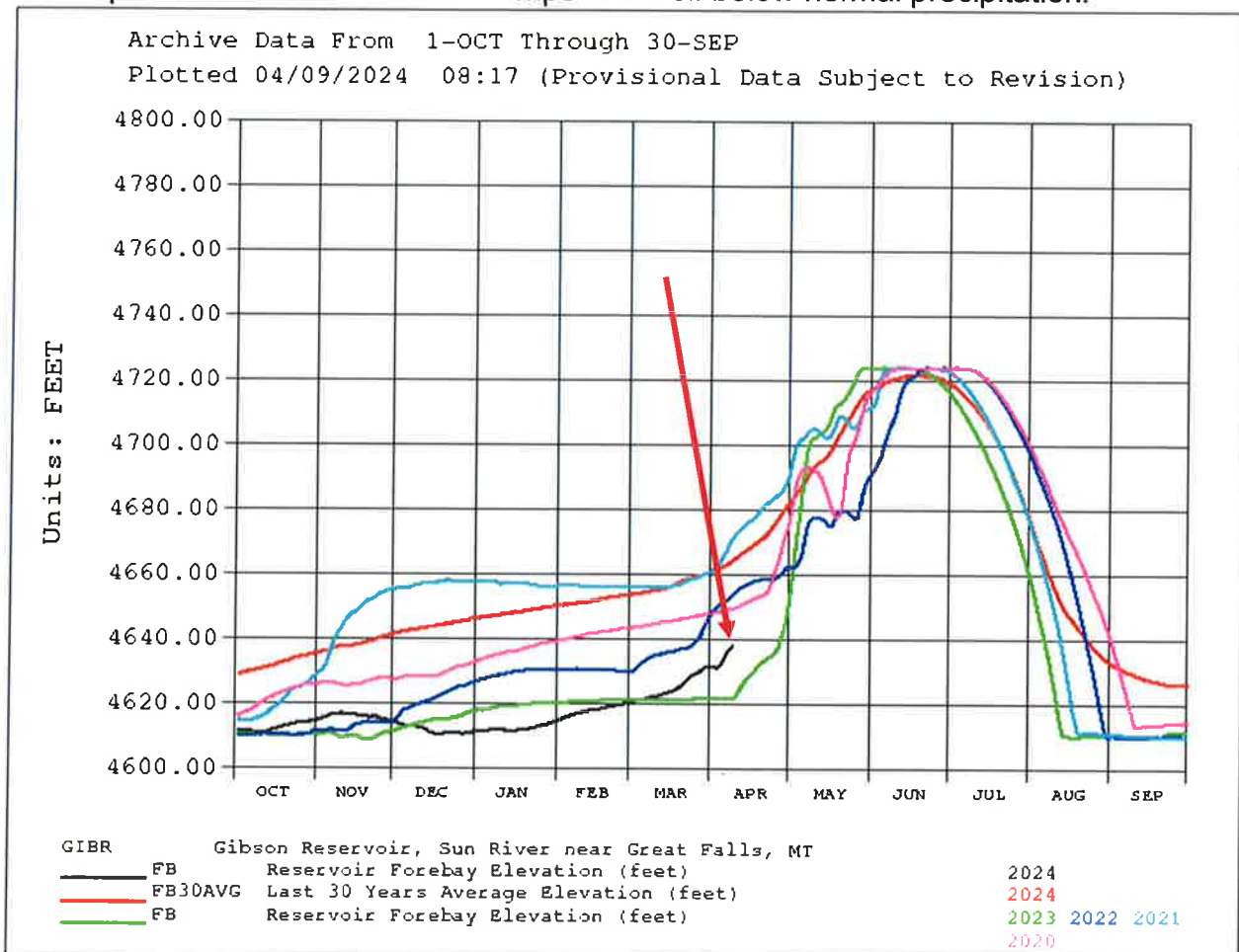
To: GID Commissioners
Jenny Gulick, GID Board Secretary

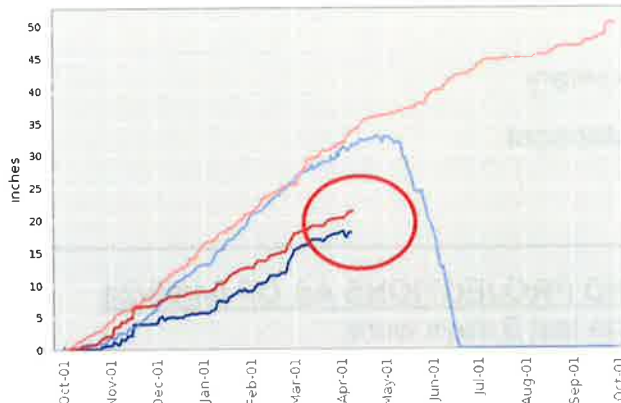
From: Erling A. Juel, P.E., District Manager

Subject: Manager's Report 04/09/24

1) RESERVOIR & RIVER OPERATIONS AND PROJECTIONS AS OF 04/09/24

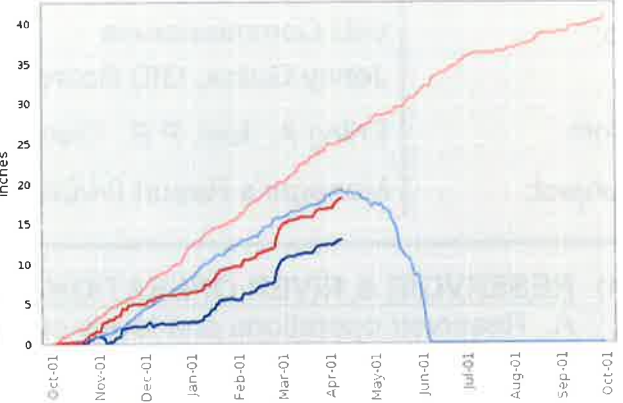
- A. Reservoir operations and levels over the last 5 days were:
- Gibson Res: 19,000 Ac-ft, 19% Full & 52% of Normal
 - Gibson Inflows: varying from 340 to 510 cfs, 72% to 137% of Normal.
 - Gibson Outflows: +/-98 cfs,
 - Willow Creek Reservoir: 22,600 Ac-ft, 71% Full, 95% of Normal
 - Willow Creek Inflows: +/-10 to 20 cfs
- B. Snowpack Levels readings are:
- Badger Pass Snow-Water Eq. = 17.9"
 - Mount Lockhart Snow-Water Eq. = 12.9"
 - Waldron Snow-Water Eq. = 6.2"
 - Wood Creek Snow-Water Eq. = 6.0"
 - Gibson Reservoir Watershed = 8.4", 64.5% of normal per (USBR)
- C. The National Climate Prediction Center is now predicting slightly above normal temps and normal precipitation for April through June. July to September is predicted to be well-above temps and well-below normal precipitation.



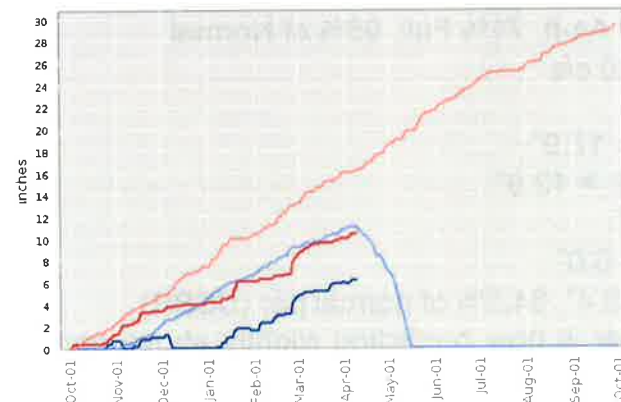


BADGER PASS

(snow-water equivalent)

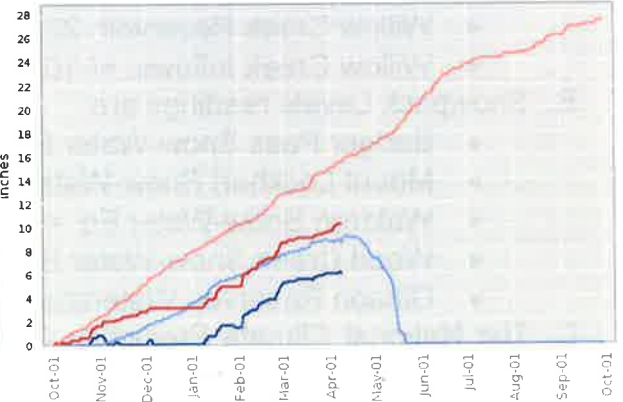


MOUNT LOCKHART

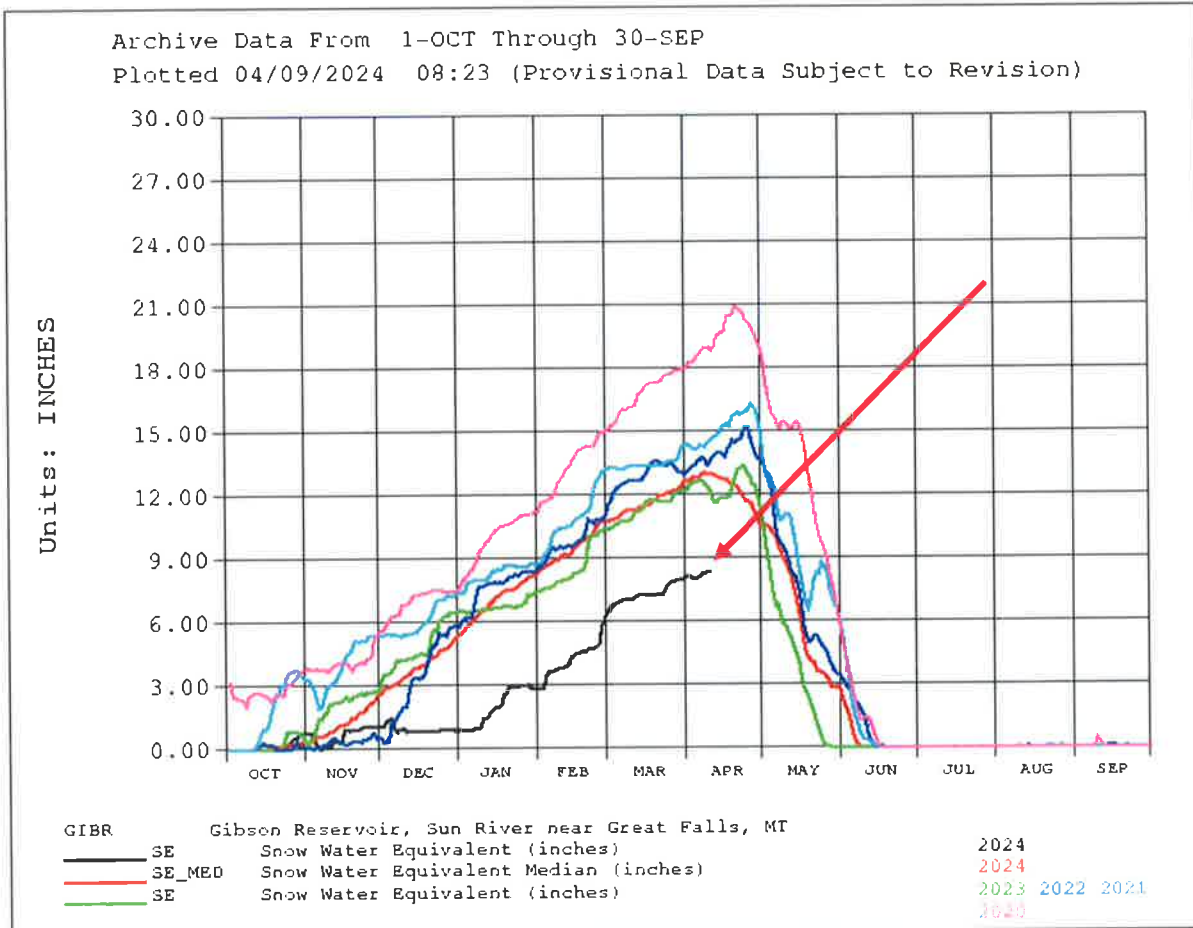


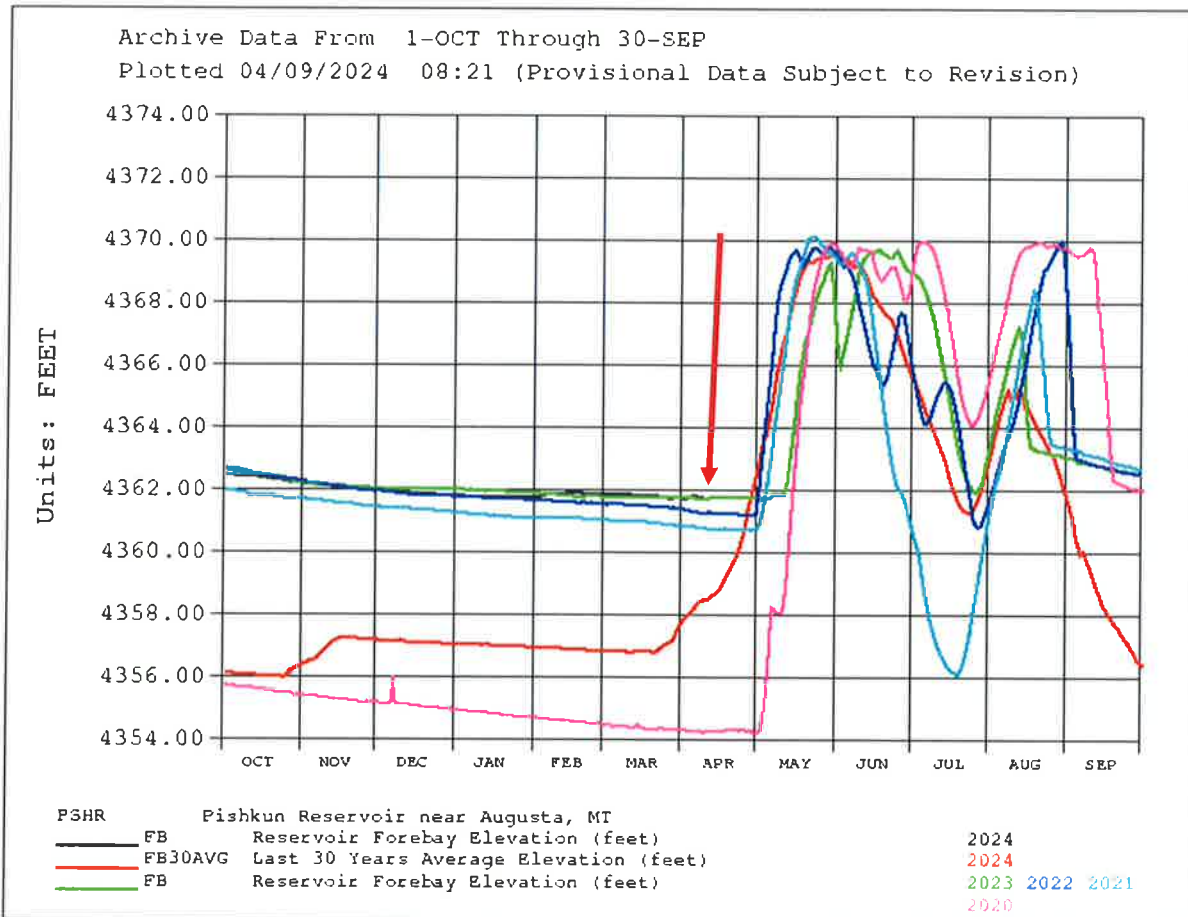
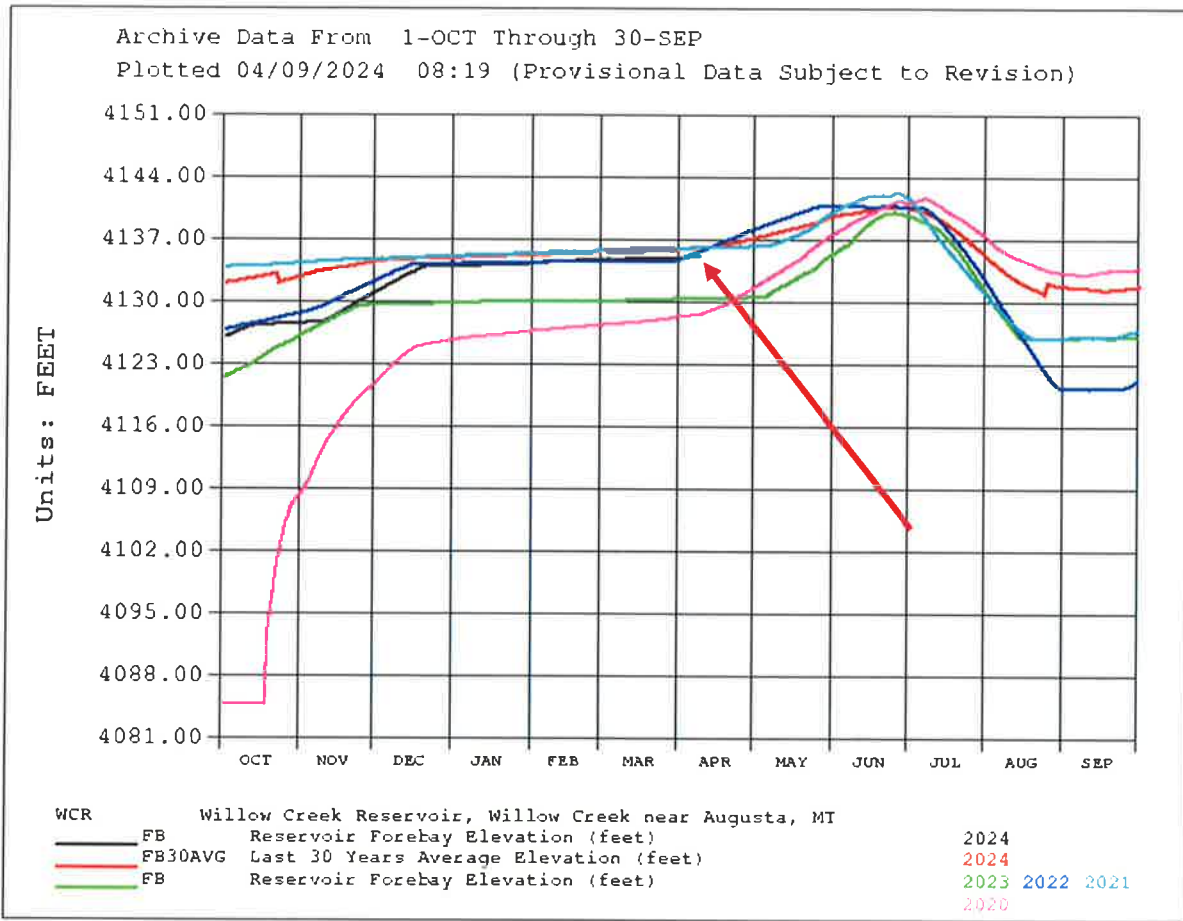
WALDRON

(total precipitation)



WOOD CREEK





D. In summary.....

1. All reservoirs are at normal levels except Gibson, albeit Gibson level is ahead of last year.
2. Snow pack still lags well-behind the 30-year average to date and is the lowest in the last 30 years.
3. Based on discussions with the GID Board of Commissioners the following outcomes were deemed prudent given the status of the current snowpack conditions and projected weather patterns for this Spring and Summer.
 - Alotment will start at 12 inches,
 - The likelihood of half rate water is very low and therefore, will not be offered,
 - Excess water will not be available, and
 - The start of the irrigation season will be set during the May Board meeting. A delayed start of the irrigation season may be considered if appropriate.

2) GID WATER RIGHT ISSUES

- A. Nothing new other than the State DNRC is still trying to acquire shared ownership of private water rights which were applied on State Land through the Pettibone ruling. If successful, could undermine our agreement with DNRC.

3) STAFF UPDATES

- A. New ditch rider, Richard Hart, started March 18th.
- B. Still need to hire a couple of weed sprayers.
- C. Office Manager Gullick is interviewing potential office assistants for the summer.

4) OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- A. Still hoping to revisit with potential insurance agents to see if there are additional ways to reduce our annual premium.
- B. The annual meeting was held March 19th and was well attended.
- C. Need to start planning for GID's 100th Birthday celebration on May 29th, 2025.

5) GIS MAPPING, PLATS, DATA BASE, CERTIFICATION, & ASSESSMENTS

- A. Jenny and Nancy, working with data base consultant, are getting ready for this year's irrigation certification process.
- B. Steve is helping Nancy to get the irrigation maps and certification forms out.
- C. Need to address several water users are irrigating outside the District boundaries.

6) FARM UNIT OPERATIONS

A. Request to Split FU 884, Create New FU 884.1, and Transfer Some Assessment to FU 885.1

1. The landowner of several parcels wishes to reallocate assessment amongst their land holdings to better match on-going irrigation practices and to improve water management efficiencies.
2. Reconfiguration of FU 884 and the transfer of 40.81 acres of assessment to new FU 884.1 (30.81 acres) and existing FU 885.1 (10.0 acres).
3. There will be no change in irrigation practice, nor irrigation coverage nor a change in the total assessment.
4. **Review handout and address during Agenda portion.**

B. Reconfigure FUs 058 and 059

1. This reconfiguration reflects a change in ownership and a legal boundary line adjustment per COS #1214.
2. This was done to support the on-going pivot irrigation as well as the change of ownership.
3. Other than the change in ownership and the FU reconfiguration, there will be no net change in irrigation practice, nor irrigation coverage, nor a change in the total assessment.
4. **Review handout and address during Agenda portion.**

C. Transfer Assessment from FU 164 to FU 243.1

1. The landowner wishes to transfer 4.81 acres of assessment under their control from FU 164 to FU 243.1.
2. This was done to support on-going irrigation practices and to balance an assessment imbalance as a result of those practices.
3. There will be no change in irrigation practice, nor irrigation coverage, nor a change in the total assessment.
4. **Review handout and address during Agenda portion.**

7) MONTHLY FINANCIALS & 2024 BUDGET

- A. The account receivables for March totaled \$31,474.
- B. Accounts payable for March totaled \$648,858 for the warrants as well as \$52,946 in salaries comprising two pay periods.
- C. Cash flow has improved with an infusion of Willow Creek Repair money, but it continues to be a concern given the lack of progress on the BLM ROWs.
- D. Updated Budget handout may be available.

8) GID VEHICLES & HEAVY EQUIPMENT

- A. Picked up our new 4x4 pickup and now our ditch rider fleet is complete. Financing at \$10k down and 0.9% interest over 36 months.
- B. The two new semi-tractors with 29-ton side dump trailers are expected to arrive in early April.
- C. Manager Juel had a minor bump thumper in the Federal Courthouse parking lot.
- D. On March 13th, had an accident with one of our dump trucks on Lower GSC project.



- E. Our 3-axle, lowboy transport trailer experienced a major breakdown in the spring support brackets. A long-term, permanent fix is unlikely. It has been fixed to provide limited service and to provide additional time to find a permanent solution. A new, replacement trailer will cost +/- \$100k.
- F. Needed to buy 8 tires for the crane. +/- \$10,000
- G. Ordered a job trailer from a builder in Belt. GID crews will finish the interior with lights and wiring.



9) PEARSON LAWSUIT

- A. Judge Whelan has decided favorably for GID and upheld the Human Rights Bureau's decision to dismiss Pearson's complaint.
- B. MACO informed GID that Plaintiff's attorney indicated to MACO that Pearson will not be filing any further appeals. MACO will wait some time before closing the file.
- C. Mr. Pearson filed another letter to the GID Board requesting changes to our Policies. To be discussed during the Board meeting.

10) WILLOW CREEK FEEDER CANAL & LAWSUIT

- A. Scheduling Order Set
 - 1. Hearing on MFSJ on laches for Troy's claims – April 4th, **(DONE)**
 - 2. GID's Expert Deposition – April 16th & 17th, 2024 **(CANCELLED)**
 - 3. Settlement Conference – August 14th, 2024, at Federal Courthouse
 - 4. Trial – November 4, 2024
- B. See copies of Plaintiff's Response to GID's MFSJ regarding the BOR's easement authority as well as the Government's response to Plaintiff's response and Plaintiff's corresponding counter motion.
- C. Will try and get our attorney to provide an update on this lawsuit during our next meeting.

11) HYDRO UPDATES

- A. General – Regarding GID's fight with NWE's intent to update the QF-1 Tariffs.
 - 1. Continue to address requests for additional information and clarification.
 - 2. **This 2-day hearing conflicts with GID's May Board meeting.**
- B. Arnold Coulee LOPP –
 - 1. ✓ **LOPP** – The Executed LOPP Agreement has been finalized and is done.
 - 2. **Transmission Design & Construction** – To date on the latest segment...
 - 3.8-miles of Segment #4 and the 1-mile, N-S leg of Seg. #5 are done.

- The remaining west to east segment (3.6 miles) of Segment #5 from Ken Morris' road to Hwy 289 is still under construction. As of today, only 2 poles left to erected at the Highway intersection. One mile of transmission conductor left to hang. Progress was halted for a couple of weeks as a landowner had objected to SREC's new utility and claimed a loss of property value. SREC attempted to evaluate an alternative route to address the landowner's concerns without success. Actual highway crossing is contingent on what MDT decides to do with road realignment at the intersection. Still hoping to be done with this segment by June.
3. **Transmission Easements** – Finally making progress on the BLM's ROWs (no jinx)
 - The BOR has signed a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) document. Rather than simply co-signing the FONSI statement, the BLM elected to post the proposed project description and ROW application on the Federal Register and allow Public Comment for 30 days.
 - The BLM website describing our project is located at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2027374/510>. I would encourage everyone to post a positive comment supporting the Project and the ROW applications.
 - The on-line description is quite favorable to GID and SREC and the BLM is actually recommending that a FONSI be applied to this project and ROW application. Public comment open till April 20th.
 - Hoping to have signing ceremony the week of April 22nd.
 - Brad with SREC is meeting with BLM officials in DC on the 22nd to express and share our experiences with BLM's process. I have provided comments and some talking points.
 - The switchyard site will be on State Trust lands 2.6 miles west of Jackson's Corner. This easement request has yet to be initiated.
 4. **BLM Site ROW** –
 - See comments above.
 5. **SREC Interconnection & Transmission Agreements** – Nothing new regarding this work. Waiting for easements before finalizing Agreements.
 6. **Power Purchase Agreement** – Negotiations with NWE are going slow. We have had side discussions with other power buyers.
 7. **Design Drawings** – Received a new version of the site drawings from Sorenson. The HPU is being fabricated. Also, the fabrication of the powerhouse controls (\$600k) is in progress. And had to initiate fabrication of the draft tube and inlet gates and seal embedments as they are needed in the early stages of the powerhouse foundation block.
 8. ✓ **Turbine-Generator Purchase** – Done.
 9. **WEEG WaterSmart Grant** – Submitted semi-annual performance and financial reports describing activities, or lack thereof, through 03/31/24.
 10. **INTERCAP Loan** – The Department of Commerce is holding off from processing the loan until the last BLM ROW has been finalized.
 11. **Construction** – Site construction is scheduled to begin on the 22nd.

C. Pishkun Inlet Hydro – **NEPA and NHPA are the critical paths.**

1. **Funding** – Nothing new.
 - Still working on the prelim. loan requirements for the \$5 million BIL loan guarantee through USBR’s Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) program.
 - Both the WEEG grant and the BIL loan include “Buy America” requirements. **Reclamation/DOI granted BABA exemption for hydropower machinery.**
2. **LOPP** – Reclamation to initiate the Final LOPP for this site after Arnold Coulee kicks loose. This includes the NEPA and NHPA process.
3. **Transmission Easements** – **Have not started this task.**
 - Working on Mr. Morris’ easements across his land along the PSC.
4. **Transmission Design & Construction** – **Have not started this task.**
5. **Power Purchase Agreement** – **Have not started this task.**
6. **Design Drawings** – **Have not started this task.**
7. **Turbine-Generator Purchase** – Completed the RFP evaluation from 5 turbine suppliers, 2 Canadian, 2 German, and 1 Czech Republic. None are made in America. The Canadian Hydro proposal has the highest percentage of American-made components, and their proposal was also the most cost-effective. RFP also looked at the turbines for Johnson Drop and A-Drop, but a commitment has not been made.

D. Johnson Drop – **Nothing new.**

1. **Funding** –
 - WaterSmart WEEG – Part of the \$4.3 million grant would address finishing Johnson Drop.
2. **LOPP** – Need to send a request to Reclamation to initiate the permitting process for this site.

E. A-Drop – **Nothing new.**

1. **Funding** –
 - WaterSmart WEEG – Part of the \$4.3 million grant would address reconfiguring A-Drop for future hydro.
2. **LOPP** – Need to send a request to Reclamation to initiate the permitting process for this site.

F. Gibson Hydro –

1. Another developer has expressed interest in partnering with GID on the Gibson Dam Hydro. Sent me some background info and would like to visit sometime in May or June.

12) GID INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS- Current or Planned

A. Hwy 89 Ditch Crossings

1. **Nothing new.**

B. Willow Creek Spillway Repair –

1. The new truck & trailer combos are still not here. Trailers are in Great Falls, but the tractors are still on the east coast. Hopefully will be here in a couple of weeks.
2. A visit to the quarries and to the spillway was conducted with Reclamation staff. Collected samples and submitted them to the lab for testing.
3. Moved equipment to Willow Creek Reservoir and started the earthwork and roadwork.



C. Sun River Bridge Replacement –

1. Projected Schedule

- Geotechnical drilling to start April 15th.
- Review – March 28th in Augusta, **DONE**
- 90% Plans Milestone – July 2024
- Final Design & Advertise – Fall 2024
- Construction 2025 and 2026

2. The PSC, in its present condition, may prove to be a limitation to bringing in girders to the east side. FHWA is evaluating.

3. Status of Old Bridge -Nothing New

D. SRS 71 Check Replacement and Reregulation, Phase 1 – SRS-71 Headworks

1. Everything is done except Project close out.



- E. SRS 71 Check Replacement and Reregulation, Phase 2– SRS Main Check
 - 1. Submitting the grant application in May.
- F. Tunnel #3 Roof Collapse –
 - 1. Engineer submitted final review set of drawings.
 - 2. Again, GID was awarded a \$11.6 million guarantee through Reclamation’s Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) funding program & a \$500K ARPA grant.
 - 3. Reviewed the Draft Repayment Contract
 - 4. Strategy-
 - i. Complete final design and finalize environmental compliance documents for Phase 1 construction.
 - ii. Procure materials and solicit by next summer Contractor.
 - iii. Award contract so contractor is ready to roll when PSC shuts off.
 - iv. 1st Phase of Construction to start August 2024.
 - v. Use the ARPA grant & then finalize BIL loan over the next 9 months.
- G. Phase III J-Waste Way Facility, Spring Coulee Headworks –
 - 1. Phase 3 is the confining berms, SCDA, and the re-regulation pond controls. We will submit a \$125K RRGL grant application in May to help with GID’s matching requirements for the SRWG’s WaterSmart Grant.
- H. Lower GSC Rehabilitation –
 - 1. Finished tying in the existing ditch to the new structure.
 - 2. Project is essentially done except Project closeout.



13) TITLE TRANSFER

- A. **Nothing new.** Received the draft MOU and agreement from USBR to move forward. Have not had a chance to review.

14) MISC GID O&M PROJECTS

- A. Numerous Producer projects being requested before the water season.
- B. Eric will provide a verbal update if he’s here.

15) GID GRAZING LEASE PROGRAM

- A. Nothing new

16) DISTRICT MODERIZATION EFFORT WITH FCA

- A. Continuing with weekly meetings with FCA.
- B. Working on a pressurized district study for the Ashuelot Bench with a re-regulation pond above the first drop.
- C. Now pursuing DNRC and WaterSmart planning grants to replace and modernize the Mary Taylor facility.
- D. Will schedule a work session in early June to develop modernization strategies.

17) MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Next round of GID Scholarships to consider
- B. Still no update on the historic Muddy Creek gravel pit closeout. GID received a notification of violation from the MT DEQ. Sent an update to DEQ.

18) SHORT-TERM TO DO LIST – APRIL

- Finalize BLM approval for site ROW and transmission line ROW for Arnold Coulee.
- Finalize the DOC-BOI INTERCAP Loan.
- Closeout SRS-71 Headworks project.
- Start construction on April 22nd.
- Order pipe for tailrace channel underpass.

19) LONG-TERM TO DO LIST – MAY & ON

- Need to find ways to reduce our insurance costs.
- Finalize a Systems Improvement Plan (SIP) with FCA
- Submit RRG Applications for J-Waste Way, Phase 3 and SRS Check, Phase 2

NEXT GID BOARD MEETING MAY 14th @ 6PM?????????

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