

Greenfields

IRRIGATION DISTRICT



On Tuesday March 12th, 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, Commissioners Chase Brady, Dave Gulick and Pat Brosten. Vice President Bill Norris was absent. 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 and Advisory Board Member Michael Konen were also present. Water user Mike Morris, along with Collin Moore were in attendance, as well.

The meeting was called to order by President Brunner.

Approve Meeting Minutes and Monthly Warrants: The first item of business was to approve the minutes from the February 13th Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Brosten made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Brady seconded the motion. All in favor and minutes were approved. The Warrants List was then reviewed. Manager Juel gave a brief explanation that the warrant to Uda Law firm was for several months of work on the litigation with NWE and that the BAT Electric warrant was for about ¼ of the remaining balance with 3 more substantial payments to follow. Commissioner Brady moved to approve the warrants list and Commissioner Brosten seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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. Snowpack levels are at 64% of normal. We have seen a slight increase in inflows from Gibson. The National Climate Prediction Center is now predicting well-above normal temps and slightly below normal precipitation for March through May, with June through August predicted to be above normal temps and well below normal precipitation. Willow Creek and Pishkun are at normal winter levels. Reclamation provided a projection for this water season with historical and current conditions, page 4 of the M.R. At next month's Board Meeting we will look at setting an allotment and by May 1st we will be deciding if half price water will be available this season. Manager Juel will begin drafting a generic letter that can be provided to those water users who are looking at preventative planting due to lack of water.

Water Rights: We received acknowledgement from BOR regarding GID's resolution to adjust a portion of its legal boundaries as it pertains to FU 599.1. Our water rights attorney has prepared a petition for the water court to affect this change. See the M.R. for further details.

GID Staff Updates: Management hired the last ditchrider, Richard Hart and he will start next Monday. There will be no Commissioner Election this year, as Pat and Chase were unopposed. FSID and Cascade County Elections Commissioner are involved in a lawsuit over technicalities with their latest election. Office Manager Gulick is working with the Teton County Elections Commissioner to ensure that we are handling the election process correctly to comply with Montana's newly adopted regulations.

GIS Mapping, Plats, Database & Certification Updates: Jenny and Nancy are working to get ready for this year's irrigation certification process.

Farm Unit Operations: The landowner of FU 510.3 and FU 510 has requested to reconfigure the farm units, as a portion of FU 510.3 has been sold. A handout has been provided and it will be addressed during the Agenda portion of the meeting.

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

Office Improvements & General Administration: The GID Annual Water Users Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th at noon. The office management will continue to explore other insurance possibilities as the renewal date gets closer.

GID Vehicles & Heavy Equipment: 2 new semi-tractors with 29-ton dump trailers are expected to arrive in early April. We are still looking to buy a good, used 4x4 pickup to complete the ditch rider fleet.

Pearson Lawsuit: We still have not heard anything back from the judge on the ruling. We have received a response from our legal counsel regarding the letter that Spencer dropped off last month requesting more clarification regarding the 960-acre limitation policy, to be discussed further during an executive session meeting directly following tonight's meeting.

Willow Creek Feeder Canal Maintenance & Lawsuit: See the M.R. for the scheduling of events pertaining to this lawsuit. A handout has been provided with plaintiff's response to GID's MFSJ regarding the BOR's easement authority.

Hydro Updates: General: Manager Juel has provided written, pre-filed testimony regarding GID's stance against NWE's intent to update the QF-1 tariffs. The 2-day hearing will be on May 14th and 15th. NWE is financially obligated to take our energy produced. Arnold Coulee LOPP: The Executed LOPP Agreement has been finalized. Transmission Design & Construction: See the M.R. for progress. Construction will take around 1 ½ to 2 years to complete once begun, hopefully this summer by our crew. Transmission Easements: We are still waiting for a go-ahead from BLM. Per GID's request, the Arnold Coulee and Pishkun Inlet sites were decoupled and the NEPA and NHPA compliance documents will now only address the Arnold Coulee site. There are two possible routes for the transmission lines, but SREC will make the final decision which to pursue. Pishkun Inlet Hydro: Both the WEEG grant and the BIL loan include "Buy America" requirements. Reclamation/DOI granted BABA exemption for hydropower machinery. Gibson Hydro: Another developer has expressed interest in partnering with GID on the Gibson Dam hydro project., as a financing partner. Manager Juel will meet with them in May or June. See the M.R. for further details.,

GID Infrastructure Projects: For Current and Planned, see the M.R. Willow Creek Spillway Repair: Reclamation deposited funds with GID to perform the 1st phase of the Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM). GID and FSID will perform the work. A meeting has been set with Reclamation tomorrow to visit the quarries and the spillway where the work will take place. We will get started on the work once the ground thaws. Sun River Bridge Replacement: There was an Environmental Assessment Open House on 2/28, which only 2 people attended. The Little Shell Tribe has claimed that burial grounds lie among the alignment. FHWA is having Blackfeet tribe investigate the claim. Status of the Old Bridge- BOR is petitioning their liaison in D.C. to have it removed. SRS 71 Check: Shad Beck and the electrician will meet tomorrow to reconnect the

power to the existing check structure. Tunnel #3: We are still working on final design and finalizing the environmental compliance documents for Phase I construction. A trial section will begin to be worked on as soon as the PSC shuts off for the season. We are hopeful to get a lot of work accomplished from then until October. Lower GSC: 20 sticks of pipe were laid today.

Title Transfer: Nothing new to report. We have received a draft MOU and agreement from the USBR to move forward.

GID O&M Projects: O&M Foreman Mayer provided a brief update. He informed the Board that he had contracted 12,000 gallons of gas at \$2.85/gallon and 8,000 gallons of diesel at \$3.14/gallon.

GID Grazing Lease Program: Board to review bid results for the two pastures that were given up, Pasture #53 and Pasture #50, handout provided. Board to address topic during the Agenda portion of the meeting.

FCA Efforts to Modernize GID Infrastructure: The FCA is currently working on a pressurized district study for the Ashuelot Bench with a re-regulation pond above the first drop. We are now pursuing DNRC and WaterSmart planning grants to replace and modernize the Mary Taylor facility. Manager Juel will schedule a work session with the FCA 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 review and approve the 2 top grazing lease bids, handout provided. There were no issues and Commissioner Brady moved to approve the new leases and Commissioner Brosten seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Office Manager Gulick will send out the new leases to be signed, along with invoices for the 2024 payment.
- 2) Boundary line adjustment request on FUs 510 and 510.3 by Kaare Pearson was then reviewed, handout provided. The Board found no issues and Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the request with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All in favor and the motion passed.
- 3) Board FYI that landowner of FU 609 has requested to put in a sump on FU 608, Ditch 100-29-4, with an easement secured with the new landowner, see handout. Water Master Lettengarver gave a brief overview.

Public Comment: President Brunner informed the Board that his new neighbor had put in a fence on GID's easement right above two buried pipelines. O&M Foreman Mayer will have a crew member go look at it. Tracy with SRWG gave the Board a brief update on upcoming events scheduled, handout provided. There will be a Water Management meeting held on 4/18 at 10 a.m., where a drought prediction will be given. SRWG was awarded a \$55K community ponds grant from FWP to do work at Wadsworth Pond. Next Wednesday there will be a Water Quality group Zoom meeting at 2 p.m. A biennial tour is planned for September and a Bear Aware workshop on May 16th. Tracy will be requesting the usual Spring donation that GID contributes at next month's meeting.

Commissioner Brosten moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 7:12 P.M.



Board President



Board Secretary

Board Action Recap:

- 1) Board voted to approve the two top bids for the two returned grazing pasture leases.
- 2) Board voted to approve the boundary line adjustment request on FUs 510 and 510.3.



AGENDA FOR: Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday March 12th 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: February 13th Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

PARTIES PRESENTING: None.

CONTRACTS TO EXECUTE: None.

MANAGER'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1) Review and approve the 2 top rebids for Pastures #50 and #53, see handout provided.
- 2) Boundary line adjustment for Kaare Pearson on FUs 510 and 510.3, see handout.
- 3) Board FYI landowner of FU 609 requesting to put a sump in 100-29-4 on FU 608 with new easement secured with new landowner, see handout provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- SRWG, Tracy Wendt, handout provided.

3:26 PM

03/07/24

Accrual Basis

GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Monthly Warrant List

February 2024

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Feb 24				
02/01/2024	36025	Great Falls Chamber of Commerce	membership dues	-375.00
02/05/2024	36026	Montana Rebar, LLC	Lower GSC	-3,224.65
02/07/2024	36070	Gary Kasper & Company, Inc.	accounting- DEC.	-1,295.00
02/08/2024	36076	TB - 941	81-6001490	-7,298.10
02/08/2024	36077	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-820.00
02/08/2024	36078	TB - MPERA	retirement	-5,839.16
02/20/2024	36079	Bat Electric, Inc.	invoice #7172 Arnold Coulee	-121,980.00
02/20/2024	36080	US Postal Service	stamps	-13.60
02/20/2024	36081	Ethnoscience, Inc	Pishkun Inlet and Tunnel #3	-5,884.18
02/20/2024	36082	Montana Legislative Services Division	MCA Title 85	-20.00
02/20/2024	36083	US Postal Service	postage to overnight check	-30.45
02/21/2024	36084	TB - 941	81-6001490	-7,506.02
02/21/2024	36085	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-856.00
02/21/2024	36086	TB - MPERA	retirement	-6,071.52
02/21/2024	36087	Michelle Lauver-	cleaning supplies	-42.96
02/21/2024	36106	Jon's Automotive	#4 Dam Tender truck front end	-5,669.03
02/29/2024	36138	Aflac	insurance	-106.20
02/29/2024	36139	Teamster's Local #2	union dues	-902.00
02/29/2024	36140	Western Conference of Teamsters Pension	pension	-2,184.00
02/29/2024	36141	3 Rivers Communication	phone and internet	-623.60
02/29/2024	36142	B.A. Fischer Sales Co., LLC	gates, Lower GSC Pipeline	-3,843.54
02/29/2024	36143	Breen Oil and Tire Company	propane	-514.45
02/29/2024	36144	Choteau Acantha	ad	-225.00
02/29/2024	36145	Cintas First Aid & Safety	first aid	-116.47
02/29/2024	36146	FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY HALL	dues	-10.00
02/29/2024	36147	Fairfield Drug, Inc	office supply	-6.64
02/29/2024	36148	Fairfield Sun Times	ads	-412.75
02/29/2024	36149	Fastenal Company	repairs	-190.84
02/29/2024	36150	General Distributing Co	welding	-297.20
02/29/2024	36151	I State Truck Center	repair	-16.04
02/29/2024	36152	K's Auto Parts	repairs	-28.07
02/29/2024	36153	K's Auto Parts - Choteau	repairs	-203.85
02/29/2024	36154	KS Statebank- Govt. Finance Dept.	Volvo Excavator	-54,387.02
02/29/2024	36155	Macon Supply, Inc	Lower GSC	-34.05
02/29/2024	36156	MCI	long distance	-0.43
02/29/2024	36157	MDS Supply	shop supplies	-526.42
02/29/2024	36158	Mountain View Co-Op	gas/diesel/repairs	-19,606.89
02/29/2024	36159	National Laundry	rugs/shop supply	-131.28

3:26 PM

03/07/24


Accrual Basis


GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT Monthly Warrant List February 2024

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
02/29/2024	36160	North 40	repairs	-69.98
02/29/2024	36161	Northwest Media	website domain	-25.00
02/29/2024	36162	NorthWestern Energy	utilities	-1,673.53
02/29/2024	36163	Pacific Steel	repairs	-341.42
02/29/2024	36164	R&L Eagle Grocery	office/shop supplies	-47.85
02/29/2024	36165	Republic Services	garbage	-139.15
02/29/2024	36166	Rubicon Systems America, Inc	shop supplies/contracting	-4,500.00
02/29/2024	36167	Sun River Electric, Co-Op	Arnold Coulee	-68,797.18
02/29/2024	36168	Town of Fairfield	utilities	-108.00
02/29/2024	36169	Tractor & Equipment, Co	repairs	-573.94
02/29/2024	36170	True Value	shop supplies	-52.72
02/29/2024	36171	Uda Law Firm	legal counsel/Arnold Coulee	-14,415.75
02/29/2024	36172	Victory Insurance Company	WC100-0010152-2023A	-2,630.00
02/29/2024	36173	Visa	phone/office/repair/travel/gas/tires/misc	-2,966.24
02/29/2024	36174	MT Teamsters Employers Trust	health insurance	-21,720.00
Feb 24				-369,353.17

Recap of February 2024 warrants:

Regular warrants	\$369,353.17
February 2024 payroll	\$ 51,090.53
Total	\$420,443.70

Approved by  Date _____
 President

Submitted by  Date _____
 Bookkeeper

GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
A/R - Itemized Sales Report for Board
 February 2024

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Name	Amount
Service					
MISC					
Invoice	02/01/2024	240303		Montana Department of FWP	135.00
					135.00
Total MISC					
NONGRZ (NON- GRAZING LEASE AGREEMENT)					
Invoice	02/01/2024	240103	NON- GRAZING LEASE AGREEMENT- Due 3/1/24	SUN RIVER ELECTRIC CO-...	110.00
Invoice	02/01/2024	240104	NON- GRAZING LEASE AGREEMENT- Due 3/1/24	MT FWP -Freezeout	300.00
Invoice	02/01/2024	240105	NON- GRAZING LEASE AGREEMENT- Due 3/1/24	Sun Canyon Lodge Outfitting	500.00
					910.00
Total NONGRZ (NON- GRAZING LEASE AGREEMENT)					
					1,045.00
Total Service					
Other Charges					
Fin Chg (Finance Charges on Overdue Balance)					
Invoice	02/29/2024	FC 3664	Finance Charges on Overdue Balance	FELLERS, SONNY	39.09
					39.09
Total Fin Chg (Finance Charges on Overdue Balance)					
					39.09
Total Other Charges					
					39.09
TOTAL					
					1,084.09

To: GID Commissioners
Jenny Gulick, GID Board Secretary

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

Subject: Manager's Report 03/12/24

1) RESERVOIR & RIVER OPERATIONS AND PROJECTIONS AS OF 03/12/24

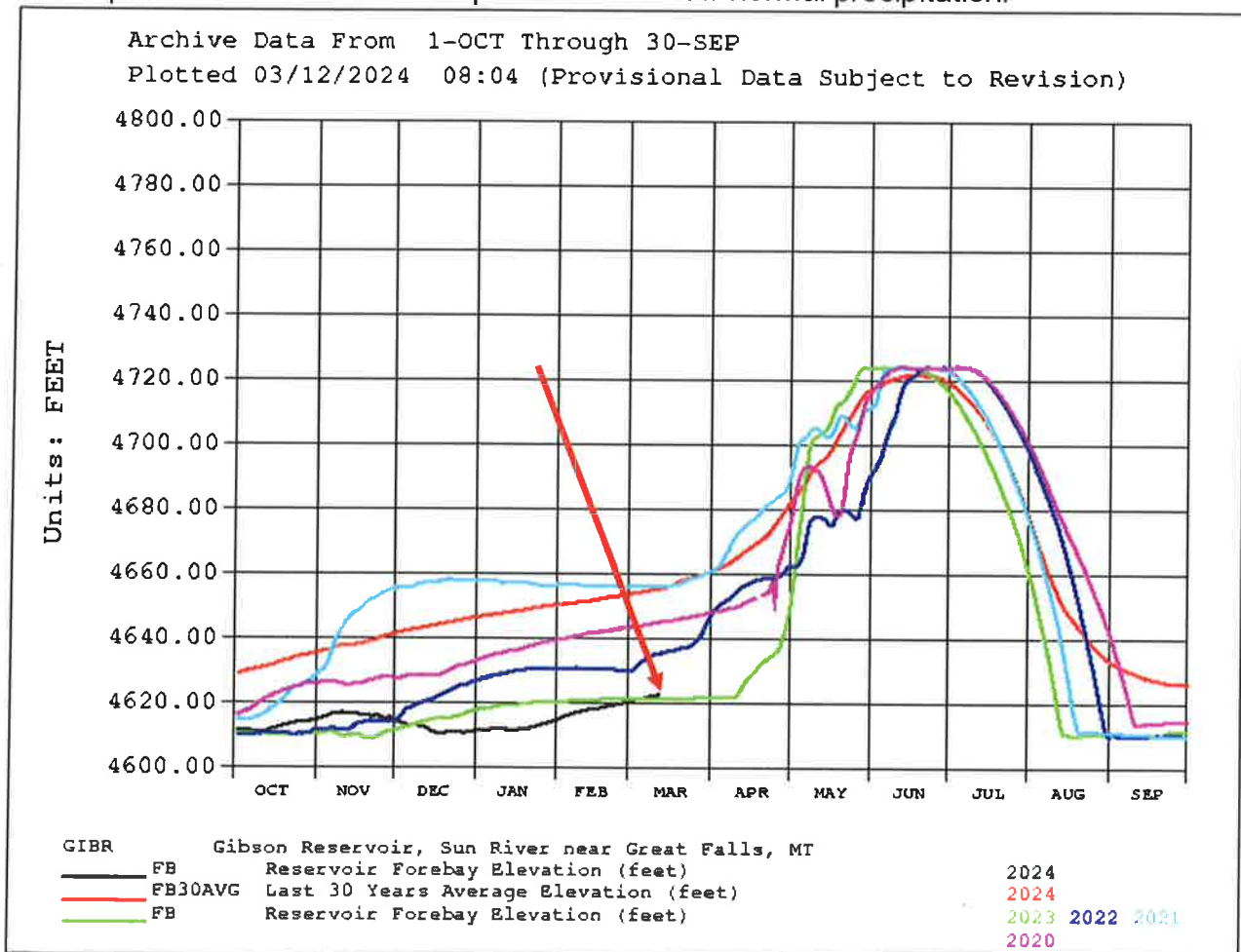
A. Reservoir operations and levels over the last 5 days were:

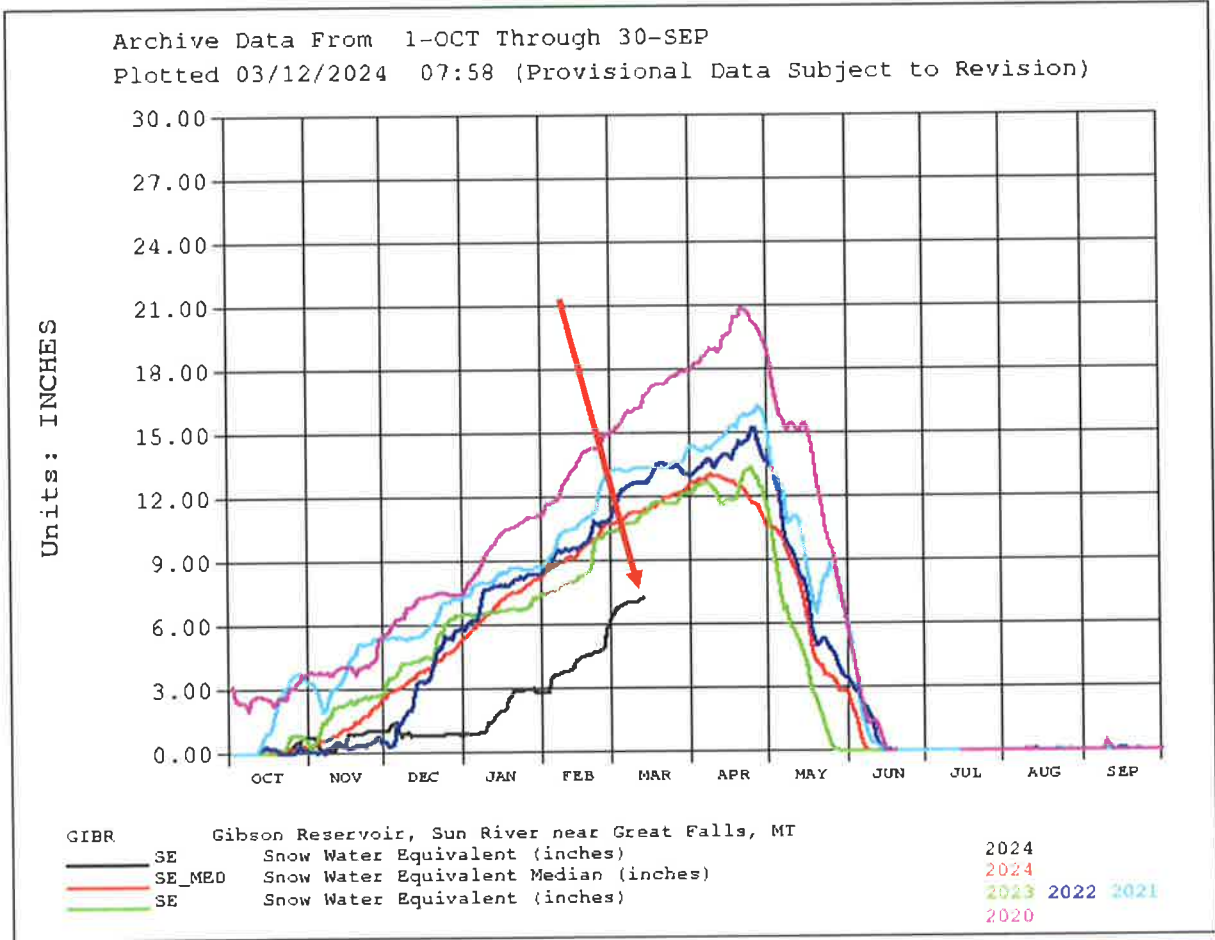
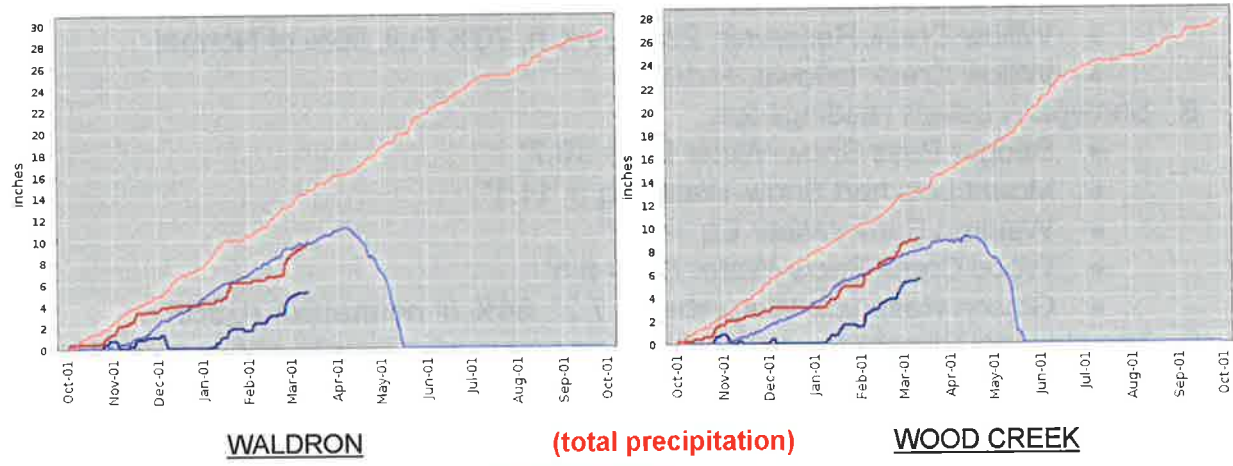
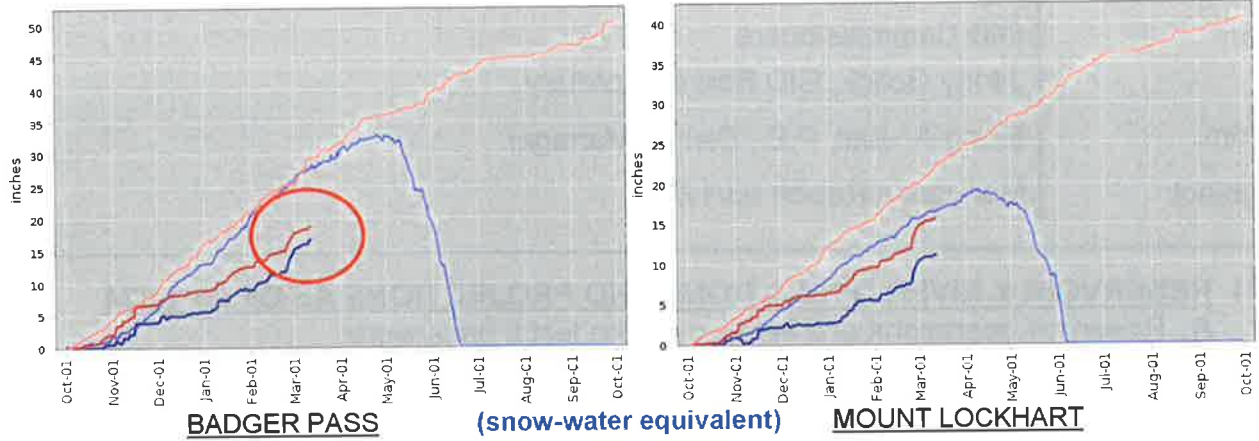
- Gibson Res: 10,600 Ac-ft, 36% Full & 11% of Normal
- Gibson Inflows: varying from 120 to 130 cfs, 72% to 76% of Normal.
- Gibson Outflows: +/-88 cfs,
- Willow Creek Reservoir: 22,350 Ac-ft, 70% Full, 96% of Normal
- Willow Creek Inflows: +/-10 cfs

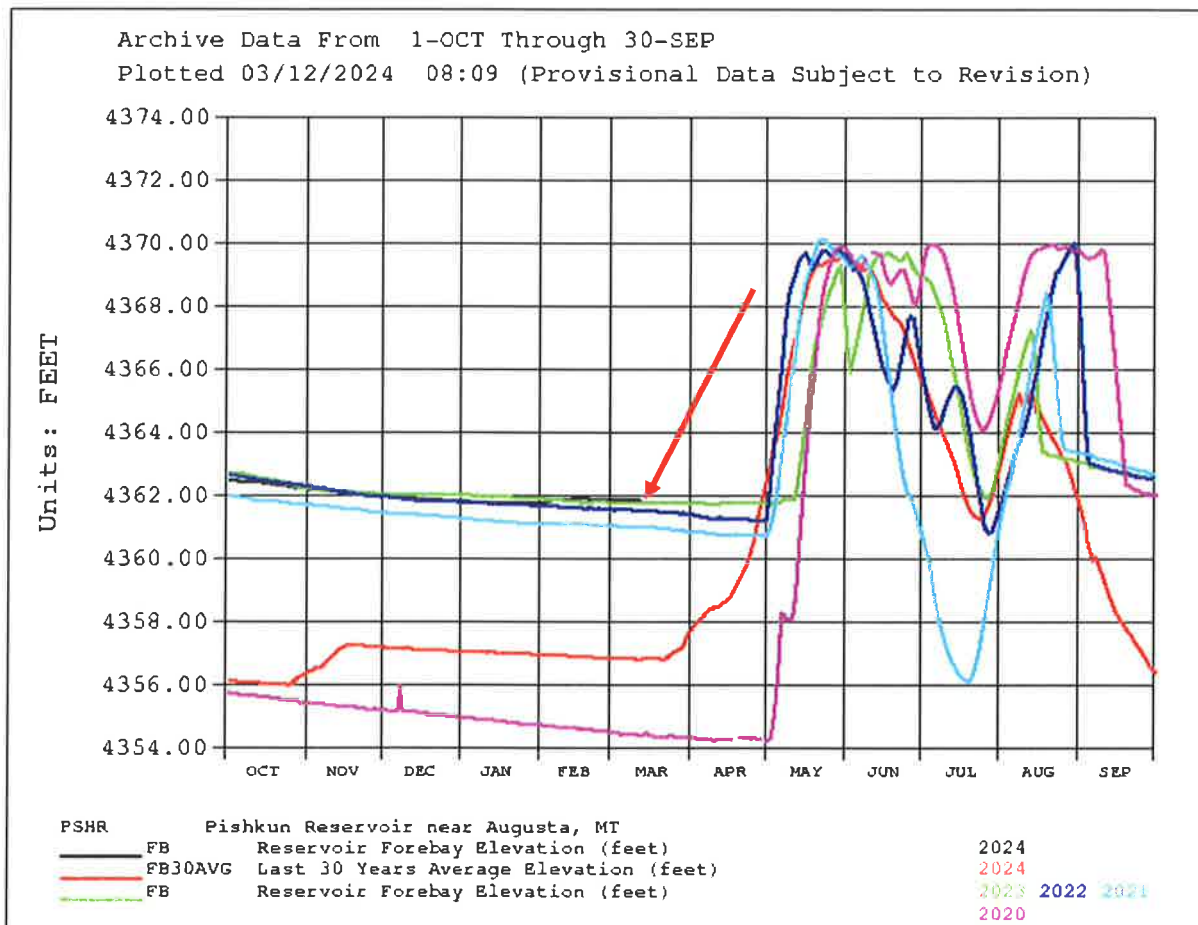
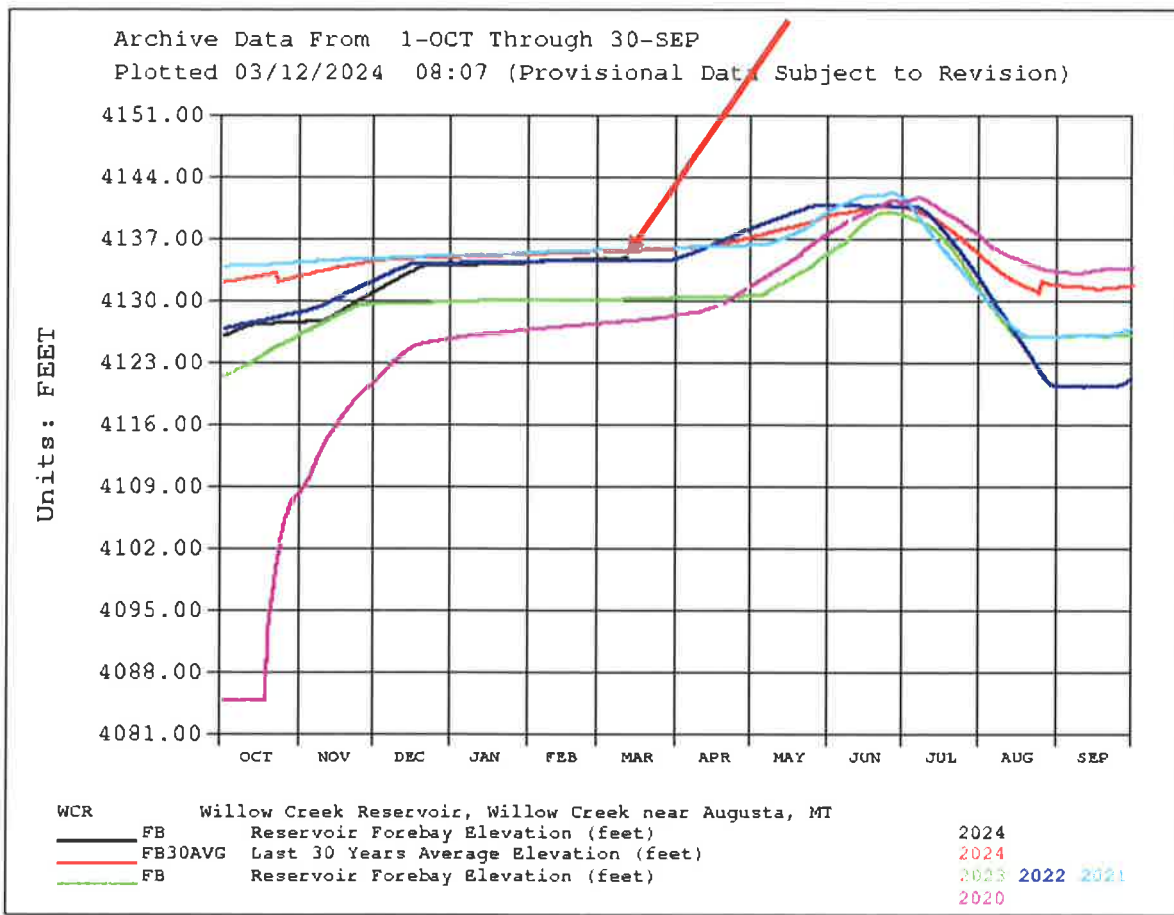
B. Snowpack Levels readings are:

- Badger Pass Snow-Water Eq. = 16.7"
- Mount Lockhart Snow-Water Eq. = 11.1"
- Waldron Snow-Water Eq. = 5.2"
- Wood Creek Snow-Water Eq. = 5.5"
- Gibson Reservoir Watershed = 7.2", 64% of normal per (USBR)

C. The National Climate Prediction Center is now predicting well-above normal temps and slightly below normal precipitation for March through May. June to August is predicted to be above temps and well below normal precipitation.

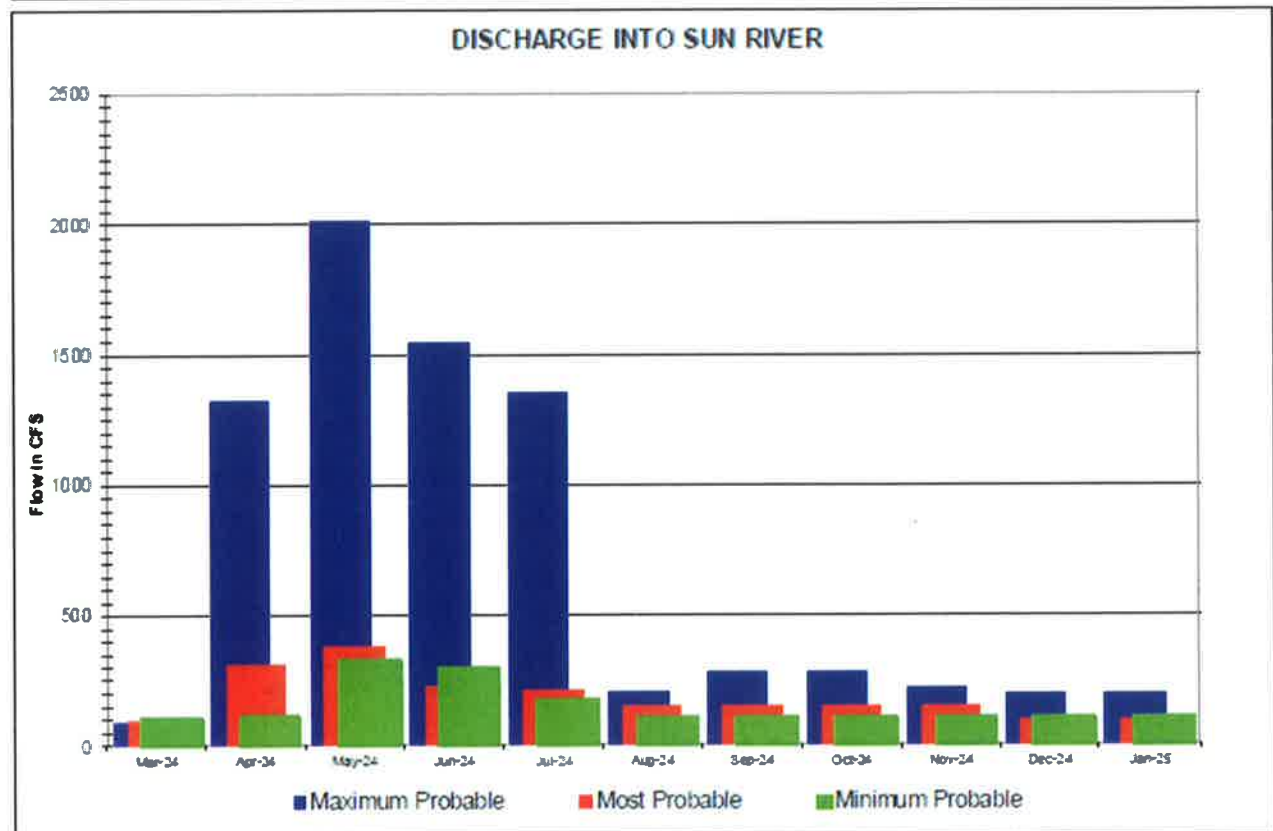
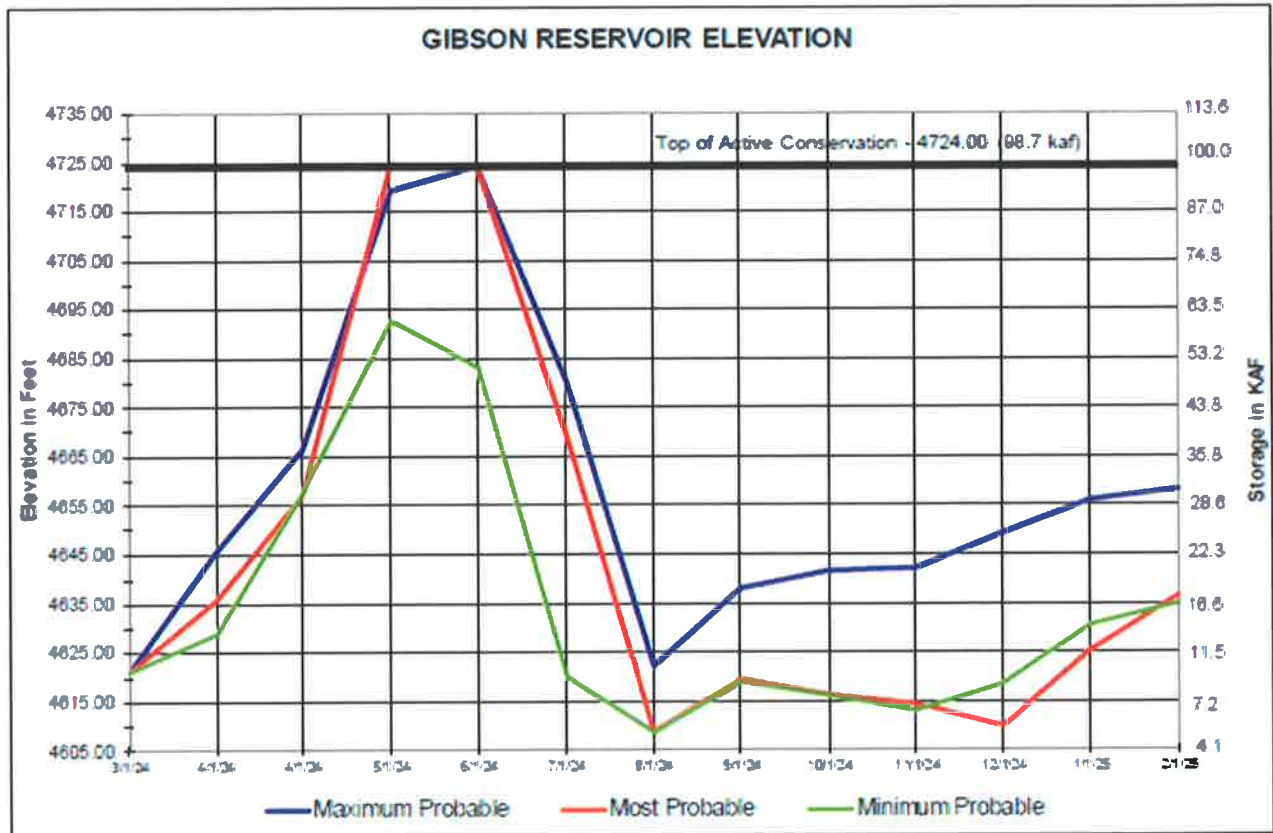






D. In summary.....

1. All reservoirs are at normal levels except Gibson, albeit Gibson level is ahead of last year.
2. Snow pack is still severely lags behind the 30-year average to date.



2) GID WATER RIGHT ISSUES

- A. Received acknowledgement from BOR regarding GID's resolution to adjust a portion of GID's legal boundaries as it pertains to FU 599.1 to reflect our historic and water right boundaries. Our water rights attorney has prepared a petition for the water court to affect this change.
- B. 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.
- C. Still working with the Broken O to reorganize their GID assessments within the District.

3) STAFF UPDATES

- A. Hired a new ditch rider, Richard Hart, and he will start Monday, March 18th.
- B. Still need to hire a couple of weed sprayers.
- C. No Commissioner elections this year.

4) OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- A. Hoping to revisit with potential insurance agents to see if there are additional ways to reduce our premium.
- B. GID's Annual Water Users Meeting will be tomorrow March 19th at noon at the Fairfield Community Center.
- 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.

6) FARM UNIT OPERATIONS

A. Request to Reconfigure FUs 510 and 510.3

- 1. The landowner of FU 510.3 sold a portion of that FU to the adjoining landowner of FU 510. FU 510 increased in size commensurate with the decrease in size to FU 510.3. This was accomplished with a legal Boundary Line adjustment.
- 2. This was done to support on-going pivot irrigation.
- 3. Other than a change in ownership and the FU reconfiguration, there will be no change in irrigation practice, nor irrigation coverage.
- 4. **Review handout and address during Agenda portion.**

7) MONTHLY FINANCIALS & 2024 BUDGET

- A. The account receivables for February totaled \$1,084.
- B. Accounts payable for February totaled \$420,444 for the warrants as well as \$51,091 in salaries comprising two pay periods.
- C. Cash flow continues to be a concern given the lack of progress on the BLM ROWs.
- D. Updated Budget handout.

8) GID VEHICLES & HEAVY EQUIPMENT

- A. Still looking for a good, used pickup, possibly a 4x4 pickup, to complete the ditch rider fleet.
- B. The two new semi-tractors with 29-ton side dump trailers are expected to arrive in early April.

9) PEARSON LAWSUIT

- A. Still no decision from Judge Wheian regarding the January judicial review hearing.
- B. Plaintiff dropped-off a letter last month requesting more information about the 960-acre limitation policy. I forwarded it to our legal counsel for their input prior to preparing a response for Mr. Pearson. We can discuss the response in Executive Session.

10) WILLOW CREEK FEEDER CANAL & LAWSUIT

- A. Scheduling Order Set
 1. Defendants' Expert and Liability Disclosures (**DONE**)
 2. Plaintiff's Expert and Liability Disclosures (**DONE**)
 3. Plaintiff's Expert Deposition – March 29th, 2024
 4. Hearing on MFSJ on laches for Troy's claims – April 4th, 2024, at 1:30pm
 5. GID's Expert Deposition – April 16th & 17th, 2024
 6. Trial – November 4, 2024
- B. See copies of Plaintiff's Response to GID's MFSJ regarding the BOR's easement authority.

11) HYDRO UPDATES

- A. General – Regarding GID's fight with NWE's intent to update the QF-1 Tariffs.
 1. I have provided written (pre-filed) testimony which is what I will say in front of the PSC and NWE's attorneys May 14th & 15th. Also, I had to provide responses to questions from the PSC's and NorthWestern Energy's respective legal councils. **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 now under construction. As of today, approximately 2.5 miles of poles have been erected. The transmission conductor been installed on the first two miles. Started erecting the remaining 1.6 miles of pre-framed poles. Hoping to be done wiith this segment by June.
 3. **Transmission Easements** – Making progress on the BLM ROWs??
 - The BLM biologist met with SREC personnel on March 8th to review SREC's proposed mitigation plan. BLM stated that the losses (impacts) are balanced by the proposed gains (mitigation). Nothing else definitive.
 - Per GID's request, the Arnold Coulee and Pishkun Inlet sites were decoupled and the NEPA and NHPA compliance documents will now only address the Arnold Coulee site. Following a March 7th on-site meeting to review the SREC's proposed alignment, the Little Shell Tribal has issued a concurrence letter for the project.
 - Official copies of the State easements across State Trust Lands for Arnold Coulee leg have been received by GID.
 - 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** –
 - BLM has everything needed to process GID's facility site ROW request. Reportedly, BLM is finalizing the paperwork.
 5. **SREC Interconnection & Transmission Agreements** – Nothing new regarding this work. Waiting for easements before finalizing Agreements.
 6. **Power Purchase Agreement** – Negotiations with NWE are one-sided because essentially NWE does not want to buy our power.
 7. **Design Drawings** – Received a new version of the site drawings from Sorenson. The HPU design has been finalized. The fabrication of the powerhouse controls (\$600k) is in progress.
 8. ✓ **Turbine-Generator Purchase** – Done.
 9. **WEEG WaterSmart Grant** – Nothing new. Next quarterly report is due on 03/31/24. The financial portion of the grant is basically done as we have exhausted the \$2 Million grant allotment as well as satisfied GID's \$2 Million minimum match requirement.
 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 pending approval of BLM's ROW.
- C. Pishkun Inlet Hydro – **NEPA and NHPA are the critical path.**
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 the US. Canadian Hydro has the most American-made components, and their proposal was the most cost-effective. RFP looked at the Johnson Drop and A-Drop turbines.
- 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.**
2. **Funding** –
 - WaterSmart WEEG – Part of the \$4.3 million grant would address reconfiguring A-Drop for future hydro.
 3. **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.
 2. Show video with the Board.

12) GID INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS- Current or Planned

- A. Hwy 89 Ditch Crossings
1. **Nothing new.**
- B. Willow Creek Spillway Repair –
1. Reclamation deposited funds with GID to perform the 1st phase of the Willow Creek Emergency Spillway Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM). GID and FSID will both perform the work.
 2. The new truck & trailer combos are scheduled to be here by the 1st of April.
 3. A meeting has been set up with Reclamation Wednesday (tomorrow) to go visit the quarries and to visit the spillway where the work will occur.
 4. We can get started once the ground thaws.
- C. Sun River Bridge Replacement –
1. Projected Schedule
 - Environmental Assessment open house was held in Augusta on Feb. 28th from 3:30 to 5:30. Only 2 people showed up.
 - Geotechnical drilling to take place in April 2024
 - 70% Plan Review – March 28th in Augusta, all day
 - 90% Plans Milestone – July 2024
 - Final Design & Advertise – Fall 2024
 - Construction 2025 and 2026
 2. Apparently the Little Shell Tribe has now made the claim that ancient burial grounds lie along the alignment of the new bridge and approach roads. FHWA is going to have the Blackfeet investigate.
 3. Status of Old Bridge
 - SHPO rejected BOR's request for removal from the eligibility list.
 - BOR is petitioning their liaison in DC to have it removed.
- D. SRS 71 Check Replacement and Reregulation, Phase 1–
1. Everything is done except for installation of the new Smart gate and reconnecting the power to the existing check structure.
 2. Working off the \$125K DNRC grant received to do this work.
- E. Tunnel #3 Roof Collapse –
1. Engineer making edits to address BOR's comments.
 2. Again, GID was awarded a \$11.6 million guarantee through Reclamation's Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) funding program & a \$500K ARPA grant.
 3. 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.



F. 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.

G. Lower GSC Rehabilitation –

1. Removed the old concrete ditch and started laying new pipe.
2. Working off the \$75,000 WaterSmart grant.

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. Eric will provide a verbal update if he's here.

15) GID GRAZING LEASE PROGRAM

- A. Need to review bid results for two pastures have been given up.
1. Pasture #53, 50 AMUs @ \$15/AUM (F. Ginther)
 2. Pasture #58, 20 AUMs @ \$75/AUM (T. McWilliams)

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. 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.
- Make progress on the Lower GSC ditch to pipeline project.
- 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 APRIL 9th @ 6PM

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