

# Greenfields

## IRRIGATION DISTRICT

On Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 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, John Wipf with FSID and GID's Range Rider, Ron Wilson, were all present. Along with GID Advisory Board member, Chris Ostberg and GID's Attorney, Steph Oblander. Water Users Bill Pearson, Spencer and Hillary Pearson, Holten Pearson and Mike Morris were there, as well.

The meeting was called to order by President Brunner at 6:08 P.M. The first item of business was to reorganize the Board, so Manager Juel took control of the meeting briefly. The Board was to designate a President and Commissioner Gulick moved to have Tim Brunner remain the President with Commissioner Brosten seconding the motion. All in favor and the motion carried. It was then asked to assign a Vice President to the Board and Commissioner Brosten made a motion to have Bill Norris remain as VP, with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All in favor and the motion carried. Next a Board Secretary needed to be assigned. Commissioner Brosten moved to keep Jenny Gulick in the position and VP Norris seconded. All in favor and the motion passed. The meeting was then turned back over to President Brunner.

**Approve Meeting Minutes and Monthly Warrants:** The next item of business was to approve the minutes from the April 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting and Special Meeting Minutes. There were no discrepancies found and Commissioner Brosten made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Gulick seconded the motion. All in favor and minutes of both meetings were approved. The Warrants List was then reviewed. There was a brief explanation by Manager Juel that the warrant to USGS for the stream flow is GID's annual contribution to the Muddy Creek gauge. Commissioner Brosten 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 present to address his issues. First, he wanted to inform the Board he had put in 3 new corner pivots and Nancy had provided exhibits. Spencer gave a brief overview of the operations of each pivot. Next, he wanted to address the questions that he has with Manager Juel's letters sent on April 18<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>. He asked that the Board confirm that they were in support of the facts presented by Juel in both letters and would like to see a motion confirming their support. Manager Juel asked that he provide this request for such a motion in writing for the record. He then went on to ask if it is possible for Hilary and himself to prove their legal separation and independence from each other, and if so, will the Board define the possible solutions and criteria for them to do so. The Board then informed Pearson that the responsibility to prove independence is solely his and they would not be responsible for providing him with a road map, as they are uninformed of their intended operations going forward. Spencer informed the Board that as the certification paperwork now reads, he is unable to sign them as they are, but he has altered the wording in order for him to more accurately portray his intended operations and signed them. He would like to know if the Board is going to consider his certification complete as is and allow him to receive GID irrigation water this water season. The Board then informed him that irrigation water would be delivered this season to cover 960 acres of his eligible assessed acres, as the policy states, and as has always been done. Pearson then requested that the Board would consider allowing him to irrigate additional acres over the 960-acre limitation if he were to pay 3 times the assessment on those acres. The Board agreed to meet after the meeting tonight in an Executive Session to discuss his requests and would provide answers/feedback within the next few days. Next, the Fairfield Softball Association is requesting that GID allow them to add an

additional ball field to the two fields further south, if they hired a contractor to do the dirt work with grant funds received, handout provided. They also are seeking an agreement to be entered between GID and/or the Bureau of Reclamation allowing this addition. The Board agreed that they would like to support this endeavor and feel it is important to establish an agreement to ensure that the Association will be liable for all activities occurring on the site.

**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 54% of normal. Gibson is filling and is about 60% full, which is 87% normal for this time of year. See graphs of page two demonstrating the sporadic inflows due to the varying temperatures. The National Climate Prediction Center is now predicting well-above normal temps and slightly below normal precipitation for May through July, with August through October predicted to be above normal temps and well-below normal precipitation. Pishkun is at about normal levels, however, we usually have started filling it by now. The 14-day weather forecast is calling for well-below normal temps and well-above normal precipitation. In summary: The PSC will take roughly 6 to 8 days to fill the Reservoir. The snowpack still lags well-behind the 30-year average. Allotment will start at 1 foot, with no excess water or half price water. If it looks like we might possibly spill, we will start the PSC regardless of irrigation season start-up date. It will take about 5 to 6 days to fill PSC and about 5 days to flush.

**Water Rights:** The State DNRC prevailed at the State Supreme Court and now has the right to place their name on private water rights when the water has been utilized on State land. This is not a good thing for the public or GID. Not sure how this will affect our prior agreement. GID's boundary adjustment petition will be heard in local District Court in Choteau on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**GID Staff Updates:** We still need to hire a couple of weed sprayers, but one started Monday and will be helping the ditch riders flush. Amy will start after school is out. Office Manager Gulick has hired a summer weekend assistant who will begin on May 28<sup>th</sup> and will work Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and as needed other days. The crew will stay at 4 10-hour days for awhile for construction purposes.

**GIS Mapping, Plats, Database & Certification Updates:** Roughly 75% of water users have completed their certification process. We still need to address a handful of water users irrigating outside the District boundaries.

**Farm Unit Operations:** Board to review request by landowner to reassign assessment from FU 332 to FU 265, see handout. To be discussed and decided during the Agenda portion of the meeting.

**Monthly Financials & 2023 Budget:** We are working with the local bank to secure a \$1M line of credit for emergency backup. The InterCap \$2.6M loan will close on the 21<sup>st</sup>, with funds available on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Paperwork needs to be signed by President Brunner, Manager Juel and Office Manager Gulick and returned.

**Office Improvements & General Administration:** Office Manager Gulick has been working on insurance renewal efforts, as well as a solution to replace our aging file server.

**GID Vehicles & Heavy Equipment:** Our two new semi-tractors with 29-ton side dump trailers arrived on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There are a few leaking hoses to replace, but nothing major. We are getting 4 loads hauled per day. The new job trailer is being wired by the crew.

**Pearson Lawsuit:** Nothing new to report.

**Willow Creek Feeder Canal Maintenance & Lawsuit:** GID's Attorney gave the Board an update at the Special Meeting preceding tonight's meeting, handout provided. The settlement conference has been scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup>, with a trial date set for November 4<sup>th</sup>, pending the outcome.

**Hydro Updates:** General: The 2-day hearing with the PSC has been postponed until a later, undetermined date. Manager Juel signed an NDA with a power broker to evaluate GID's generation potential and the resulting power sales. Construction: We have ordered and received underdrain pipe for tailrace channel. Site construction has yet to begin due to limited staff and the need to get ready for the water season, as well as showing progress on the Willow Creek Spillway work. Nothing much new to report on the other sites, as progress is held up until Arnold Coulee is progressing. See the M.R. for further details.

**GID Infrastructure Projects:** For Current and Planned, see the M.R. Willow Creek Spillway Repair: O&M Foreman Mayer provided the Board with a brief update. New trucks started hauling on Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup>. Sun River Bridge Replacement: See the M.R. for projected schedule. The PSC, in its present condition, may prove to be a limitation to bringing in girders from the east side. FHWA is evaluating what road work may be required. SRS 71 Check Replacement: Tomorrow we will submit the grant application. Tunnel #3: The plans and specifications have been completed. There is a pre-bid meeting set for May 20<sup>th</sup> for engineering crew to complete the work, with a site visit afterwards. The bid opening will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 3 P.M. Manager Juel provided a copy of the ad that was in the newspaper to the Board. Work will commence right after the PSC is shut off. Bids for each phase of the project will be submitted, not for the whole project.

**Title Transfer:** Nothing new to report. See the M.R. for details.

**GID O&M Projects:** O&M Foreman Mayer provided a very brief update. At Gibson Dam Mark is planning on putting up a cable handrail and no trespassing signs.

**GID Grazing Lease Program:** The last pasture lease from the recent rebids needs to be signed by President Brunner, during the Agenda portion of the meeting. Range Rider Wilson will begin his inspections shortly. Pasture Lessee Tom McInerney provided the board with a receipt that he had sprayed his pasture, as requested by the Board.

**FCA Efforts to Modernize GID Infrastructure:** We are planning to go to bi-weekly meetings shortly. The FCA is working with SRWG on a groundwater study to the MBMG to characterize and quantify the impact of irrigation operations on the groundwater system, which is the source of Fairfield's municipal wells, source wells for the Tri-County Water District, and Power's future wells. This is a collaboration effort between the FCA, SRWG and GID.

**Miscellaneous:** See M.R. for details. If we enter a repayment contract for either the Tunnel #3 or Pishkun Inlet LOPP, we cannot finalize Title Transfer. Tunnel #2 has a new canal crossing. Commissioner Brady asked about Sparky Wallace's complaint against SREC and GID for putting up power poles obstructing his view. SREC made an effort to attempt an alternate route, but that was unsuccessful, and it was explained to him by SREC that ultimately they had the authority to proceed as planned.

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

#### **Agenda:**

- 1) Board to approve the new lease agreement for Tryg Brosten and President Brunner to sign it. No issues and it is signed.
- 2) Board to review and approve the request from Tom McInerney to reassign assessment from FU 332 to FU 265, see handout. No issues and Vice President Norris made a motion to approve the request with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.
- 3) Reorganize the Board and have the 2 recently re-elected Commissioners sign the bond paperwork. This was previously handled during the opening of the meeting.

**Public Comment:** Water User, Mike Morris, addressed the Board and provided a handout and maps. He is responding to the letter about irrigating acres outside of the District boundaries and explained that he is working hard towards compliance with GID's policy. Tracy with SRWG gave the Board a brief update on

upcoming events scheduled handout provided. Tracy began by thanking the Board for its Spring contribution. The Annual cleanup at Freezeout was held last Saturday with a good turnout. SRWG will be featured through Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC)'s tour this summer, funding pending, September 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.

Vice President Norris moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 7:35 P.M.



Board President



Board Secretary

**Board Action Recap:**

- 1) Board approved the new lease agreement with Tryg Brosten and it was signed by President Brunner.
- 2) Board approved the request to reassign assessment from FU 332 to FU 265, Tom McInerney.
- 3) GID Board was reorganized with President, Vice President and Secretary seats remaining the same.



**AGENDA FOR:** Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 14th 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:** April 1<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting Minutes and April 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

**PARTIES PRESENTING:** Spencer Pearson to address the Board regarding three new corner pivots installed. He also has a question regarding the letter he was sent by Manager Juel and would like to request that the Board would consider delivering GID water to his assessed land in excess of the acreage limitations if he were to pay the additional three times the current assessment for the overage. Fairfield Youth Softball is requesting that GID allow them to make another softball field next to the other two fields closest to town, to allow for a concession stand that can service all ball fields. The coordinator has a crew selected for the dirt work and plans to pay for the project with grant funds, see attachment.

**CONTRACTS TO EXECUTE:** None.

**MANAGER's REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1) Board to approve the new lease agreement for Tryg Brosten and President Brunner to sign.
- 2) Board to review and approve request from Tom McInerney to reassign assessment from FU 332 to FU 265, see handout.
- 3) Reorganize the Board and have 2 recently re-elected Commissioners sign Bond Paperwork

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- SRWG, Tracy Wendt, handout provided.



11:11 AM

05/09/24

Accrual Basis

# GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT Monthly Warrant List

April 2024

Amount

Memo

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Apr 24				
04/01/2024	36202	BELL MOTORS	DOWN PAYMENT ON TRUCKS	-10,000.00
04/02/2024	36203	US Postal Service	Certification Packets	-99.97
04/03/2024	36228	TB - 941	81-6001490	-8,577.30
04/03/2024	36229	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-978.00
04/03/2024	36230	TB - MPERA	retirement	-6,436.09
04/03/2024	36231	Bat Electric, Inc.	invoice #7195 Arnold Coulee	-121,980.00
04/03/2024	36232	Riverside Inc.	Arnold Coulee Down Payment	-115,000.00
04/03/2024	36268	Northwest Pipe Fittings, Inc	repairs	-89.00
04/03/2024	36269	FAGENSTROM	concrete aggregate	-3,465.00
04/03/2024	36270	United Materials of Great Falls, Inc	tires/oil/repairs	-1,791.51
04/03/2024	36271	Mountain View Co-Op	office and shop	-9,018.91
04/03/2024	36272	R&L Eagle Grocery	annual meeting and ditch rider ads	-114.78
04/03/2024	36273	Choteau Acantha	rebar and steel	-206.50
04/04/2024	36274	Pacific Steel	service fridge	-10,802.24
04/04/2024	36275	Affordable Appliance Repair	phone, repairs, computer, office	-115.00
04/08/2024	36276	Visa	utilities	-3,308.63
04/09/2024	36277	Republic Services	phone	-139.40
04/09/2024	36278	3 Rivers Communication	pipe	-623.60
04/09/2024	36279	Advanced Drainage System	insurance	-2,029.51
04/09/2024	36280	Aflac	pipe	-106.20
04/15/2024	36281	SUN RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OP	utilities	-641.53
04/15/2024	36282	FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	ANNUAL AD	-40.00
04/15/2024	36283	USPS	PERMIT #3 RENEWAL	-320.00
04/16/2024	36300	Michelle Lauver-	cleaning supplies	-17.95
04/17/2024	36304	TB - 941	81-6001490	-8,477.12
04/17/2024	36305	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-977.00
04/17/2024	36306	TB - MPERA	retirement	-6,516.32
04/17/2024	36307	Wm. L. Olson Agency	commissioner bonds-Dave, Chase & Pat	-580.00
04/17/2024	36308	US Postal Service	newsletters	-196.89
04/18/2024	36309	DOI/BLM	RIGHT OF WAY RENT & MANAGEMENT	-2,843.22
04/24/2024	36310	FAIRFIELD JUNIOR WOMEN	DONATION FOR COMMUNITY CALENDAR	-40.00
04/29/2024	36311	Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC	insurance premium increase with 2024 CHEVY	-580.00
04/29/2024	36312	Western Water Consultants, Inc.	SRS 71 CHECK	-1,025.00
04/29/2024	36359	MT Teamsters Employers Trust	health insurance	-25,544.00
04/30/2024	36360	Teamster's Local #2	union dues	-959.00
04/30/2024	36361	Western Conference of Teamsters Pension	pension	-2,466.00
04/30/2024	36362	3 Rivers Communication	phone and internet	-623.60
04/30/2024	36363	7 Electric	contract services	-485.00



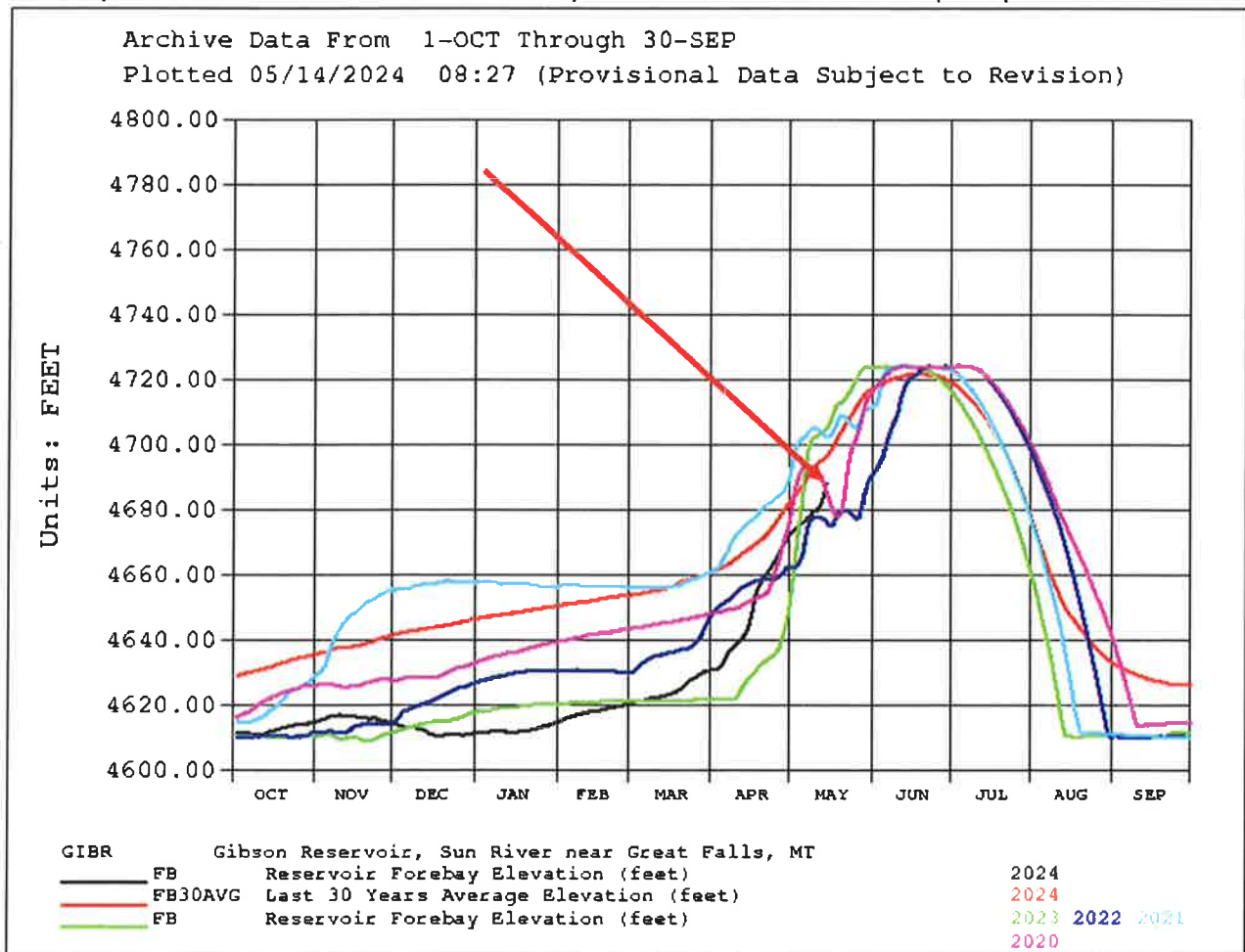
To: GID Commissioners  
Jenny Gulick, GID Board Secretary

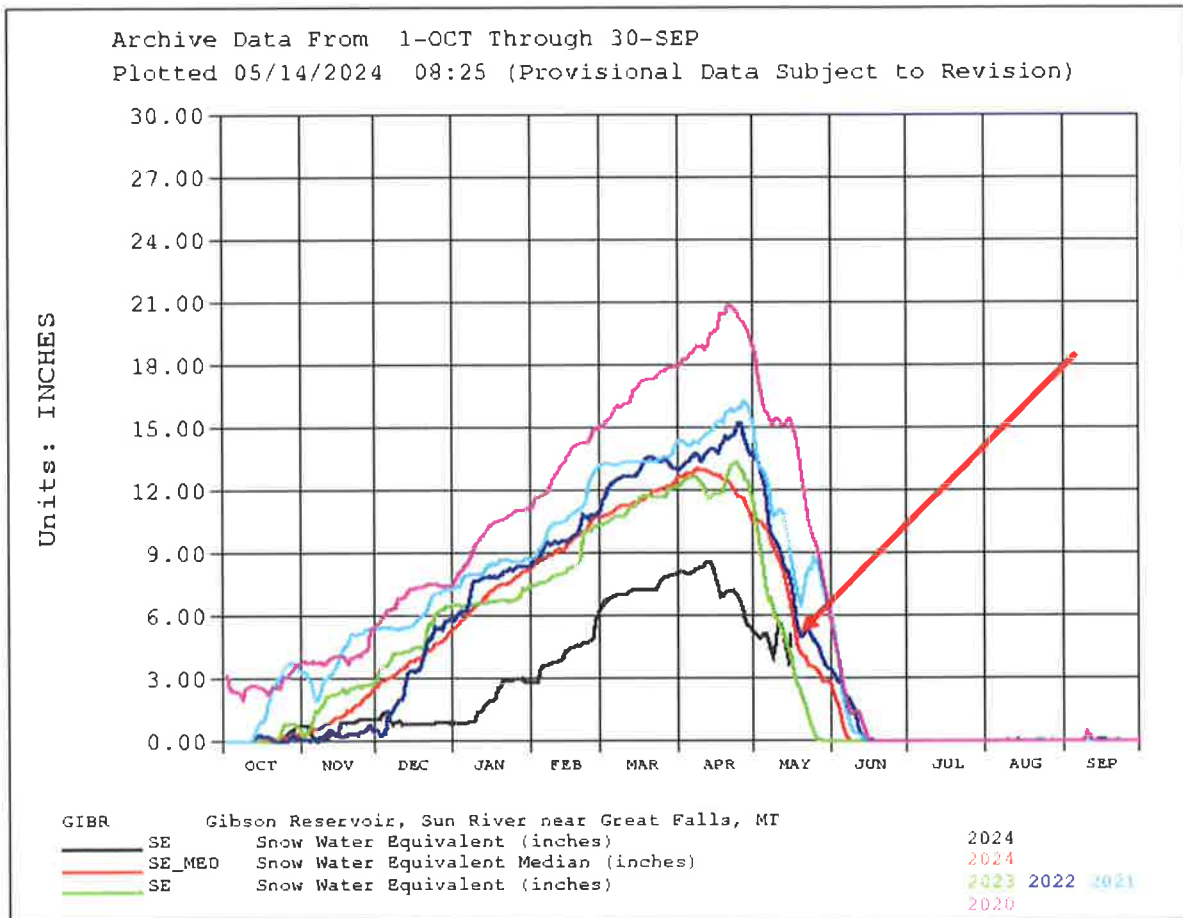
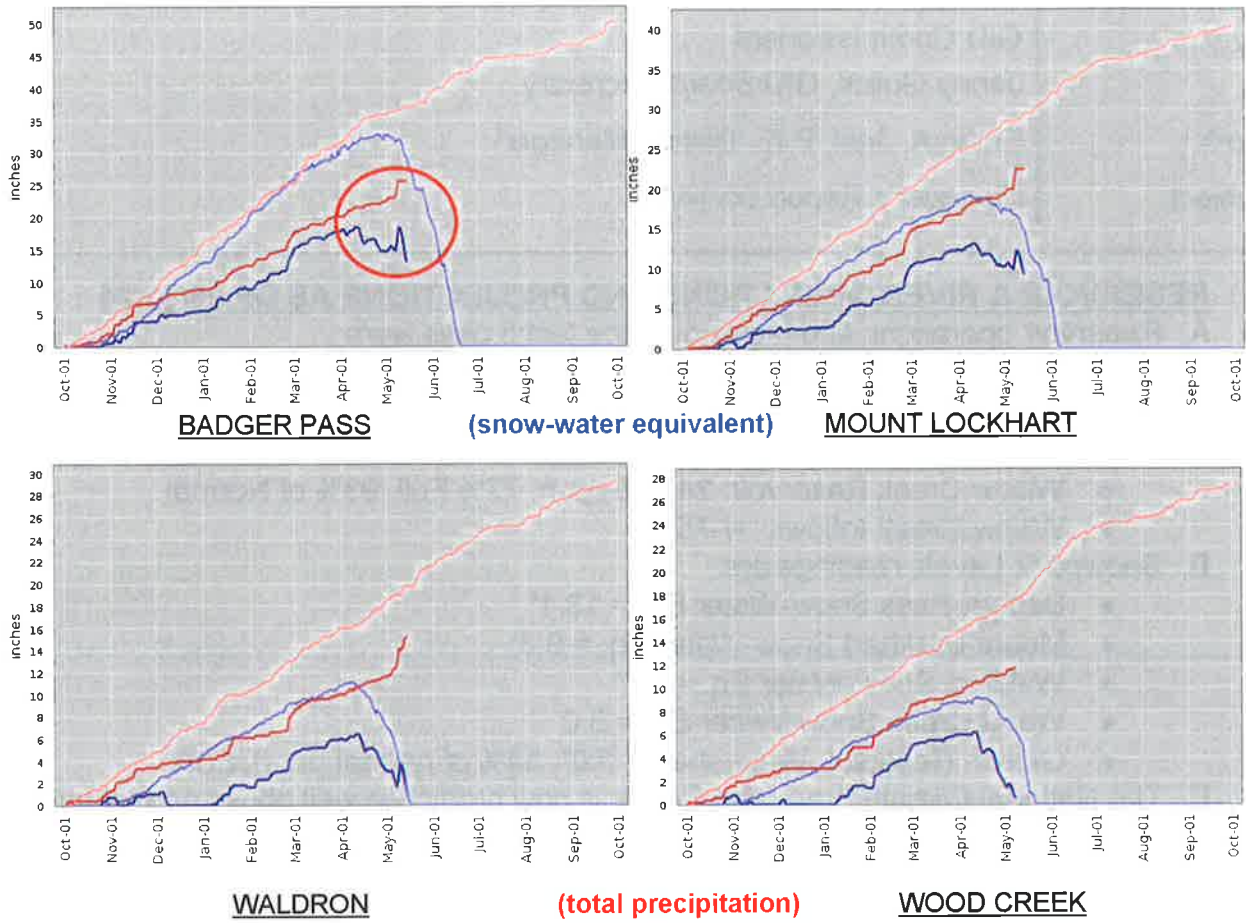
From: Erling A. Juel, P.E., District Manager

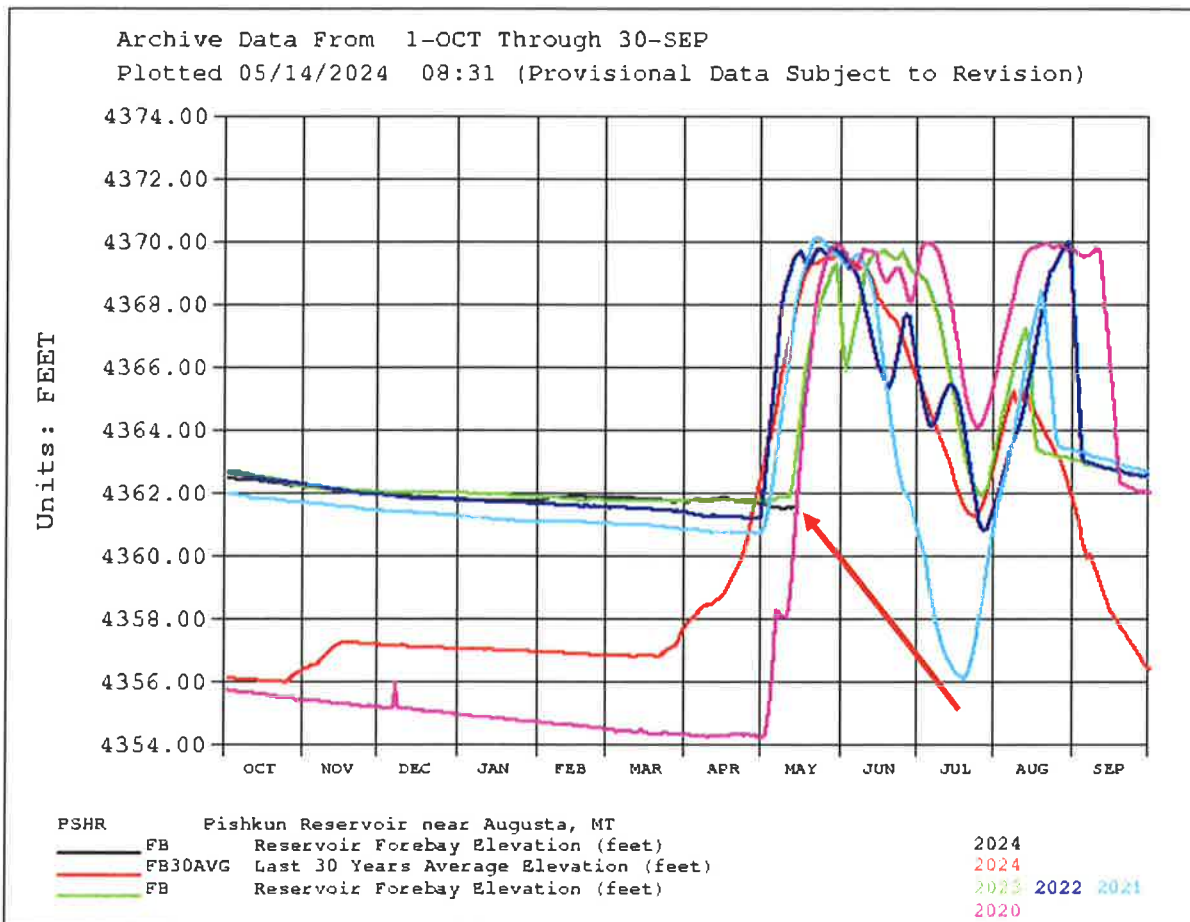
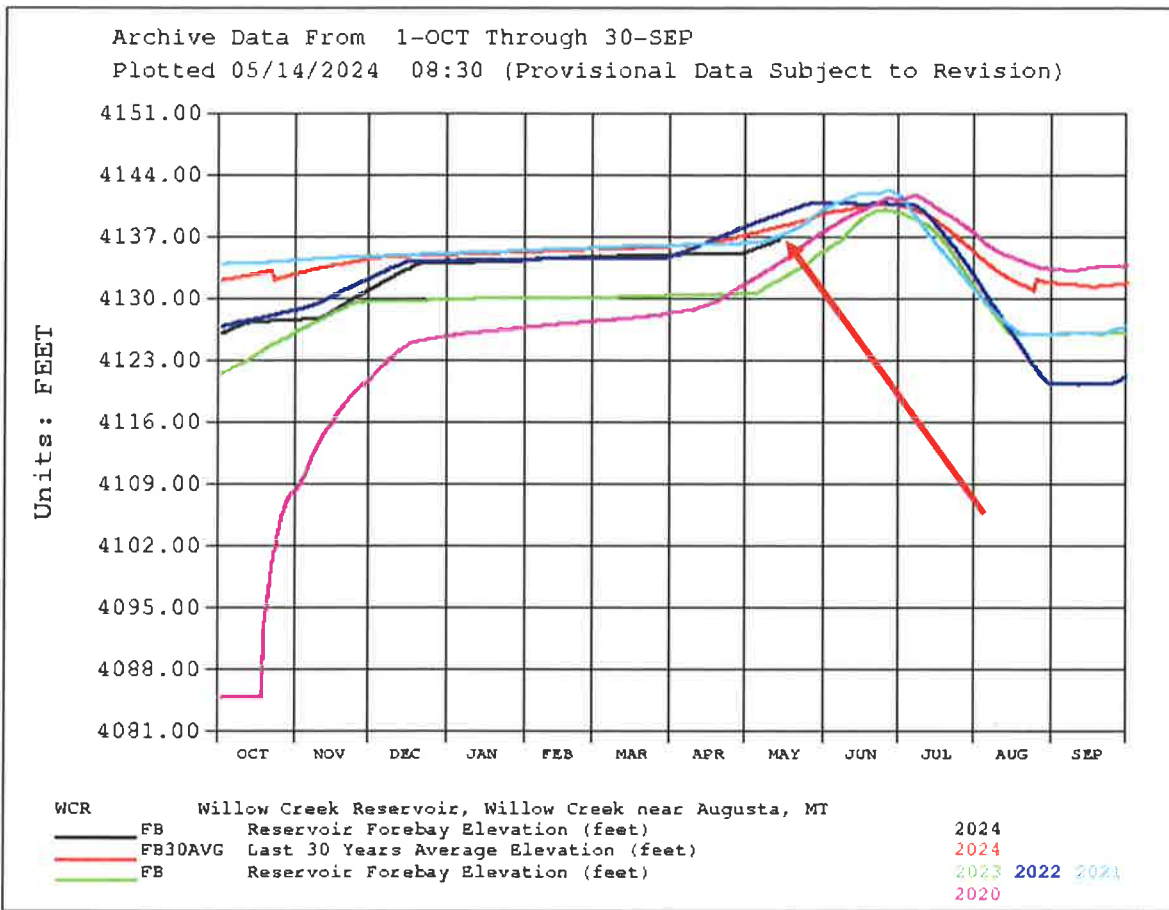
Subject: Manager's Report 05/14/24

**1) RESERVOIR & RIVER OPERATIONS AND PROJECTIONS AS OF 05/13/24**

- A. Reservoir operations and levels over the last 5 days were:
- Gibson Res: 58,000 Ac-ft, 58% Full & 87% of Normal
  - Gibson Inflows: varying from 325 to 2100 cfs, 16% to 95% of Normal.
  - Gibson Outflows: +/-235 cfs,
  - Willow Creek Reservoir: 24,600 Ac-ft, 77% Full, 93% of Normal
  - Willow Creek Inflows: +/-75 cfs
- B. Snowpack Levels readings are:
- Badger Pass Snow-Water Eq. = 13.1"
  - Mount Lockhart Snow-Water Eq. = 9.3"
  - Waldron Snow-Water Eq. = 1.0"
  - Wood Creek Snow-Water Eq. = 0.0"
  - Gibson Reservoir Watershed = 3.8", 54% of normal per (USBR)
- C. The National Climate Prediction Center is now predicting well above normal temps and slightly below normal precipitation for May through July. August to October is predicted to be above normal temps and well-below normal precipitation.



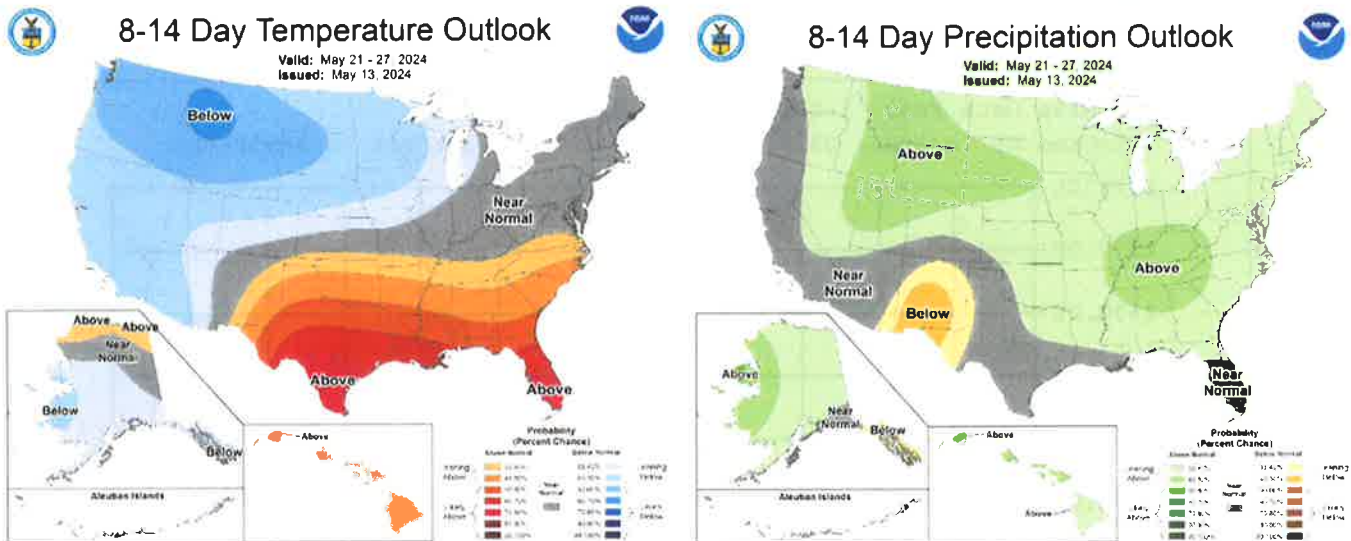






**Temperature Probability**

**Precipitation Probability**



**D. In summary.....**

1. Up till now, cool and wet weather has reduced the demand for irrigation.
2. The PSC will take roughly 6 to 8 days to fill Pishkun Reservoir.
3. Snow pack still lags well-behind the 30-year average to date and is the lowest in the last 30 years.
4. 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.
5. Looking to start the PSC the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>, release out of Pishkun for flushing on the Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>, and delivering later that week. Or we could postpone one week. Subject to Board discussion.
  6. When Gibson fills and reaches emergency spillway, I would advocate that the water be sent down the PSC.

## 2) GID WATER RIGHT ISSUES

- A. The State DNRC prevailed at the State Supreme Court and now has the right to place their name private water rights when the water has been utilized on State land. This is not a good thing for the public or GID. Not sure how this will impact our prior agreement with DNRC. Provided the Board with the Court's decision on the Schutter case.
- B. GID's boundary adjustment petition will be heard in local District Court in Choteau on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 3) STAFF UPDATES

- A. Still need to hire a couple of weed sprayers. One started on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Office Manager Gullick has been interviewing potential office assistants for the summer and will provide an update to the Board.
- C. Looking to go to 8-hr days the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## 4) OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- A. Office Manager Gullick has been working on efforts to reduce our annual premium and will provide an update to the Board.
- B. Office Manager Gullick has been working on a solution to replace our aging file server.

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

- A. Irrigation certification process is on-going. So far, the response has been good. Roughly +/-75% returns.
- B. Need to address several water users are irrigating outside the District boundaries.

## 6) FARM UNIT OPERATIONS

### A. **Reassign Assessment From FU 332 to FU 265**

1. The landowner wishes to reassign assessment amongst their land holdings to better match on-going irrigation practices and to improve water management efficiencies.
2. Transfer 6.0 acres of assessment from FU 332 and assign it to FU 265.
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 April totaled \$58,210.
- B. Accounts payable for April totaled \$522,364 for the warrants as well as \$54,487 in salaries comprising two pay periods. +/- \$340,000 was for the Arnold Coulee LOPP Project.

- C. Cash flow is still going to be a challenge again until we receive May's tax payments, and we can finalize our DOC loan. We will again need to borrow money. Options include our local bank and the DOC-BOI loan. Looking to see where we can get the best terms.
- D. An updated Budget handout will be available next month.

**8) GID VEHICLES & HEAVY EQUIPMENT**

- A. Our two new semi-tractors with 29-ton side dump trailers arrived on the 9<sup>th</sup>. This is one month later than originally promised. Some minor warranty issues that need addressing. Eric will expand on.



- B. Still looking to replace our 3-axle, lowboy transport trailer which experienced a major breakdown in the spring support brackets. A new, replacement trailer will cost +/- \$100k.
- C. Received on new job trailer. GID crews are finishing the interior with lights, electrical wiring, shelving, and a workstation.



**9) PEARSON LAWSUIT**

A. Nothing new.

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

- A. Hearing on MFSJ on the status of Reclamation's easement authority – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, (DONE)
- B. GID's lawyer is scheduled to give the GID Board an update an hour before our regular Board meeting next Tuesday night.
- C. Settlement Conference – August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Federal Courthouse
- D. Trial – November 4, 2024

**11) HYDRO UPDATES**

- A. General – Regarding GID's fight with NWE's intent to update the QF-1 Tariffs.
  - 1. The scheduled hearing has been continued to a later date.
  - 2. Costs are mounting up, but not sure what our options are.
  - 3. Signed a NDA with a power broker to evaluate GID's generation potential and the resulting power sales
- 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...
    - The transmission and distribution lines are installed. Distribution line is energized. 24 poles on the temporary distribution line still need to be pulled.
    - As far as I know the Sparky Wallace issue has gone away.
    - Will most likely start the Arnold Coulee leg in June.



- 3. ✓ **Transmission Easements** – BLM awarded ROWs for both GID's site work and SREC's transmission line.

- 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. **SREC Interconnection & Transmission Agreements** – Nothing new regarding this work.
  - 5. **Power Purchase Agreement** – Negotiations with NWE are going slow. We have had side discussions with other power buyers.
  - 6. **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.
  - 7. ✓ **Turbine-Generator Purchase** – Done.
  - 8. **WEEG WaterSmart Grant** – Submitted semi-annual performance and financial reports describing activities, or lack thereof, through 03/31/24.
  - 9. **INTERCAP Loan** – With the BLM ROWs behind us, the Department of Commerce is finalizing the \$2.6 million loan.
    - Loan closing on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
    - Need to get signed documents to the DOC-BOI by May 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - 10. **Construction** – Ordered and received underdrain pipe for tailrace channel. Site construction has yet to begin due to limited staff and the need to get ready for the water season as well as showing progress on the Willow Creek Spillway work.
- 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.**
    - Finalizing Mr. Morris' easements across his land along the PSC.
    - Need to finalize a preferred transmission route before approaching the BOR and the BLM.
  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. Started hauling on Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup>. Eric to give report.
  2. The preliminary earthwork and roadwork around Willow Creek Reservoir is done.



- C. Sun River Bridge Replacement –
  1. Projected Schedule
    - Geotechnical drilling, **DONE**
    - 90% Plans Milestone – July 2024
    - Final Design & Advertise – Oct. 2024
    - Open Bids – Dec. 2024
    - Award & NTP – Feb. & April 2025, respectively.
    - Construction 2025 and 2026

2. The PSC, in its present condition, may prove to be a limitation to bringing in girders from the east side. FHWA is evaluating what road work maybe required.
3. Status of Old Bridge -Nothing New
- D. SRS 71 Check Replacement and Reregulation, Phase 1 – SRS-71 Headworks
  1. Everything is done except gate commissioning and Project close out.
- E. SRS 71 Check Replacement and Reregulation, Phase 2– SRS Main Check
  1. Submitting the \$125k RRG grant application this week, May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- F. Tunnel #3 Roof Collapse –
  1. Projected Schedule
    - Plans & Specifications, **DONE**
    - Pre-Bid Meeting – May 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at GID office followed by a site visit.
    - Bid Opening – June 6<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm at GID office.
    - Construction – starts after the PSC is shut down in August.
  2. Working of a \$500K ARPA grant and a \$11.6 million loan guarantee through Reclamation’s Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) funding program
  3. Reviewed the Repayment Contract, sent revised version to Board
- G. Phase III J-Waste Way Facility, Spring Coulee Headworks –
  1. Phase 3 is the confining berms, SCDA, and the re-regulation pond controls. Submitting the \$125K RRG grant application this week, May 15<sup>th</sup>, to help with GID’s matching requirements for the SRWG’s WaterSmart Grant.

### **13) TITLE TRANSFER**

- A. **Nothing new.**
- B. If we enter a repayment contract for either the Tunnel #3 or Pishkun Inlet LOPP, we cannot finalize Title Transfer.
- C. Need to evaluate the need.

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

- A. Numerous Producer projects being requested before the water season.
- B. Eric will provide a brief verbal update.

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

- A. Execute one remaining lease.
- B. Need to get our Range Rider geared up.

### **16) DISTRICT MODERIZATION EFFORT WITH FCA**

- A. Continuing with weekly meetings with FCA. Plan to go bi-weekly in a couple of weeks.
- B. Working on a pressurized district study for the Ashuelot Bench with a re-regulation pond above the first drop.
- C. Proposing a groundwater study to the MBMG to characterize and quantify the impact of irrigation operations on the groundwater system, which is the source of Fairfield’s municipal wells, the source wells for the Tri-County Water District, and Power’s future wells. This study represents a collaboration of the SRWG, GID, and FCA.
- D. Now pursuing DNRC and WaterSmart planning grants to replace and modernize the Mary Taylor facility.
- E. A work session is scheduled in early June to develop modernization strategies.
  1. June 11<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>

2. Will make a presentation on the overall water balance analysis to the Board at 5pm just before regular Board meeting.
3. NRCS and BOR reps will participate with work session.

### **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.
- B. GID crane was used to help set a new canal crossing just upstream of the former Tunnel #2.



### **18) SHORT-TERM TO DO LIST – MAY**

- Get ready for the water season.
- Make progress on PPA and discussions with alternative power buyers.
- Submit \$125k DNRC grant applications for Phase 2 SRS Check & Reregulation and Final Phase of J-Wasteway Regulation on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Finalize and close on the DOC-BOI INTERCAP Loan on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Closeout SRS-71 Headworks project.
- Closeout Lower GSC project.
- Make progress on rip rap hauling effort.
- Meet with Reclamation staff in Billings.
- Prep for modernization workshop with FCA, NRCS & BOR on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **19) LONG-TERM TO DO LIST – JUNE & ON**

- Court hearing regarding the petition to adjust District boundaries on June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Need to find ways to reduce our insurance costs.
- Finalize a Systems Improvement Plan (SIP) with FCA
- Attending MWRA summer meeting in July.

## **NEXT GID BOARD MEETING JUNE 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM**

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