

Greenfields

IRRIGATION DISTRICT

On Tuesday October 8th, 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. Chris Ostberg, Advisory Board Member and Water User Spencer Pearson were both present, along with Jason Hahn with BOR. Tracy Wendt with SRWG was not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Brunner at 6:00 P.M.

Approve Meeting Minutes and Monthly Warrants: The next item of business was to approve the minutes from the September 10th Regular Meeting and Executive Session Meeting Minutes, as well as the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from September 19th. There were no discrepancies found in the two sets of Executive Session Minutes and Commissioner Brosten made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Brady seconded the motion. All in favor and the Executive Session Minutes were approved. The Board then reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes and there were also no discrepancies, so Commissioner Brady made a motion to approve the minutes with Commissioner Brosten seconding the motion. All in favor and the motion carried. The September Warrants List was then reviewed with brief discussion. Manager Juel explained the SRE warrant was for electrical equipment and the Riverside warrant was for draft tube extension liners, to which he gave the specs and a brief overview of the construction of these. Commissioner Brosten made a motion to approve the warrants with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Parties Presenting Issues: None.

Contacts to Execute: None.

President Brunner asked that the Board jump right to 2) of the Agenda Items, which entailed Water User, Spencer Pearson, addressing the Board regarding the letter he had earlier presented to the Board requesting a road map of the process needed for him and his wife to prove to the Board that they are both separate qualified recipients to receive the 960-acres of irrigation owned and leased, as well as the LLC he himself created and is the sole owner of and who has been told by Mr. Pearson, is the sole producer on all of his and his wife's co-owned ground, be also considered a qualified recipient to receive the 960-acres of irrigation owned and leased. He then claimed that the Board has provided no criteria or summary of what it takes to be deemed a qualified recipient. He then presented the Board with a list of 4 demands which must be provided by the Board to said individual within 14 days of receipt of his letter, which he provided to the Board Secretary in paper form for the record. His 4 demands are as follows:

- 1) To point him to the portion of the policy that is the “road map” to have Spencer Pearson, the individual, deemed a qualified recipient,
- 2) To tell him tonight what is required to “persuade the Board” that Spencer Pearson, the individual, is deemed a qualified recipient,
- 3) To make a motion to have a policy “road map” drafted for all of GID to see, so there is no question what it takes,
- 4) For the Board to say it plainly, if it be their position, that his marital status means he can never be an individual qualified recipient.

President Brunner informed him the Board would confer with its legal representation and provide a response as timely as possible.

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

Reservoir and River Operations: See M.R. for full details. Reservoir and River Operations: Gibson Reservoir is dropping to push more water to Willow Creek Reservoir. Gibson is about 49% of normal, Willow Creek is about 46% of normal and Pishkun Reservoir is 125% of normal. Gibson inflows are well below normal. The National Climate Prediction is now predicting normal temps and slightly above normal precipitation for October through December, with January through March predicted to be below normal temps and well above normal precipitation.

Water Rights: Nancy is reviewing the draft adjudication for Basin 41K. We signed a stipulation to resolve objections addressing minor discrepancies and other house-keeping edits.

GID Staff Updates: The Union Labor contract negotiations will begin this month. Nothing new to report.

Office Improvements & General Administration: Office Manager Gulick provided a brief verbal update on the progress of replacing the server.

GIS Mapping, Plats, Database & Certification Updates: Nothing new.

Farm Unit Operations: There is a new pivot installation FYI provided for the Board.

Monthly Financials & 2024 Budget: See the M.R. for further details regarding accounts receivable and payable for September.

GID Vehicles & Heavy Equipment: We are still looking to replace our 3-axle, lowboy transport trailer which experienced a major breakdown. A new, replacement trailer will cost around \$100k.

Willow Creek Feeder Canal Maintenance & Lawsuit: The plaintiffs filed an insurance Dec Action claim in local District court. FSID has the same insurance provider as GID, and their current policy contains a stipulation that the WCFC lawsuit claims are off-limits, but GID’s policy does not contain that stipulation. There is a continuing theory believed that each time the WCFC is opened, there is a new erosion event. The October 2nd hearing appeared to be favorable in the defendants’ favor. The trial has been postponed to mid-April or May. President

Brunner asked if the plaintiff's had the ability to reconsider and take a predated settlement offer from MACo and Manager Juel said that yes, it was a possibility.

Hydro Updates: General: Regarding GID's fight with NWE's intent to update the QF-1 Tariffs: The hearing is scheduled for October 29th and 30th, with prep on the 28th in Helena at the PSC building. Costs continue to mount up, and unfortunately, there is no other option than to push ahead, at this point. Arnold Coulee LOPP: Transmission Lines- Little has occurred on the construction of Arnold Coulee transmission leg over the last month, as the contractor has been working on other SREC work but should return to the project in a month or so. Power Purchase Agreement: Manager Juel continues to have discussions with WAPA and NWE, as NWE continues to fight GID's efforts and the POD. Senator Daines' office has expressed interest in helping GID's efforts. Ted Sorenson wants to come visit Arnold Coulee sometime next week. Construction: See the M.R. for details on the construction occurring, as well as pictures provided. Manager Juel will provide a semi-annual performance report. Pishkun Inlet: Transmission Easements- There was another kick-off meeting with BOR, GID, BLM and SREC on October 7th to establish the NEPA and NHPA requirements in order to finalize the preferred transmission route. NEPA approval will not be done until next Spring. Nothing new on any of the other hydro sites. See the M.R. for further details.

GID Infrastructure Projects: For Current and Planned, see the M.R. Mary Taylor: Completed the site topo survey for the PER (preliminary engineering report). The survey data has been processed and the engineer will begin the PER this Fall. Working under a \$30k planning grant we received. Sun River Bridge Replacement: Final Design & Advertise on October 15th. Status of the old bridge- We are still working to get the historical designation removed so the old bridge can be demolished as part of the overall project. If we are unable to get it removed, GID will be responsible for preserving it, but will abandon all use of it. Tunnel #3: The contractor is on-site setting up the job trailer, lights in the tunnel, etc. O&M Foreman Mayer gave the Board a brief overview. J-Wasteway Facility, Spring Coulee Headworks: No word yet on the \$125k RRG grant application submitted on May 15th. Applications will be ranked this Fall. SRS 71 Check Replacement, Phase 2: Also, still waiting to hear on the \$125k RRG grant application. Pishkun Outlet Replacement: We submitted an application to BOR for financial assistance regarding extraordinary maintenance work through the Aging Infrastructure Account. There is a design charette scheduled for the week of April 7th, 2025.

Title Transfer: Nothing new to report. If we enter a repayment contract for either the Tunnel #3 or Pishkun Inlet LOPP, we cannot finalize Title Transfer.

GID O&M Projects: O&M Foreman Mayer had nothing to contribute.

GID Grazing Lease Program: GID Range Rider Wilson is not present to give an update, but he did request the Board to approve allowing him to Fall graze, which will be discussed and decided on during the Agenda portion of the meeting.

FCA Efforts to Modernize GID Infrastructure: Manager Juel will go to Butte on October 16th to support our Groundwater Study proposal with the MBMG.

Miscellaneous: There are a handful of drain pivots still running, as that is allowed through October 31st. The Union Representative is working with the staff to provide the Board with an opening bid contract to begin the negotiations.

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

Agenda:


1. Board to review and approve request from Lessee, Ron Wilson, to fall graze his pasture. No activity on the pasture thus far this year. Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the request and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.
2. This line item was already discussed during the Parties Presenting Issues portion of the meeting. No decision was made at tonight's meeting.
3. A new pivot installation FYI for Tim Brunner was provided to the Board. A check will need to be put into the drain and Sonny Fellers is going to put in the crossings. He needs Eric to help him determine the size of the pipe he will need.

Public Comment: Tracy with SRWG was absent but had provided a handout. Manager Juel gave a brief oral overview in her absence. There is a Water Management meeting next Thursday at 10 A.M., followed by a SRWG Board meeting. Jason Hahn with the BOR gave a brief update. He informed the Board that the BOR may still dig holes for soil samples at Pishkun but doesn't believe it will happen until next Spring. Dikes and seeps are to be measured and observed. In 2026, Pishkun and Gibson Dams will be reviewed to assess the potential for dam failure and consequences that would occur by the Denver Regional staff.

Commissioner Brady moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Brosten seconded. All in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 6:54 P.M.



Board President



Board Secretary

Board Action Recap:

- The Board approved Ron Wilson's request to Fall Graze.



AGENDA FOR: Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 8th 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: September 10th Regular Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Meeting Minutes, as well as the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from September 19th

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

PARTIES PRESENTING: None.

CONTRACTS TO EXECUTE: None

MANAGER's REPORT

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1) The Board to review and approve the request made by Lessee, Tim Rapp, to fall graze his pasture for November and December. No activity on the pasture thus far this year.
- 2) Water User, Spencer Pearson, to address the Board with his request for clarification regarding the 960-acre limitation policy, handout provided.
- 3) Board FYI for new pivot installation, Tim Brunner. See handout.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- SRWG, Tracy Wendt, handout provided.

GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT



Monthly Warrant List

September 2024

DATE	NUM	VENDOR	AMOUNT
09/04/2024	36860	TB - 941	-\$8,780.99
09/04/2024	36861	TB - MPERA	-\$6,632.47
09/04/2024	36862	TB - SWT	-\$834.00
09/09/2024	36896	Teamster's Local #2	-\$959.00
09/09/2024	36897	Pacific Steel	-\$85.00
09/09/2024	36898	Mills Motor, Co.	-\$59.26
09/09/2024	36899	Republic Services	-\$137.99
09/09/2024	36900	3 Rivers Communication	-\$623.60
09/09/2024	36901	Breen Oil and Tire Company	-\$512.78
09/17/2024	36902	Jon's Automotive	-\$2,053.33
09/18/2024	36927	TB - 941	-\$8,811.76
09/18/2024	36928	TB - SWT	-\$855.00
09/18/2024	36929	TB - MPERA	-\$6,622.03
09/18/2024	36930	Michelle Lauver-	-\$17.94
09/18/2024	36931	MWRA	-\$220.00
09/30/2024	36954	Sun River Electric, Co-Op	-\$147,524.52
09/30/2024	36955	A Jay Concrete Pumping, LLC	-\$3,092.33
09/30/2024	36956	Aflac	-\$106.20
09/30/2024	36957	Choteau Ace	-\$57.85
09/30/2024	36958	D&K Ag Supply, LLC	-\$4,861.00
09/30/2024	36959	Edge Marketing + Design, LLC	-\$150.00
09/30/2024	36960	Gary Kasper & Company, Inc.	-\$1,251.00
09/30/2024	36961	Home Depot Credit Services	-\$711.95
09/30/2024	36962	K's Auto Parts	-\$157.57
09/30/2024	36963	K's Auto Parts - Choteau	-\$209.47
09/30/2024	36964	MCI	-\$70.67
09/30/2024	36965	MDS Supply	-\$152.00
09/30/2024	36966	National Laundry	-\$67.02
09/30/2024	36967	North 40	-\$362.85
09/30/2024	36968	NorthWestern Energy	-\$346.21
09/30/2024	36969	Norval Electric, Co-op	-\$5,943.55
09/30/2024	36970	Old West Lumber, Inc	-\$119.32
09/30/2024	36971	Riverside, Inc.	-\$29,474.92
09/30/2024	36972	Sun River Watershed Group	-\$4,000.00
09/30/2024	36973	Teamster's Local #2	-\$959.00

DATE	NUM	VENDOR	AMOUNT
09/30/2024	36974	Titan Machinery	-\$304.44
09/30/2024	36975	Torgersons	-\$1,761.62
09/30/2024	36976	Tractor & Equipment, Co	-\$7,352.65
09/30/2024	36977	Treasure State Seed, Inc	-\$37.50
09/30/2024	36978	Tri-State Truck & Equipment	-\$3,059.82
09/30/2024	36979	Uda Law Firm	-\$7,957.00
09/30/2024	36980	United Materials of Great Falls, Inc	-\$27,433.20
09/30/2024	36981	Victory Insurance Company	-\$2,571.00
09/30/2024	36982	Western Conference of Teamsters Pension	-\$2,467.00
			-\$289,766.81

Recap of September 2024 warrants:
Regular warrants \$289,766.81
September 2024 payroll \$56,591.21
Total \$346,358.02

Approved by  President Date _____
Submitted by  Bookkeeper Date _____

To: GID Commissioners
Jenny Gulick, GID Board Secretary

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

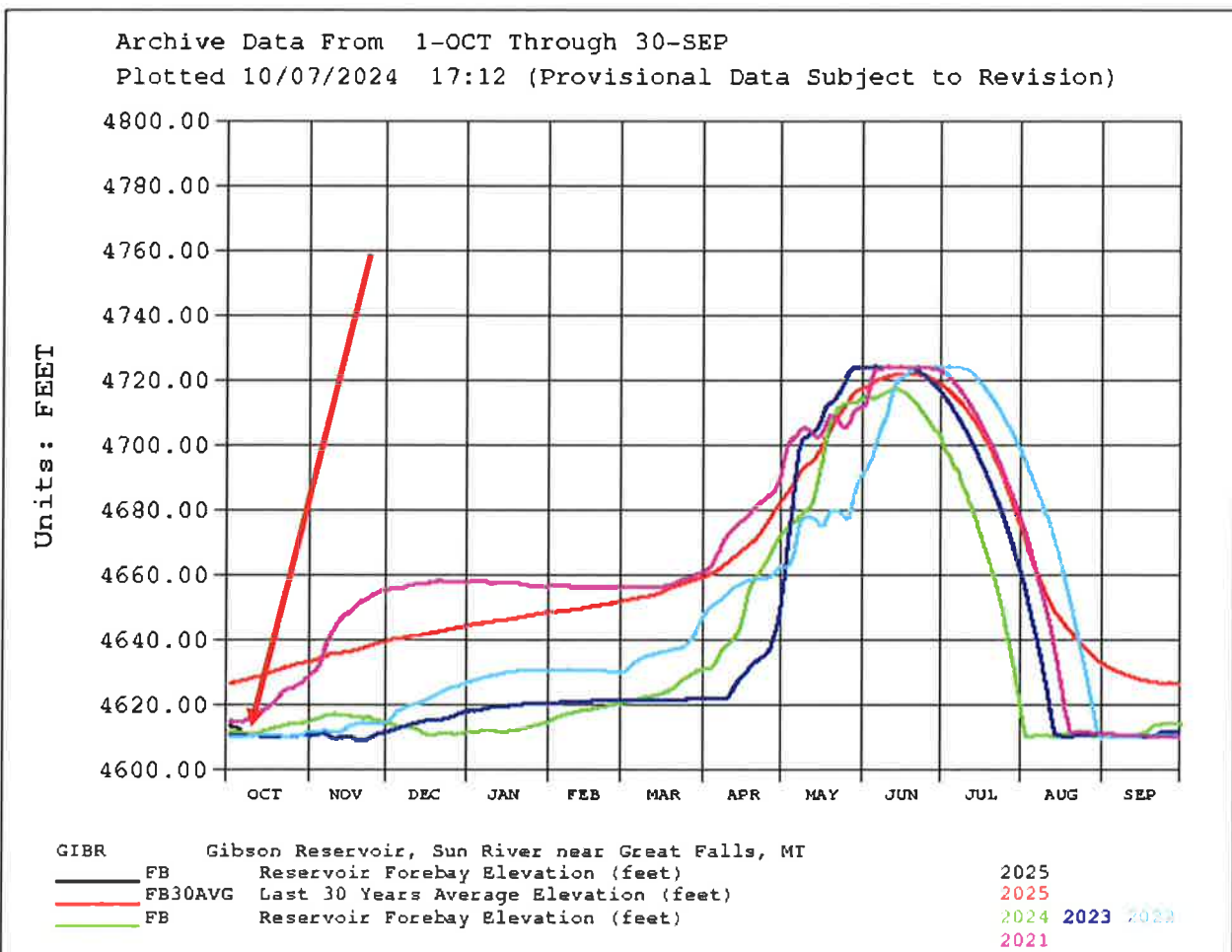
Subject: Manager's Report 10/08/24

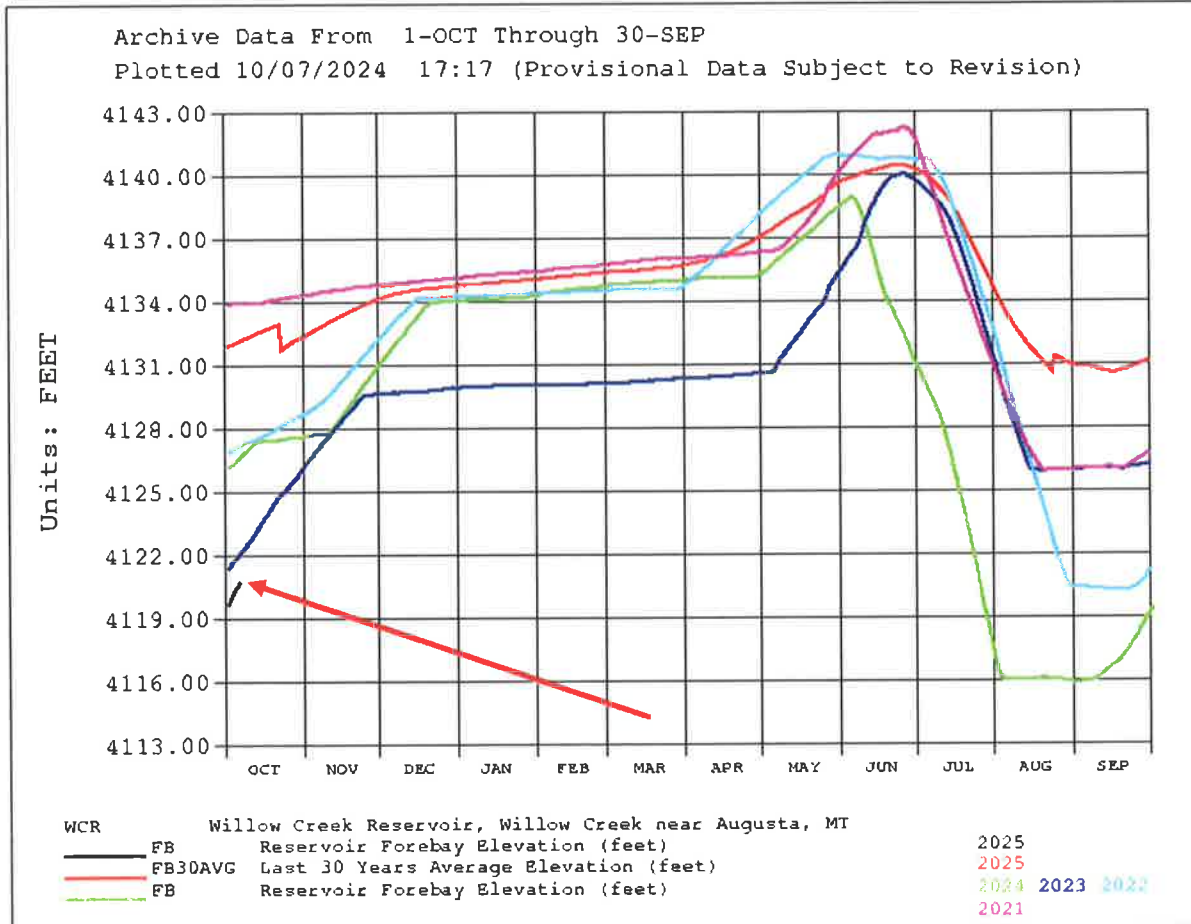
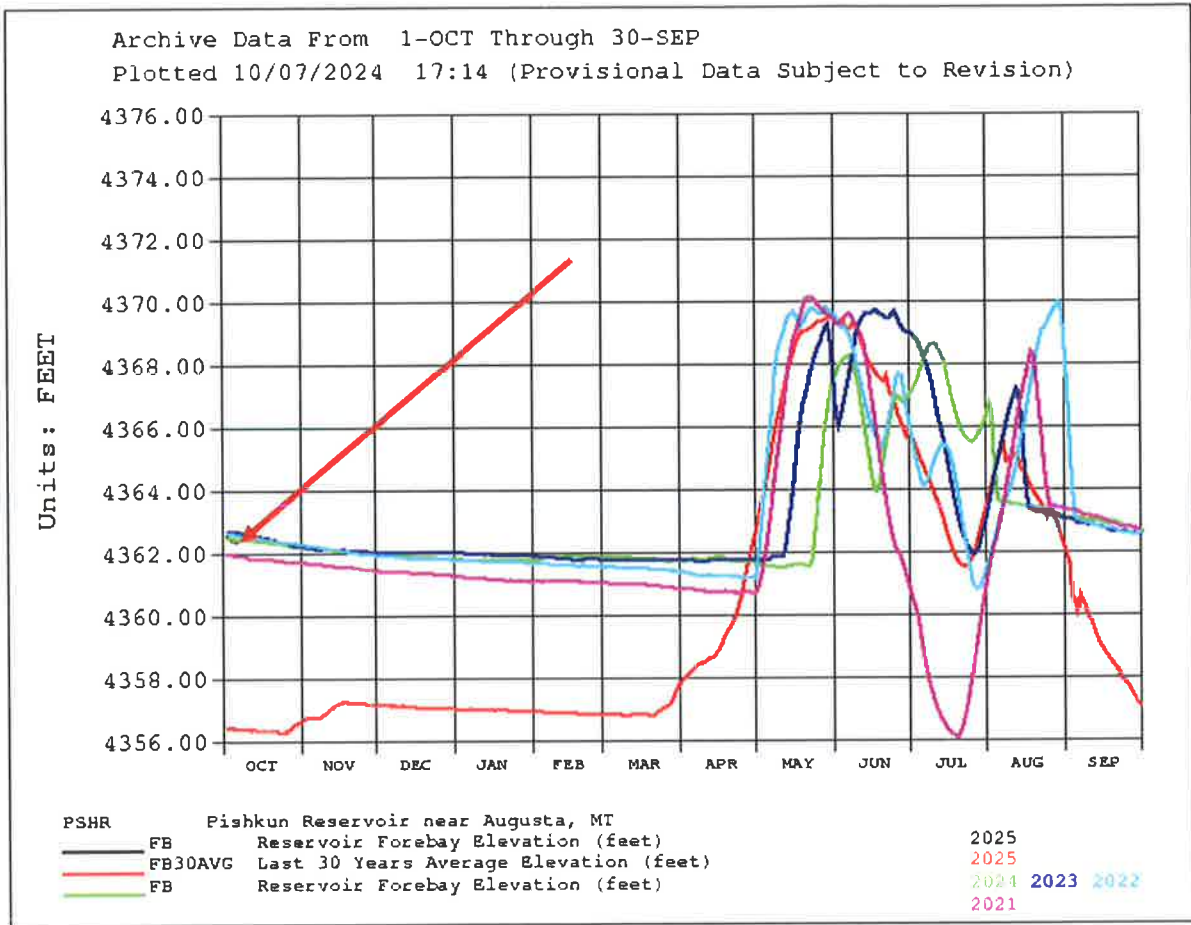
1) RESERVOIR & RIVER OPERATIONS AND PROJECTIONS AS OF 10/08/24

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

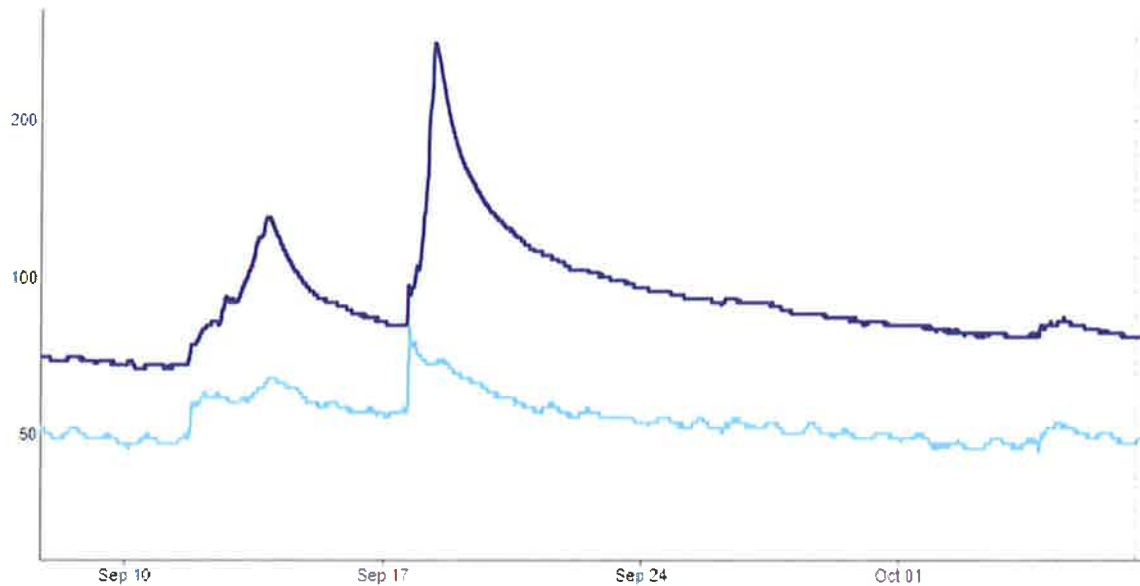
- Gibson Res: 6,250 Ac-ft, 6.4% Full & 49% of Normal,
- Gibson Inflows: varying from 140 to 160 cfs, 75% to 85% of Normal,
- Gibson Outflows: +/-185 cfs,
- Willow Creek Reservoir: 8,800 Ac-ft, 27% Full, 45.6% of Normal
- Willow Creek Inflows: 70 to 80 cfs
- Willow Creek Releases: 0 cfs
- Pishkun Reservoir: 19,750 Ac-ft, 76.5% Full, 125% of Normal

B. The National Climate Prediction Center is now predicting normal temps and slightly above normal precipitation for October through December. January to March is predicted to be below normal temps and well above normal precipitation.





September 7, 2024 - October 7, 2024
Discharge, cubic feet per second



IMPORTANT Data may be **provisional**

Show legend ▾

Selected values

Location	Value	Status	Time
North Fork Sun River near Augusta MT - 06078500	76.8 ft ³ /s	Provisional	Oct 07 11:00 AMMDT
South Fork Sun River near Augusta MT - 06079000	47.9 ft ³ /s	Provisional	Oct 07 11:00 AMMDT

C. In summary.....

1. Gibson inflows are well below normal.
2. Diversion into the WCFC continue commensurate with available river flow.

2) GID WATER RIGHT ISSUES

- A. Water Rights Adjudication for Basin 41K continues in progress.
- B. Signed a Stipulation to Resolve Objections basically addressing minor discrepancies and other house-keeping edits.

3) STAFF UPDATES

- A. Reminder, the GID Labor Contract is up for negotiations at the end of the year.
- B. Will advertise for the Water Master position in October. Will work a plan to have Steve help with the training.

4) OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- A. OMG will provide an update on efforts to replace our aging file server.
- B. Several desk computers need replacing. Holding off till Nov-Dec.
- C. Also, still holding off on replacing the copier.

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

- A. Nothing new.

6) FARM UNIT OPERATIONS

- A. Nothing New

7) MONTHLY FINANCIALS & 2024 BUDGET

- A. The account receivables for September totaled \$3,264.
- B. Accounts payable in September totaled \$289,767 for the warrants as well as \$56,591 in salaries comprising two pay periods.

8) GID VEHICLES & HEAVY EQUIPMENT

- A. 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.

9) PEARSON LAWSUIT

- A. Pearsons dropped off another letter making demands. I will seek Commissioner input and turn over to legal representation to draft a response.

10) WILLOW CREEK FEEDER CANAL & LAWSUIT

- A. Plaintiffs filed an insurance Dec Action claim in local District. They hope to somehow, tap other current insurance coverages. Our current insurance will most likely deny defense to a pre-existing claim.
- B. Hearings on Various Motions held Wednesday, October 2nd at the Federal Courthouse. In general, the tone as well as the back-and-forth questions appear to be favorable to the Defendants.
- C. Still waiting for the Attorney-Client Agreement with Gary Deschenes to be revised and sent back for signature.
- D. Preparing and finalizing the Pre-Trial Orders and prepping our witnesses.
- E. Trial – Originally scheduled for November 4, 2024, has been push back into next Spring, mid-April to May. No specific date has been selected.

11) HYDRO UPDATES

- A. General – Regarding GID’s fight with NWE’s intent to update the QF-1 Tariffs.
 - 1. Hearing is scheduled in Helena PSC for October 29th and 30th with all day prep on the 28th.
 - 2. Costs continue to mount up, unfortunately there is no stopping now.
- B. Arnold Coulee LOPP –
 - 1. **Transmission Design & Construction** –
 - Little has occurred on the construction of the Arnold Coulee transmission leg over the last month. The Contractor has taken a break to work on other utility work for SREC. Should return in a month or so.
 - 2. **Transmission Easements** –
 - The easement for the switchyard site 2.6 miles west of Jackson’s Corner will be on State Trust lands and has yet to be secured and is pending final decisions with WAPA, NWE, & SREC.
 - 3. **SREC Interconnection & Transmission Agreements** – Nothing new regarding this work. Awaiting finalization of the PPA.
 - 4. **Power Purchase Agreement** – Negotiations with NWE and WAPA are still going slow. NWE continues to fight GID’s effort and the proposed POD.
 - 5. **WEEG WaterSmart Grant** – Preparing semi-annual performance and financial reports describing activities through 09/30/24.
 - 6. **INTERCAP Loan** – Nothing new.

7. **Construction** – Site construction continues.

- Foundation excavation completed and finished in hard bedrock. Groundwater was encountered 10 ft above the excavation bottom.
- Completed the 1st pour of the Powerhouse Foundation Block footprint.
- Accepted delivery of the Draft Tubes and the Draft Tube Extensions.
- Accepted delivery of Draft Tube gate seals embedments.
- Tying rebar & setting forms for concrete to embed the Draft Tubes.
- Soliciting quotes for reducer cones and embedment spools.
- Accepted delivery of the HPU.
- Working on the design package for the pre-engineered metal building.
- The Draft Tube Elbows have been placed on the concrete floor.
- Still hoping to set turbines this Fall.
- Team Sorenson wants to conduct a site visit in the next couple of weeks.





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

1. **Funding** – Nothing new.
2. **LOPP** – Reclamation to initiate the Final LOPP for this site soon after the Arnold Coulee site kicks loose. This includes the NEPA & NHPA process.
3. **Transmission Easements** –
 - Had another kick-off meeting with BOR, GID, BLM, and SREC yesterday (10/07/24) to establish the NEPA and NHPA requirements in order to finalize the preferred transmission route. NEPA approval will not get done before next Spring.
 - May need to amend the Cultural Resource Study because of alignment shifts.
 - Hired a GF firm to conduct a wetlands study along the transmission alignment in order to address any US Army Corps of Engineers permits that may be required. The field work was completed last week, a draft report may be ready in a couple of weeks.
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.** Signed the engineering contract from Sorenson for Pishkun Inlet.
7. **Turbine-Generator Fabrication** – In Progress.

D. Johnson Drop – **Nothing new.**

E. A-Drop – **Nothing new.**

F. Gibson Hydro – **Nothing new.**

12) GID INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS- Current or Planned

- A. Mary Taylor Facility –
1. Completed the site topo survey for the PER (preliminary engineering report). The survey data has been processed and the engineer will begin the PER this Fall. Working under a \$30k planning grant we received.
- B. Hwy 89 Ditch Crossings – Nothing new.
- C. Willow Creek Spillway Repair –
1. Nearly finished with the spillway work portion. Have resume hauling. Overall completion may be done by end of October.
- D. Sun River Bridge Replacement
1. Projected Schedule – Still on schedule
 - Final Design & Advertise – October 15th, 2024
 - Open Bids – November 14th, 2024
 - Award & NTP – Feb. & April 2025, respectively.
 - Construction 2025 and 2026
 2. Status of Old Bridge – Still working to get the historical designation removed so the old bridge can be demo' ed as part of the overall project. The Federal Keeper
- E. Tunnel #3 Rehabilitation –
1. The Contractor is on-site setting up the job trailer, lights in the tunnel, etc. It's happening.



- F. J-Waste Way Facility, Spring Coulee Headworks –
1. No word yet on the \$125K RRG grant application submitted on May 15th to help with GID's matching requirements for the SRWG's WaterSmart Grant. Applications will be ranked this Fall.
- G. SRS 71 Check Replacement and Reregulation, Phase 2– SRS Main Check
1. Similarly, awaiting the ranking of the \$125k RRG grant application.
- H. Pishkun Outlet Replacement –
1. Submitted an application to BOR for financial assistance regarding extraordinary maintenance work through the Aging Infrastructure Account.
 2. There is design charette scheduled for the week of April 7th, 2025.

13) TITLE TRANSFER

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

14) MISC GID O&M PROJECTS

- A. Eric will provide a brief verbal update.

15) GID GRAZING LEASE PROGRAM

- A. Ron can provide an update if he is present.

16) DISTRICT MODERIZATION EFFORT WITH FCA

- A. Continuing with bi-weekly meetings with FCA.
B. Continuing to work on the Systems Improvement Plan (SIP)
C. Need to go to Butte Oct. 16th to support our Groundwater Study proposal with the MBMG.

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 – OCTOBER

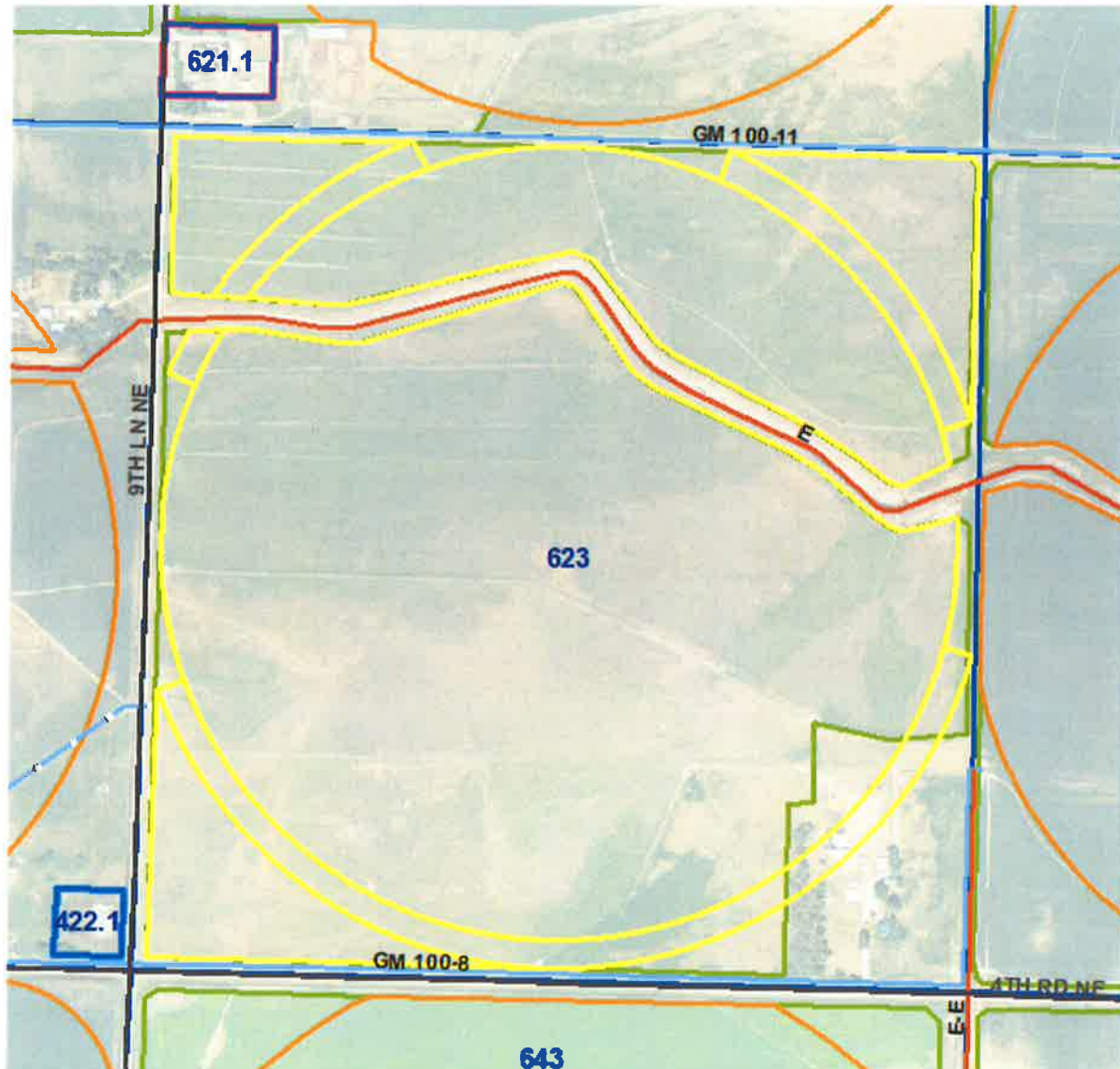
- Complete Federal Grant reports for AC, Pishkun Inlet, and WC IRRM.
- Make progress on Arnold Coulee PPA.
- Closeout SRS-71 Headworks project. In DNRC's hands.
- Upper Missouri Conference Oct 15th and 16th
- Support GW Study at MT Tech Campus on Oct. 16th
- Testifying at the PSC QF Avoided Cost Rate Hearing Oct. 28th to the 30th
- Continued progress on rip rap hauling effort for Willow Creek Spillway IRRMs.
- Continue to make progress on Arnold Coulee.
- Monitor repairs to Tunnel #3.

19) LONG-TERM TO DO LIST – NOVEMBER & ON

- Finalize a Systems Improvement Plan (SIP) with FCA
- Meet with Reclamation staff in Billings when?? (November??)
- Get ready for WCFC trial

NEXT GID BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 12th @ 6PM

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Brunner, Tim FU 623 Proposed New Pivot

FU	Physical Size	Assessed	Current Irr	Proposed Irr
623	153.82	142.48	133.22	132.63
Total	153.82	142.48	133.22	132.63



WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP FALL 2024 MEETING **DRAFT** AGENDA

"local solutions to local problems"

Thursday, October 17 at 10 am

NOTE MEETING LOCATION: Cascade Conservation District - 3615 29th St SW, Great Falls

Meeting to be followed by lunch at 12:30 and SRWG Board Meeting at 1 pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82920947649?pwd=UmtxQ3hCUmE5YjI4K1dFV0gxZ0xlQT09>

- I. Introductions, agenda review, opening comments
- II. Review of Action Items from April 2024 Spring meeting
 - a. *SatLink updates – denied DNRC IDG funding*
 - b. *Elk Creek – Moved to agenda below*
 - c. *Tracy to coordinate mid-season water management call(s)*
- III. NWS – Weather outlook
- IV. Fishery update – FWP presentation
- V. Water supply, proposed operations
 - a. 2024 season recap
 - b. Anticipated winter operations
- VI. Late season river management – improving procedure and communication
- VII. Stream gages
 - a. SRWG gage status, repair needs
 - i. Floweree gage update
 - b. Elk Creek gage update
 - c. USGS gage funding issue
- VIII. Other major water management projects
 - a. SRWG
 - b. FSID
 - c. GID
- IX. Partners updates (all)



SRWG Update to GID, October 2024

- DNRC installed a new stream gage on Elk Creek last Thursday (Oct 3). It is located on the Krause property.
- As mentioned last month, USGS is considering pulling funding for several stream gages across MT. The Sun River gages are safe this time, but if you are interested in which gages are at risk, visit <https://water.usgs.gov/networks/fundingstability> for a complete list.
- There is a Request for Qualifications for the Muddy Creek project posted on the SRWG website. Responses are due October 21. SRWG is forming a Technical Advisory Committee to help with the selection process and to provide the selected team with technical information.
- The MWCC Tour of the Sun River Watershed was highly successful. Thanks to Erling for being a presenter. I got a lot of questions and comments following his presentation about how SRWG and the District work together. It was really nice to be able to say we have great support and work closely with GID.
- SRWG and GID partnered to propose a groundwater study of the Greenfields bench and will be presenting to the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology on October 16. Study would help understand connections between irrigation and groundwater recharge across the irrigation district.
- By popular demand, the next rain barrel workshop will be in Fairfield. Assuming I can get barrels from Coke in time, it will be in April. More info to come.
- SRWG is planning a workshop for producers, likely to be in Feb or March. This will include results from a MSU graduate study near Muddy Creek that looked at water use, nutrient uptake, and productivity. Will also include a presentation from Montana Salinity Control about recent studies of canal leakage and saline seeps. Would like suggestions for other topics of interest to producers, related to efficient irrigation and water quality.
- Thanks to recently awarded Reclamation grants, the next three years will be very busy for SRWG. Some projects include:
 - Preliminary Engineering Report for improving the efficiency of the Willow Creek outlet and Floweree Canal intake
 - Studying groundwater/surface water recharge impacts from on-farm infrastructure
 - Rain Barrel workshops for the next 3-4 years
 - And more!
- I plan to be at the November meeting, but will be on vacation during the December meeting. I will send an update.