



# WATERWORKS

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**The mission of the Oregon Water Resources Congress is to promote the protection and use of water rights and the wise stewardship of water resources.**

**ISSUE #18**

**SUMMER 2006**

## **A Note from President Pendleton**

So far this has been a very good water year with natural stream flows holding up well and reservoirs drawing down at their anticipated rate. While I would not promote winter storms like we experienced last December in our Basin, once we were able to dig everything out, the added water has been an advantage to our storage supply which should equate to reasonable storage carryover to next year.

At the risk of sounding repetitive I would again like to thank and commend the individual committee chairs and members for their work and time commitment to OWRC. These committees and task forces do a tremendous amount of work and gather a very broad representation of the membership on numerous issues making the OWRC Board and Anita's job considerably easier.

I will continue to lean on OWRC staff and other managers as an excellent information source and if nothing else, a sympathetic ear. I encourage you to do the same.

I know Anita and Kristina have been hard at work with the grass roots regional meetings and I look forward to their final report.

Hope to see everyone in Medford at the October 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

## **Fish Screen Task Force (FSTF) Update**

The Fish Screening Task Force discussed numerous recommendations on legislative concepts for 2006. Highlights of recommended revisions involved tax credits, language involving number of screens vs cfs as a set implementation goal and water user screen maintenance fees. Also, all potential screen funding sources were reviewed. The Task Force is kept up to date with screening activities throughout the regions of Oregon along with the sources of revenues that were used.

*Carol Bradford, manager of the Medford Irrigation District, serves on the FSTF representing irrigation interests and provided this summary. Look for updates on the FSTF activities in future newsletters*

## The Oregon Lower Columbia and Willamette Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Planning Stakeholder Teams

The first part of the meeting reviewed material concerning the limiting factors and threats to the listed species. ODFW staff had previously presented tables for each of the major watersheds in the Lower Columbia during the last meeting. Factors and threats include such things as fish passage blockage by dams or other structures, loss of spawning grounds, high instream temperatures and many more. These tables were updated after comments from the stakeholder team and responses from the ODFW planning team

The next step in the process is to develop management actions for the recovery of each species (steelhead, Coho, Chinook, etc.) specific to the population in each watershed as well as for the whole Lower Columbia Domain (domain is the word used by NOAA fisheries for the area covering the Lower Columbia tributaries).

Part of the work needed by ODFW to develop the management plans include the use of models to estimate species recovery. These models should help guide the stakeholder team to "see" the impacts of the management actions on recovery.

ODFW is working on the status reviews of the listed species at the same time at the recovery plan in being developed.

The plan was originally scheduled to be in draft form by the end of 2006. We are now about 2-3 months behind.

Our next meeting is in the gorge September 20th.

If you have questions, email or call me.

Brian Nakamura, Nakamura Orchards Inc  
Phone: 541-354-1495 Cell: 541-354-3286  
[bnakamura@hoodriverelectric.net](mailto:bnakamura@hoodriverelectric.net)

*Brian Nakamura, East Fork Irrigation District Director and OWRC Director, was invited to serve on the Oregon Lower Columbia and Willamette Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Planning Stakeholder Teams. We asked him to provide a description of the Recovery Teams' work for our members and to provide updates during the life of the Teams. Brian attached the list of stakeholders, the planning team, and expert panel for the team. If anyone is interested in obtaining any of these lists, contact [carolz@owrc.org](mailto:carolz@owrc.org)*

The Glory Hole at Owyhee in action



## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION PILOT PROJECT

During the 2006 OWRC Annual Conference some of us had the opportunity to have dinner with Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner John Keys. Part of our conversation was about the changing face of the Bureau, especially the retiring staff and how younger, newer staff do not have prior experience on or with Bureau projects. OWRC's Federal Caucus had earlier discussed a program to provide some on-project experience for Bureau staff which we shared with the Commissioner. He told us if we would commit to running this as a pilot program that could be shared with other states and Bureau offices, he would commit to the needed Bureau resources. Before he retired, Commissioner Keys named Steve Brawley from the PN Regional office as the liaison to work with OWRC to develop the program. Steve appointed Sue Tholen as the Bureau's coordinator. After some discussions by the Federal Caucus, we recommended hosting the program at both the Owyhee Irrigation District and Talent Irrigation District.

The project guidelines are simple. The Bureau selects 6-8 people to participate in each program. Each program consists of two 2-day sessions, one while water is running and one after the water has been turned off. Both programs will include a system tour and will cover system operations, policy issues, meeting with water users, district board meetings, and conversations with district board members. The district manager is responsible for developing the detailed program and adding other topics that are important to his district.

The Owyhee ID program had its first session July 19-20. The first session at the Talent ID was August 22-23. The Bureau staff attending covered a range of Bureau responsibilities, from real estate to engineering to special projects.

I asked Jim Pendleton (Talent ID), Jay Chamberlin (Owyhee ID), and Sue Tholen (Bureau) to provide a paragraph or two for this article.

From Jim Pendleton (Talent Irrigation District)

I thought the first phase of the pilot project tour went very well. There was a tremendous amount of information exchanged back and forth between District and Bureau personnel.

The tour of facilities also went well. Time was taken to walk through reservoir control works, major diversions, the Green Springs Power Plant and automated structures. The discussions about "on the ground" operations was beneficial to both groups.

I personally thought that it was very helpful for both groups to meet and talk to the water users who rely on the irrigation district for their livelihood and to talk to staff (maintenance supervisors and ditch riders) about the day to day operations and what it takes to keep an irrigation district running.

It is always easy to talk about issues like water delivery, district and patron relationships, demossing the systems, urbanization and encroachment issues, but to actually see it in practice and have to deal with it directly helps to put it into perspective. Overall I thought the first phase of this project was very successful and I am looking forward to the second phase this fall.

From Jay Chamberlin (Owyhee Irrigation District)

In my opinion the first training session was a great success. The leadership group that was chosen by the Bureau of Reclamation was of great encouragement. They were asking quite a few questions and at times made many of us have to really think. The agenda was very full and we ran out of time with more information to be shared with each other. At the end of the day I believe everyone felt it was a time well spent and was looking forward to the second session in the Fall.

From Sue Tholen (Bureau of Reclamation PN Regional Office)

The pilot program is designed to provide Reclamation employees with an understanding of the challenges faced by irrigation district managers, their role in carrying out board policies, and to help employees to better understand the challenges related to water issues. This program can help establish relationships to understand, discuss, and resolve water issues.

Reclamation employees found the sessions to be meaningful and beneficial and are looking forward to the next sessions. The participants were impressed with the technology, dedication, and the level of detail involved with farming practices. They appreciated the opportunity to talk with the District Managers and the district employees in an informal atmosphere. The sessions provided the detail necessary to understand the level of coordination and effort it takes to get water to the end user. *Article written by Anita Winkler, Executive Director of OWRC*

## OSU Creates New Institute for Water and Watersheds

Guest Contributor Michael Campana

Although people outside Oregon often perceive our state as one that is water-rich with few water problems, we Oregonians know otherwise. Continued population growth will demand more water supplies, competing with ecosystem and agricultural needs. Water quantity and quality issues in the Willamette and Klamath Basins are Governor Kulongoski's top environmental priorities. Indeed, water limitations around the world point toward a strong emerging area for growth in research, education, and outreach. Oregon State University, with over 80 faculty in six colleges having water-related expertise, is ideally positioned to assume a leadership role in addressing these issues and created the Institute for Water and Watersheds to do so. The goals of the IWW are to:

- provide coordination of water and watershed activities at OSU;
- connect a diverse student body with relevant issues across the state;
- enable capture of new, high-value opportunities for research, education, and outreach;
- engage OSU faculty and students with stakeholders throughout the state;
- establish a set of shared water and watershed collaboratories supporting research, teaching and outreach; and
- complement OSU's Institute for Natural Resources in providing outreach to Oregon communities and solutions to water resource issues.

Dr. Michael E. Campana, hydrogeologist and international expert on water management issues, is the new



director of the IWW. He is one of the leading experts on transboundary ground water resources, a potential flash point for conflict among nations as competition for water increases. Among other things, Campana plans to increase OSU's visibility in international projects and to further develop OSU's new suite of 5 degrees – three MS, two PhD – in Water Resources ([www.oregonstate.edu/gradwater](http://www.oregonstate.edu/gradwater)). Campana is also anxious to travel throughout Oregon to hear residents' water concerns first-hand.

To learn more, please visit the IWW at [water.oregonstate.edu](http://water.oregonstate.edu). You can contact Campana at [aquadoc@oregonstate.edu](mailto:aquadoc@oregonstate.edu) or 541-737-2413.

## Urbanization and Land Use Impacts on Districts

The Legislative Committee had several discussions about the impacts of urban growth and expansion on districts. Concerns raised ranged from subdivision plans that did not include district delivery systems to serve the small lots to counties and cities directing developers to use irrigation canals as part of the stormwater system for the new developments. The Committee several legislative proposals to address these problems but decided that there are other options that should be explored first. To that end, some of our district managers and II met with representatives of the League of Oregon Cities and the Special Districts Association of Oregon. At that meeting we told them of specific activities that were of concern and explained why these were problems for the districts and even for the future property owners. They were sympathetic and we came up with several things all of us would pursue to address these issues including newsletter articles by districts and their nearby cities that have developed good work relationships, a session at our annual conference, and some communications they will have with their members. One of the first things they suggested was that each district should contact the cities in their area and the counties in which the district is located and ask to be put on the mailing list for all planning commission meetings and City Council meetings. And if your cities or county have other appointed bodies that hold hearings on land use related actions (such as building permits), ask to receive those agendas as well. That way you will at least know when a development or land use action is scheduled for action. If you can get these entities to put you on the list for notice of applications, you will then become aware of proposed actions while the action is still in the early discussion stages which would be better for getting your input into the process.

*Article written by Anita Winkler, Executive Director of OWRC*

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The most effective way you can address the issues in your District is by becoming and staying active in Oregon Water Resources Congress. We rely on the expertise and experience (some good, some bad) of each member District to guide the programs that we develop and support. The individual members provide valuable guidance and insight to our district, and are an integral part of the OWRC membership.

Every member matters in our association. Here is what you can do.

Get involved—support our federal program and legislative efforts

- Address the issues that affect you
- Become part of an action committee that follows a specific program
- Take part in a Washington D.C. trip
- Attend a Tri-State meeting (OR, WA, ID) to learn Regional issues

Stay involved—support our State legislative and rule-making program

- Participate on a rule-making committee
- Influence our legislative program
- Respond to “calls to action” on legislative issues
- Talk to your legislator – voice your opinion
- Be part of the grassroots effort for ag water

Be involved—join one of the action committees

- Participate on a short or long term committee
- Provide your input
- Take part in surveys

Become informed—receive the latest info

- Read daily news clipping briefs
- Read federal news from NWRA and Family Farm Alliance
- Learn about water issues around the state
- Keep up-to-date on legal issues and challenges

Practice smarter—take part in the seminars and training

- Attend the annual conference
- Network at meetings and gatherings
- Attend trainings for Managers, Operations, Office staff
- Attend specialty training
- Use the OWRC office as a resource

Together, we become a stronger association.

Bev Bridgewater, Membership Committee Chair

## OWRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Planning for the OWRC annual conference is well underway. The program should be available in the next couple of weeks. This conference will be packed with policy discussion as well as sessions about on-the-ground operations for districts. The planning committee set a goal for a balanced program and we think they have met that goal. Meanwhile, if you know anyone who works with your district that might be interested in exhibiting at the conference, get the contact information to Carol and she will follow up with them. We have had several new businesses contact us about exhibits this year and we'd like to have more. Room reservations can be made now by calling the Hood River Inn at 1-800-828-7873. Be sure that you mention OWRC to get our special conference rates. For more detailed hotel information, go to their website at [www.hoodriverinn.com](http://www.hoodriverinn.com).

## **Updates for 2006 OWRC Membership Directory**

***In case you didn't get the e-mail or a corrected copy of the 2006 directory, following are the changes you should have in your book:***

- P5 Will & Carlson, Inc. address change to 5335 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Suite 440, Washington DC 20015 Phone 202-478-9669, Fax 202-966-2191
- P7 Central Oregon Irrigation District Address change to 1055 SW Lake Dr.
- P12 Hermiston's new website is [www.hermistonid.org](http://www.hermistonid.org)
- P20 Delete e-mail address for Summer Lake Irrigation District
- P23 Replace Andrea Musengo with Laura Felder for Office Staff
- P34 Delete Nanci Klinger and Jessica Crone as representatives
- P35 Carl Hopp e-mail is [bill@cwhepp.com](mailto:bill@cwhepp.com)
- P36 Hurley Re & Gruetter - e-mail is [eadickson@hrg-law.com](mailto:eadickson@hrg-law.com) website [www.hrg-law.com](http://www.hrg-law.com)
- P37 Jud Holtey Fax 541-482-9173
- P38 Additional address for Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt – Martha Pagel & Shonee Langford, 530 Center St. NE, Suite 400, Salem, OR 97301 Phone 503-540-4262, Fax 503-796-2900
- P41 Additional address for David Evans & Associates – Terry Buchholz 2100 SW River Parkway, Portland, OR 97201 Phone 503-499-0370 Fax 503-223-2701
- P46 Add phone numbers for Parametrix – Phone 503-233-2400 Fax 503-233-4825
- P50 GI Ranch Corp e-mail [bill@wspi.net](mailto:bill@wspi.net)  
Hydrolox – delete Kathy Perret as representative, update e-mail for Jack & Amy to [jbragg@hydrolox.com](mailto:jbragg@hydrolox.com) and [astallings@hydrolox.com](mailto:astallings@hydrolox.com)
- P53 Add Life Member John Keys, 798 Huntridge Dr., Moab, UT 84532
- P69 Correct area code for Idaho Water Users Association to 208
- I have some extra's so if you need any additional 2006 Membership directories, please let me know by calling 503-363-0121 or e-mail me at [carolz@owrc.org](mailto:carolz@owrc.org).

### **Have you been to the OWRC Website lately??**

Ongoing updates are made to the OWRC website. However, we are very interested in what additional content you would like to see available. Please e-mail [carolz@owrc.org](mailto:carolz@owrc.org) with any suggestions. Posted recently:

Federal Legislation:

- S.3832 Reclamation Facility Title Transfer Act of 2006
- S.3854 Lewis & Clark Mt. Hood Wilderness Act of 2006
- H.R.6029 To amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978
- OWRC Letter of Support to Oregon Congressional Delegation for H.R.6029

***Visit us on the web at <http://www.owrc.org>***

## Executive Director's Report

By now Kristina McNitt and I have met with most of our districts' water users once and we are part way through the second round of meetings. As I said in an earlier newsletter, this has been a rewarding effort both for OWRC and for me personally. While it is not difficult to work on behalf of our member districts and their water users while sitting in Salem, it is much more satisfying and frankly, much easier, to work on their behalf after having the opportunities to talk to them and talk about their interests. We have had some intense discussions and some good laughs with the water users, but most of all we have learned so much about the relationships and expectations between the water users and their districts. We both return to Salem with a deeper appreciation of the importance of functioning districts to their water users and the reliance of the water users on the district managers and staff to handle the external issues and activities. Kristina and I could not have done this without the help of the district managers and staff and the interest of the water users. Thanks to everyone that has participated in this effort.

As you will read elsewhere, the pilot project between OWRC and the Bureau of Reclamation to bring Bureau employees to districts for some hands-on experiences is underway. In talking with Bureau staff and our district managers, this program is everything OWRC had hoped when we proposed it to then Commissioner John Keys. And I have to think he would find it has met his expectations when he committed his support as well.

In another partnership, the Oregon Water Resources Department working with OWRC applied for and received a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to develop new guidelines for water conservation and management plans for districts. The end product is intended to provide guidelines for preparing a plan or updating a plan which will enable districts to do most of the work internally and, if followed, will ease OWRD plan review and result in plans and updates which are more likely to be approved with additional revisions by the district. Several district managers and I serve on the steering committee along with OWRD staff and Kathy Kihara from the Bureau. We wanted the district managers to be involved throughout the process to make sure the end product will be usable by the districts. Target date for completion of the guidebook is late next summer.

The Legislative Committee considered 20 concepts for the 2007 Legislative Session. The Committee will be making its recommendations for OWRC's 2007 Legislative Agenda to the Board of Directors at its meeting in October. As you'll see in another article, some of the requests led to actions other than legislation. Some of the requests have gone to other groups for their legislative packages and we will be working with those groups during the Session.

I attended the NWRA State Executives Council and Policy Development Committee meetings in Park City this summer. The SEC discussed pending federal legislation for ESA modification, the Bureau's proposed loan guarantee program, and the Bureau's Managing for Excellence project. It's always interesting to hear perspectives from other states on these national topics and to hear what is going on at the state level around the western U.S.

I also attended the Department of Interior's "Listening Session" in Redmond. Several district managers also attended, mostly to listen. Secretary of Interior Kempthorne, Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey and other officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife were joined by Congressman Walden and BOR Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Mark Limbaugh. Well over 100 people attended with about 80 of them speaking. Greg Addington, Executive Director of the Klamath Water Users Association, made an excellent presentation outlining the issues facing the Klamath project. Other speakers had 2 minutes each and covered everything from logging areas burned by forest fires to road access in forests to the Endangered Species Act. As I recall, there was not any topic that came up that didn't have speakers both supporting or opposing changes in legislation. After the listening session concluded, the central Oregon irrigation districts hosted a tour for Mark Limbaugh followed by dinner with him and the district managers and me. It was good to see him again and to have some informal time to talk about district issues.

## **Bureau of Reclamation's Otto Otter Canal Safety Program**

Bureau of Reclamation is in the process of developing a region-wide canal safety program with the hope of reducing the chances of tragic deaths due to accidental drowning in irrigation canals. Reclamation's safety message is currently designed to be delivered to elementary school grades second through four. This delivery includes classroom visits, participation in parades and local events, distribution of "Otto Otter" coloring books and other products. Eventual expansion to a companion program for upper elementary and teenagers is planned. OWRC entered into a memorandum of Agreement in May to work with the Bureau in accomplishing this goal. The draft coloring book will soon be going to print and OWRC will be assisting in its distribution to our member districts. For more information about the Canal Safety Program, contact Annette Ross at the Bureau of Reclamation, 1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100, Boise, ID 8370-1234 or (208) 378-5322.

### **OWEB Funds Local Irrigation District Projects**

by Guest Contributor – Jan Lee

OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) received 138 applications for a total of \$19,119,992 for the grant application period ended April 24, 2006. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, the OWEB board met in Bend and approved \$10,173,630 in awards for 53 capital projects ranging from as little as \$5,000 to \$900,000 each. About 55% of that total went to six projects totaling \$6,414,081 (2 dam removal projects, 2 pipeline projects and 2 land acquisition projects).

It was a good day for irrigation district project funding as the following projects were approved as part of the \$10 million package:

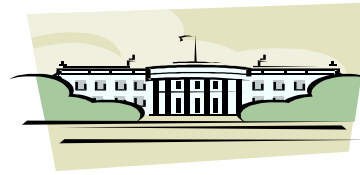
Bowman Dam Bypass Flow Enhancement	Ochoco Irrigation District	\$ 78,000
Lower Phase, Central Canal Pipeline	East Fork Irrigation District	\$900,000
McKenzie Canyon Canal Pipeline	Three Sisters Irrigation Distr.	\$320,000
Middle Deschutes Restoration Main Canal	Swalley Irrigation District	\$850,000

The OWEB board also approved \$329,610 to remove the Chiloquin Dam in the Klamath Basin.

These projects underscore the fact that OWEB has now moved into the ability to fund bigger, long-term projects. A couple of the projects approved on the 19<sup>th</sup> are funded in two pieces, in two different bienniums.

The Central Oregon irrigation districts participated in a tour with OWEB, reviewing project sites in Tumalo, Central Oregon and Swalley Irrigation Districts. A presentation by the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) addressed OWEB, proposing a 10 year plan of funding the first round of water conservation piping projects at a cost of about \$35 million to provide about 100 cfs instream in the Middle Deschutes River. This is part of an overall basin priority list of over \$100 million in conservation projects.

Approximately \$10 million will be available in the next funding cycle. Go to the OWEB website ([www.oweb.state.or.us](http://www.oweb.state.or.us)) and complete an application. The next round of applications are due on October 16, 2006, for funding approval in March 14, 2007. The following cycle's applications are due April 23, 2007 for approval September 18, 2007.



## **OWRC in Washington D.C.**

### **NEWS FROM THE FAR EAST**

Greetings from the Nation's Capital. Congress has returned from their August recess for one last run of legislative action before they adjourn in early October so some of them can make their own personal last run. With the election themes of security and national defense and both the House and Senate possibly in plan for ruling party change, most political observers do not expect other items to be taken up until Congress returns after the November elections. But that doesn't mean there isn't good news on several items on the OWRC Federal Agenda.

On September 21, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power will hold a hearing on S. 3522, legislation introduced by Senators Wyden and Smith to reauthorize the FRIMA program. And OWRC has been invited to testify. This represents a great opportunity to keep this vital program on track.

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), the authorization bill for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers program, which has several projects and policy reforms of interest to OWRC may have its differences worked out between the House and the Senate before October, in time for Members to point to efforts to address water resource infrastructure across the country.

OWRC has been supportive of the efforts to address cost-sharing issues associate with site-security at Bureau of Reclamation facilities. H.R. 6029 has had a hearing in the House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee and there appears to be uniform support for the non-Federal partners to only pay for 15% of the costs.

We are still awaiting the Senate passage of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill (funds the Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers) and the Interior Appropriations bill (funds the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. G.S. and the EPA) to come to the Senate floor. Aside from specific OWRC member interest in individual project funding, the Senate Appropriations Committee has provided funding for the Bureau's Water 2025 program and the House version of the Interior Appropriations bills has funding for FRIMA – even though the authorization has expired.

We have also not lost sight of individual authorization bills that OWRC members still remain hopeful on Congress passing before final adjournment the end of the year. So with money tight and an election fight, don't make it tight by staying out of sight.

*Peter Carlson, Will and Carlson is the Washington DC representative for OWRC Members*

### *Membership Services*

OWRC staff and the membership committee are busy working on several different projects that will be rolling out this fall. One of the top priorities for some time has been to develop a brochure for our membership and potential members. We are close to completion and hope to have it published before the annual conference. We welcome any and all suggestions that you have that can make your membership and our resources more valuable to you. Please feel free to e-mail ([carolz@owrc.org](mailto:carolz@owrc.org)) or call Carol at (503) 363-0121 with any of your thoughts and suggestions.

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Anita Winkler  
Office Manager/Editor  
Carol Zielinski



**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**OWRC Board Meeting**  
**October 20, 2006 8am**  
**Medford – Rogue Regency Inn**

**OWRC Annual Conference**  
**December 6-8, 2006**  
**Hood River Inn, Hood River, Oregon**

## On the road with OWRC



**OWRC BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS  
AT OWYHEE  
DAM**

***Curt Sisson of Sisson Farm is sharing knowledge with Dean Sisson, Jay Chamberlin, Jesse Chan, Rex Barrie, Scott Short, Ryan Hendrick, Lupe Rodriguez and Bryan Horsburgh on the recent Bureau of Reclamation tour at Owyhee.***

