

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Farmers Union Ditch Meeting

Board Present:

Lloyd Akins, Tom Foster

Craig Waddell - Ditch Rider, Seth Kettering – Ditch Rider

Rosalie Cope, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Jerry Kiser, Attorney for FUD

Guests: Jay Camp – HG 72; Jim Linford, Mr. Hirsch, Randy George - Lexington Hills HOA; John Roldan and Kate Harris – City of Boise; Don Newell – Roselands Sub./Colina Visa; Tony Loucks, Craig McClintock, Mike Chidester – Hazen Ranch Sub. (HG 78)

HEADGATE 78

Tony Loucks, Craig McClintock and Mike Chidester were in attendance to discuss issues with their system on headgate 78. John is a civil engineer with a background in irrigation and was hired by the association to identify and correct issues with the system. Catalpa subdivision is at the end of the lateral and Mr. McClintock stated they only received about half the water this season that they have been used to in the past. Hazen Ranch subdivision is beyond Catalpa and is not fully developed yet therefore did not use any water this season. The group has been trying to organize a lateral association and make upgrades to the system in anticipation of Hazen Ranch coming online next season. Craig Waddell reported the delivery box was replaced which is more standard with the rest of the canal. The box has a weir which allows the Ditchriders to more accurately measure the water. Previously there was a box on the other side of the canal that did not work correctly. John said the pipe on the south side of Beacon Light is higher than on the north side of the delivery. The pipe builds up which causes the weir to be submerged. With a flow meter, John measured approximately 180 inches coming over the weir and about 30 feet south of the delivery measured approximately 140 inches. There are also some problems on the delivery end not just at the weir. First of all, there is a problem measuring the water with a submerged weir. John said there are two other weirs approximately 1,000 feet downstream, he measured 100 inches at the furthest delivery to the east and the next one is measuring 80. There is the possibly a large seepage loss in the lateral at that point. Lloyd says that is a severe water loss over 1,000 feet and is not sure that could be entirely seepage and evaporation. The lateral is proposing to install a 24" pipe from the south side of the delivery to the first weir to address seepage and evaporation loss but not sure that will solve the problem completely. Mr. Camp asked if they have contacted ACHD or the County to scope the pipe under

the road to make sure it is not collapsed or plugged. He said they have replaced a couple of pipes on headgate 72. Lloyd asked if changing the alignment of the pipe would help. John said it would help if the south side of the pipe is lowered but will not completely solve the problem. He would be able to get the water surface on the downstream side of the weir to the bottom of the weir blade. The weir would still be somewhat submerged but wouldn't pool as bad. Lloyd said Farmer's Union will do whatever they can to help on the delivery side. He says it may not be impossible under certain conditions to have 50% loss of water in over a mile of ditch. Lloyd said the ditch is very difficult to clean with a tractor and ditcher because there is a half mile of ditch with power poles in it which obstruct the water and make it difficult to clean around. Lloyd said the power poles and weeds may be contributing to the loss of flow downstream. Piping a portion of the ditch would eliminate seepage and evaporation loss as well as solve the problem with power poles and weeds slowing the water down. Jerry Kiser stated the entire length of the lateral for purposes of maintenance, repair and cleaning is the responsibility of all of the water users.

LANDER STREET WASTEWATER DISCHARGE

Representatives from Lexington Hills HOA are concerned with the City of Boise's proposal to discharge Class A water from the Lander Street wastewater treatment plant into the Farmer's Union canal. They would like to know what is in the water that is to be discharged, if Farmer's Union is going to be subsidized for taking the water and what is going to happen with the water during the winter months.

Lloyd explained the City is proposing to discharge treated water from the plant as part of an effort to meet the temperature requirements put forth by the EPA. They are proposing to discharge water from April 1st – November 30th. In the winter the water can be discharged into the river because it will not raise the temperature beyond the EPA's requirements. Lloyd said Farmer's Union could gain 25 cfs of water under this proposal.

Mr. Linford asked if the City of Boise will provide Farmer's Union with water quality data. Kate Harris said the HOA is welcome to do a public records request for construction information and/or water data. Mr. Linford asked how pharmaceuticals are going to be removed. John Roldan stated the City is in the process of doing outreach and representatives from Lexington Hills may participate. Letters outlining the plan were sent to all shareholders. At this time plans are on "pause" and the City is engaging with a national expert in reuse.

WHITEWATER PARK

Craig asked when the water quality testing locations are going to be relocated. John Roldan said temperature testing gauges are probably not going to be installed this year. John stated they might be able to assist in purchasing chemicals however they need to know how much more has been used in the past couple of years. Jerry stated it is very difficult to quantify how much additional chemical has been used. Farmer's Union purchases chemicals in bulk as needed and the temperature of the water is a major factor in determining what is used. Craig Waddell said he has been

treating the canal bi-monthly for the last two years. He said chemical use has doubled since the ponds have gone in but hasn't factored in temperature. John stated there is a lot of monitoring going on. Lloyd said there needs to be a temperature reading as the water is coming out of the pond. Not only are the ponds coming into the canal, but now Sand Creek is as well. Sand Creek has been monitored for bacteria but not for temperature. Kate Harris said they do have pond temperature. There is a monitoring device in Veteran's pond by the flow meter. Craig wants one in Veteran's pond where the two mix. John said there may have been a misunderstanding and the device from Sand Creek was moved to the river. Jerry said the Board wants one there also for a baseline then an additional reading on Sand Creek. John will send the Board a map of current locations.

John Roldan provided the Board with a map for proposed gate locations. The top gate and gate in third location are installed. The second gate near the shop and bottom gate near the box culvert still need to be installed. Craig said signage needs to be replaced on the building, where the headgates and wave structure are and by the barrel. Craig suggested they start at the bottom with strongly worded signage to keep people from trespassing. John said the second gate by the shop area is going to be installed, but he is getting pushback on installing the bottom gate because that location is on public property owned by the State and it cannot be fenced. John will look into parcel ownership.

Kate Harris provided the Board with maps and explained the City has hired someone to treat the ponds for milfoil over a span of three days. Quinn's pond will be treated on October 8th, Esther Simplot Pond #1 on the 9th and Esther Simplot #2 and Veterans Park Pond on the 10th.

Craig said Farmer's Union will be shutting down on the 15th of October. He is concerned the cuffs will be dropped down to approximately 160 cfs so what comes out of the ponds could affect the water users. Kate explained that is why they are treating over a span of three days. She will forward the treatment specs to Jerry Kiser. The Board stated October is pretty late in the year to treat for milfoil, as it will start to die naturally by that time. She explained this is a bank treatment so they want the water to drop they would be able to cover more surface.

John Roldan reported the pilot water quality program for the ponds was somewhat successful. Water quality improved quite a bit and there were no closures in the park this year. He said they put a pipe in at Quinn's pond where there was up to 28 cfs of water moving out. They are still in the process of applying for a non-consumptive water right for the irrigation season for up to 35 cfs. It will be a more constant supply and hopefully result in better water quality in the ponds. Lloyd asked if they could start flushing earlier in the season during runoff. John said they hope to start around the first of March but would like to get an extension during flood flows if possible.

DON NEWELL – COLINA VISTA SUB.

Mr. Newell explained Colina Vista subdivision is an extension of Roselands subdivision. This past winter they relocated the pi system for Roselands so it is static and Farmer's Union installed a new headgate. Mr. Newell and the Roselands HOA would like to be completely separate entities. Mr. Newell is asking to install an additional pi system with a new headgate approximately 50 feet from Roselands headgate. Colina Vista has a supplemental water right to provide adequate irrigation. They will be drilling a well but there are some restrictions because they have given the City of Star an easement to install a new City well on the property and it has to be 1,500 feet away from their culinary well. This would put the power, well and pi station in one location. Colina Vista is approximately 87 acres and they have 36.19 inches of Farmer's Union water for the first phase which is approximately 38 acres. The supplemental well will cover the remainder of the property.

Lloyd is concerned about splitting the service. He stated that originally there were several points of delivery for that entire property and when Roselands was developed the headgates were condensed into one point of delivery. Mr. Newell explained with one system there would not be a way to separate the secondary water right from Roselands use. Craig is agreeable to adding a point of delivery but said Colina Vista may have to pay for the new box. Craig said the debris from the other system will be removed this winter. The other box belongs to Roselands and they can remove it. Mr. Newell explained the pump station will have a filter cleaner and would like to spray the water back into the canal. Mr. Newell would like to do the work this fall and is aware it would have to be done by March 1st. The Board agreed if the water ran back into the headgate box so it would not erode the canal bank would probably work. Tom Foster said if the addition of a delivery simplifies things for everyone then it is probably the way to go. Jerry Kiser asked to see plans for the system and the Board will discuss.

Mr. Newell said easements will be put in place when the Platt is recorded for Colina Vista. Craig Waddell said there still needs to be a remote reader for the flow meter installed on the Roselands system.

DITCH RIDER REPORT

Craig reported there are four new boxes on order and he would like the Board's feedback on which headgates to replace. He is proposing:
104 going to the pivot is leaking and needs a box with a weir

103 needs a box

101 needs a box with a weir

Belmar says their box is not low enough in the canal and wants to know if the box and their pump can be lowered. The headgate is running out of water because it is set too high. Craig said there is not currently a box at that location, just a headgate and pipe. Craig would like a remote reader for the flow meter when the pump is lowered. Craig stated if the fourth box is now going to Colina Vista he can't replace

Belmar's. Jerry said before Farmer's Union does anything Belmar will have to lower their pump station and hook up to a lower pipe. When the system meets the approval of the Board, Farmer's Union will look into installing a new box.

Craig suggested installing a new box at headgate 24 for David Llewellyn. Craig had Roto Rooter come out and clean just to the end of the Farmer's Union pipe and thinks the problem is on Mr. Llewellyn's side. There is no cleanout on his side where the pipe comes through the canal so he can flush his system. Lloyd asked about installing a 2' tin whistle. Craig said there is already one there and Mr. Llewellyn cut the hole larger. Jerry stated altering a measuring device is a criminal offense and the Ditchriders need to monitor what Mr. Llewellyn does. Craig plans to install a new tin whistle with the correct size hole but says he can cut right size hole and weld on outside of the box as a temporary solution. Craig said there is the valve box, concrete wall with headgate on it and pipe through the ditch. The tin whistle is on the outside in the canal. Lloyd authorized Craig to install a new tin whistle and work with the Watermaster to get the right size orifice then deliver one more inch than what Mr. Llewellyn has rights to. Farmer's Union will install a headgate and wall in the ditch with a box and weir in the future.

Craig said there is bank repair at the Boise Valley headgate, on the Strelyuk property and Eagle Hills Golf Course. There is another place upstream from Belmar on Hill Road where the farmer discharged water from the pump into the bank and blew the bank out.

Craig reported there are motion sensor cameras installed on all four sides of the shop that record overnight.

Lloyd authorized Craig to order another four boxes.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Jerry Kiser reported he did a site visit at Dry Creek Cemetery and looked at their pumps and system. Jerry doesn't think they can pump more than what their water right is. He said they don't run all of the pumps all of the time. There is a four acre piece with a wheel line that they run all the time. They don't run water on the grass on the cemetery all the time otherwise it would get too wet. He said they have two headgates and thinks both are 12". Two of the pumps are metered, one of the others could be metered with some modification but it would be very difficult to meter the fourth pump. It comes out of a pond, angles and goes under the road and has a lot of bends in it. They have three ponds, two of which are connected off one headgate and the other is off a different headgate. Now they are primarily utilizing a wet well instead of the pond. They have built a large concrete box and installed a pump. Jerry suggested Mr. Fisher from the Cemetery attend a Board meeting after water season and provide pump hp, capacity, etc. and go through the system.

Jerry provided the Board with a revised version of the news release he prepared regarding the Lander Street project. He had Roger Batt review and Roger suggested the links to websites was too much detail for a news release. He also suggested the release include a quote from one of the Board members. Jerry provided the City of Boise with a copy. He thinks it is important for Farmer's Union to provide a response and get our position out. Once the City approves the release he will forward to Roger for release.

Jerry provided Rosalie with a copy of the refill water rights to incorporate into the Farmer's Union Operations Reference Manual and upload to the shared drive.

Jerry provided the Board with a couple of photos provided by the owner of Terry's Bar on Collister. He is asking to replace the smoking patio and fence approximately 5' from the Box Culvert. When the Box Culvert was constructed as part of the Collister road project, approximately a 4' section of the fence was removed. Farmer's Union does not foresee needing to be in that area to do any maintenance in the future. Jerry Kiser will prepare a license agreement for approval at the October meeting.

Jerry asked the Board to refer to the draft of a pump log sheet in their packet. The log is for the Ditchriders to record the date, current flow reading and continuous total gallonage. The Ditchriders should read pumps at least twice per month to determine if water users are staying within their water right. Rosalie is going to work with Jerry on the proposed changes.

Jerry reported the City denied the application for the proposed motel on Alamosa Street.

Jerry reported work has started on the Trapper Ridge subdivision. He still needs to get the signed agreement back from the engineer.

Jerry asked the Board to review and provide feedback on the draft job description for the Senior Ditch Rider.

Jerry provided the Board with plans to review for the Trash Rack to be installed in the canal on Willow Lane as per the agreement with ACHD as part of the Collister road project. The rack will prevent large debris from getting into the Box Culvert.

Jerry reported in the last communication from the attorney for Intermountain Gas they wanted Farmer's Union to provide Intermountain Gas with locations of pipes on the map sent with the August letters then they will bore at least 3' under the pipes. Lloyd asked what the Board should do when Intermountain Gas starts work without permission. Jerry stated that there is not much Farmer's Union can do until damage has been suffered. He said Intermountain Gas is not complying with the statute which states if something is done that that interferes with the right-of-way Farmer's Union can demand they remove it, if not Farmer's Union can remove. Jerry said we

would have to file a lawsuit for a declaration defining the law. He thinks we need to get all of the Districts involved because Intermountain Gas does not think they have to abide by the statute. At this time the Board can't make a decision because Intermountain Gas still has not outlined what they intend to do. They have not provided plans as asked for, which they are required by the statute to do. At this time the position of Farmer's Union is; they are required by the statute to provide the Board with enough information to evaluate whether the proposed encroachment will unreasonably or materially interfere with use of the right-of-way. The right-of-way includes the right to replace the pipe but if ACHD is going to be responsible for pipe replacements that changes the position somewhat. The Board will provide Intermountain Gas with pipe locations only if the information is going to be used solely for the purpose of preparing plans and diagrams showing how they are going to do the proposed work for the Board to evaluate.