

## Updates for November 13, 2024 Board Meeting:

- a. **Next Regular Mtg, Dec 11, 2024, 1:00 PM USDA Service Center**
- b. **SDAO Annual Meeting and Conference, Feb 6-9, 2025, Bend** – The SDAO Annual Meeting and Conference are a great place to network with other special district board members and staff and stay up to date on laws and best practices. Josh Thompson will be honored with a Legacy of Service Award at the annual banquet. I encourage any interested staff and board members to attend.
- c. **Office Administrator Position Update** – We advertised Jennifer’s position and received 5 applications. We offered interviews to 3 individuals, 2 of which accepted (one had already taken another job). We offered the position to Dana Woods, and she has accepted. Dana currently works for Wy’East and is familiar with the District, so it should be a smooth transition. Jennifer starts her new job in December.
- d. **FY2023-24 Audit** – Pauly Rogers staff are working on the audit. We haven’t heard an update from them lately.
- e. **East Cascade Oaks Partnership Cultural Surveys** – OWEB finally sent the grant agreement last week. We are working with USFS & OPRD to finalize the scope of work with GeoVisions.
- f. **Fires: 2024 Season, 2020 White River, 2022 Miller Road, Co. Grant** – Staff have been helping NRCS and FSA with ECP contracts for the 2024 fires to replace fencing. ODFW is implementing the last practices to close out the White River Fire grant and are using the remaining funds on seeding or spraying. The 2022 Miller Road Fire work has been completed. Dusty is helping reconstruct what Josh had accomplished so that we can get the final report written and submitted to OWEB. Abbie, Shilah and Ryan have been working on the Wildfire Defense grant for South Wasco County for roadside vegetation removal and fencing.
- g. **Highline Ditch Elimination** – Abbie is taking the lead on this project. She met with the landowners last week and walked the entire system to review the original plans, and all the construction that has taken place to date. She is working on final details, and we are hopeful that we can bring the project to a conclusion by next irrigation season.
- h. **Mosier Groundwater Restoration & Mosier Million #2** – Drake is taking the lead on this project. So far, we have drilled 3 domestic wells and a single irrigation well. One of the three domestic wells is awaiting abandonment of the old well, while the irrigation well is awaiting the completion of a water rights transfer that could take up to 18 months to complete. We have spent \$579,823 of our total budget, and will likely have enough money remaining in the budget to fix two more wells. The next two wells up for replacement have been identified, but they still require some outreach and finalizing of details before they can be put out to bid.
- i. **15mile Managed Underground Storage (MUS)** - We are still targeting a 2026 implementation for the second round of MUS pilot testing. Currently, we are awaiting

the final report from Oregon State University on the findings from their research into the native sediment present at the site. The report is complete but is being passed around internally for final comments and edits. At this point, we are leaning towards the potential for some kind of mechanical or inline filtration, rather than an infiltration basin due to the relatively low turbidity generally observed at the project site.

- j. **Chenoweth Creek Restoration Project** - The Chenoweth Creek Restoration Project has finally wrapped up, as large woody debris structures were installed in the stream about two weeks ago. As a reminder, this project was funded by DEQ mitigation funds, and covered vegetative uplift, new interpretive signs, and the installation of large woody debris structures within the stream to help reconnect a historic channel to the creek. We'll be keeping a close eye on the structures over the winter to insure they perform as anticipated, but otherwise the Chenoweth project is largely done and ready for post implementation reporting.
- k. **County Weed Control Efforts & Lower Deschutes CWMA** – Scott and Dean are continuing the quest to eradicate weeds in Wasco County. We're continually looking for funding and have applied for an OISC grant and are writing another OSWB grant application. Dean successfully passed his 3-month trial service period and is proving to be a strong grant writer. Scott is in discussions with Wasco County on ways to keep the weed program going after Merle Keys retires.
- l. **Director Elections** – We anticipate welcoming a new board member, Jeff Crump, for the At-Large position, and welcoming back Bob, Larry and Bill for another term.