

General Manager's Report: Board Meeting – February 15, 2024

This report serves as an executive summary for the Board meeting agenda. It provides recommendations for actions to be taken if necessary. Detailed information, staff reports, and supporting materials can be found in the full agenda packet.

## PHASE-IV BEAVER CREEK SOURCE WATER PROJECT:

Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Operators continue working with Jacobs Engineers and the membrane filter skid provider, WesTech to resolve technical performance issues related to programing. Persistent issues related to the performance of backwash sequencing may need to be corrected by WesTech technicians during an onsite visit. Operators were forced to switch to the district's secondary source water provider in the last week of December due to tidal influences at the intake site.

Water Treatment Plant operators were successful at installing new heater rods to one of the three heater elements used in the Clean in Place (CIP) process. However, during installation, the electrician discovered that the other two elements are operating at/or about 30% capacity and are in various stages of failure. Two replacement heater rods have been ordered and are expected to arrive the week of February 19<sup>th</sup>.

While improvements have been made by WesTech to the operating system and the WTP seems to be performing much better in the past few weeks, Jacobs engineers are concerned with how responsive some of the programming is. At times operators struggle with operational programming conditions that require constant oversite and limit the district's ability to perform remote operations. Due to the recent reloading of system software due to past server issues, Jacobs Engineering is recommending that WesTech visit the site to perform testing and re-verification of all components provided by WesTech. A team of technicians and consultants will be on-site at the WTP the Week of February 19<sup>th</sup> to verify operational conditions and make corrections in real-time during plant operation.

## JANUARY WINTER WEATHER EVENT:

Thankfully, our district largely avoided the brunt of the ice storm, which is a relief. However, we've faced repeated power outages during this event. Many of our systems, including remote communication systems with our pumping stations and email connectivity were offline for several days. Repeated power bumps from the system also caused the district office firewall unit to fail which triggered the installation of a temporary unit while a new firewall unit is on order.





Downed Tree on 98<sup>th</sup> Street, Pump Station in the far ground:

Portable Generator at the Beaver Creek Pump Station:

I'm pleased to report that we've successfully restored power at the Beaver Creek Intake pump station using our new portable generator. The generator was operational for the first time in response to this event, and the treatment plant was back in production very quickly. At one point during this event, all of the district's stand-by generators were in operation.

The district received reports of downed trees in the area, especially along the remote stretch of 98th Street. Including one (shown in the attached photo) too large for our equipment to handle. A resident at the end of 98th Street has strongly suggested that the district should contribute to the cost of tree removal. However, this has not been our practice in the past. District operators have removed trees to maintain access for maintenance, but sharing the cost of tree removal could set a costly precedent for the district. I believe this issue will become more pressing, especially with property owners along 98th Street, where we have several easements. It's important to note these easements don't require the district to remove downed trees.

## Other notable activities for the month include:

- Attended the Mid Coast Water Conservation Consortium Meeting.
- Attended the OWRD Place-Based Planning Coordinating Committee Meeting, on January 22nd.
- Met with GSI Water Solutions to review progress on MC-WPP, the Water Management and Conservation Plan, and Beaver Creek streamflow and temperature monitoring.
- Attended the Monthly Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) meeting, on January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the SDAO Legislative meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Attended the SDAO Board Meeting on February 7, 2024.
- Attended SDAO Annual Conference February 8 through the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff received a consultation visit from Oregon Occupational Health and Safety (OSHA) on January 31st.
- Attended the Coastal Partnerships for Drinking Water Protection Workshop on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

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