



**AGENDA FOR:** Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup> 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:** August 8th Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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

**PARTIES PRESENTING ISSUES:**

**CONTRACTS TO EXECUTE:** Bond Resolution to be Signed for the \$1.5M State Loan and Board Resolution to be Signed to pursue a WaterSMART Grant

**MANAGER's REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1) Farm Unit Split Request on FU 739, see attached.
- 2) Commissioner Brady to present new billing and usage strategy with discussion to follow.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- SRWG, Tracy Wendt, handout provided.



# Greenfields

## IRRIGATION DISTRICT

On Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 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: O&M Foreman Eric Mayer, Water Master Steve Lettengarver and Operator Cory Copenhaver. GID Range Rider Ron Wilson was in attendance, as was Tracy Wendt with SRWG and Al Gagne with Teton County Road Department.

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

**Approve Meeting Minutes and Monthly Warrants:** The first item of business was to approve the minutes from the September 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting Minutes. No discrepancies were found in the minutes, and Commissioner Brosten made a motion to approve the minutes, with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. The Warrants List was then reviewed. A brief discussion was had on the warrant to Severinsen Irrigation for the 1200 feet of 21 inch pipe for Lower GSC. The liner is failing due to the freeze/thaw action. Manager Juel then explained to the Board that the Bureau of Reclamation check was for the escrow on the Arnold Coulee LOPP. Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the warrants and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the warrants were approved.

**Parties Presenting Issues:** None.

**Contacts to Execute:** None.

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

**Reservoir and River Operations:** See M.R. for full details. Pishkun Reservoir is at 116% of normal and is 78% full, while Gibson and Willow Creek Reservoirs are well below normal for post-season levels. Water Master Lettengarver then provided the Board with a history of Pishkun Reservoir from 2000 to 2023 and the average number of days for each water season is 116. A brief discussion took place regarding the losses due to evaporation, seepage and water user mismanagement. The National Climate Prediction is now predicting above normal temps and normal precipitation for September through November and well-above temps and below normal precipitation. The drain season ended on September 7<sup>th</sup> and the inspection on Diversion Dam will delay the filling of Willow Creek Reservoir by +/- 10 days.

**Water Rights:** Manager Juel is still trying to amend the overall Project water right to reflect recent amendment to the Project authorization with respect to hydropower generation. We are now addressing several issues where it has been discovered that GID project water is being delivered outside of the district boundaries.

**GID Staff Updates:** Ditch Rider Zech Shalz left GID's employment the second week of August. The weed sprayers and the mower man were done as of the end of August. We will need to hire 2 new ditch riders, as well as a couple of new weed sprayers for the upcoming water season.

**Office Improvements & General Administration:** GID Office Management will need to revisit insurance needs with alternative providers who have shown interest in helping with coverage. We

have begun working on next year's audit and are now required to provide a Single Audit in accordance with 2 CRF 200.500. We have signed an engagement letter with Douglas Wilson for \$12,000.

**GIS Mapping, Plats, Database & Certification Updates:** Office Manager Gulick gave a brief update on the database and the excess water usage.

**Farm Unit Operations:** Request by landowner to split farm unit 739 into two farm units, FU 739 and FU 739.1, new. See attachment provided.

**Monthly Financials & 2023 Budget:** See M.R. for details. We must make another draw on our line of credit this week to make payroll and to make another installment payment on the turbines at the end of the month. To-date, GID has received \$127,000 in revenue generation payments for Turnbull Hydro.

**GID Vehicles & Heavy Equipment:** See the M.R. for details. We sold the old GID fire truck for \$5,000 and are still working to obtain quotes for two new ditch rider trucks.

**Pearson Lawsuit:** See M.R. for an update. Judge Whelan has been appointed, with a new opening brief date set for November 1<sup>st</sup>. Trial remains to be scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Willow Creek Feeder Canal Maintenance & Lawsuit:** See the M.R. for further information. There is very little to report, but depositions are scheduled for the week of October 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> in Great Falls. There will be a conference call with GID's lawyers and experts on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 P.M. GID experts want to meet on-site on October 19<sup>th</sup> and we may need a Commissioner to be present.

**Hydro Updates:** General: NWE has filed an intent with the Public Service Commission to update the avoided cost rate structure. The biggest impact is that it will be based on LMP which is a method that pays for energy based on local supply and demand on the 15-minute interval. Uda Law Firm is looking to help us intervene and oppose these changes. Arnold Coulee LOPP: The executed LOPP Agreement has been finalized and is done. Transmission Design & Construction: 3.8 miles is done and completed both transmission and distribution wires. 1-mile of segment 5 has poles erected but no wires, and the remaining 3.8 miles has poles framed but laying on the ground. The anticipated completion date is December 2023. Transmission Easements: Efforts still continue to be a work in progress, see the M.R. for further details. BLM Site ROW: BLM has everything needed to process the ROW. BLM is reviewing GID's and SREC's ROW request concurrently, will not grant one without the other. SREC Interconnection & Transmission Agreements: Representatives of NEW, WAPA, SREC and GID held a follow-up meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>. WAPA is determining internally if and how the generated energy will impact them. Power Purchase Agreement: Nothing new on the PPA submitted to NEW on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Design Drawings: The foundation block design was reviewed by Reclamation and they returned their comments and suggestions. Turbine-Generator Purchase: GID was unable to make the final payment due on August 31<sup>st</sup> to CHC. WEEG WaterSmart Grant: Getting ready to submit the next quarterly report due on 9/30/23. We have exhausted the \$2 Million grant allotment, as well as satisfied GID's \$2 Million match requirement. INTERCAP Loan: The Board has approved the Bond Resolution for the Loan. Construction: Construction is pending approval of a ROW from BLM. Pishkun Inlet Hydro: We are still working on the preliminary grant administration requirements for the WaterSmart WEEG and the preliminary loan requirements for the \$5.03 million loan guarantee through USBR's Aging Infrastructure Account. Both the WEEG grant and the BIL loan guarantee include "Buy America" conditions, so we are still hoping to qualify for both. A brief discussion was had on what the conditions are and the percentage of the project costs that must meet the criteria. Manager Juel continues to work on the \$125k DNRC grant and the \$1.5 million State loan guarantee. LOPP: We received the preliminary LOPP and are now requesting to initiate the final LOPP for this site. PPA:

Manager Juel met with our lawyers to encourage a push to get the PPA in place to lock in rates with Northwestern Energy. Nothing much to report for Johnson Drop or A-Drop. Gibson Hydro: The FERC license is officially dead. The DNRC is still requiring the roughly \$20,000 application funding process fee.

**GID Infrastructure: Current or Planned.**

Highway 89 Ditch Crossings: Steve met with design engineer to reconfigure the crossings and are hoping that they will match what we had proposed 2 years ago. Willow Creek Spillway Repair: Manager Juel had been involved in recent discussion regarding plans to mitigate a disaster in the case of the next potential flood event. GID and FSID would be responsible for a portion of the costs. Sun River Bridge Replacement: There are still looming issues regarding the public status of the road. There is a landowner threatening to put up a gate to block access to prove the need to acknowledge that it is a public road. Manager Juel is working to send out letters to all landowners to get everyone thinking about it. There was a siphon inspection performed on August 21<sup>st</sup> and all looks good. SRS 71 Check Replacement: See the M.R. for details and pictures of the progress made so far. Phase III of Spring Coulee Headworks: Nothing new to report, see the M.R. for further details. Tunnel #3 Roof Collapse: The \$500k ARPA grant agreement has been signed. Once the bulk heads are removed, we will do a final inspection of the tunnel. Lower GSC Rehabilitation: The pipe has been delivered and work will begin shortly.

**Title Transfer:** Nothing new to report.

**GID Grazing Lease Program:** Range Rider Wilson gave a brief update. He had performed a Spring inspection on a problem pasture that had been reported as such last year and reported that it had in-fact shown improvement, but may quickly become overgrazed if practices continue into the Fall. The ample rain we received this Spring/Summer helped immensely. A brief discussion was held on the procedure used if after inspection this Fall, Range Rider Wilson finds any pastures to be deemed as needing to be rested for the upcoming year. There are some that may need to at least have their AUMs reduced for the upcoming year.

**District Modernization Effort with FCA:** We are now having weekly meetings with the FCA and discussing the next steps. We are still working on the Ashuelot Bench study that would include a small standalone closed system and would include an additional off-stream storage reservoir. This new reservoir would be useful for flood control and recreational purposes.

**Miscellaneous:** Nothing new to report.

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

**Agenda:**

- 1) Board to vote on the request to split farm unit 739, see attached. This split was intended to be done for some time when property had previously been sold. No issues were noted, and Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the proposal with Commissioner Gulick seconding. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- 2) Commissioner Brady then addressed the Board to present a new proposed billing and usage strategy. He commented that we need to address water user mismanagement of water and that we should have more control over water wasting. Water Master Lettengarver gave a brief overview of what he witnessed this year in the way of mismanagement practices. Brady suggested a strategy that would bill according to usage, not assessment. He stated that this strategy would make water users more accountable for their irrigation practices. When the Board reduces allotment, it really only penalizes the little producers that need their full

allotment. Ideas discussed included: assigning different allotments for different irrigation practices. Charging a basic fee plus a usage fee for actual usage. Anything over 1 acre/foot used will be charged. Establish a new abuse policy that is used to hold people financially accountable. We need to put numbers together to make a beneficial and feasible decision. The base charge would need to be considerable in order to see that GID can financially get through the year. Manager Juel will check around with other districts on what policies they use to encourage no abuse and efficient use.

**Public Comment:** Tracy Wendt with SRWG gave a brief update, handout provided. She provided the Board with a Fall contribution request and included an invoice for the usual \$4,000 GID contributes in the Fall. Vice President Norris moved to approve the request to provide a \$4,000 contribution to SRWG and Commissioner Brosten seconded. All in favor and the motion carried. See the handout for upcoming events and projects currently being worked on and planned.

Commissioner Brosten moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 8:33 P.M.



Board President



Board Secretary

**Board Action Recap:**

- Board approved the request to split farm unit 739 from water user, Bryan Klinker
- Board approved contributing the annual \$4,000 Fall donation to SRWG

10:48 AM

09/07/23

Accrual Basis

# GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## Monthly Warrant List

August 2023

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Aug 23				
08/07/2023	35419	Wyatt Awtrey	phone reimb.	-40.00
08/07/2023	35420	Shad Beck.	phone reimb.	-40.00
08/07/2023	35421	Ethan Brosten	phone reimb.	-40.00
08/07/2023	35422	Jenny Gulick	phone reimb.	-40.00
08/07/2023	35423	Chaz Keller-	phone reimb.	-40.00
08/07/2023	35424	Anthony May	phone reimb.	-40.00
08/07/2023	35425	Scott Neckstad.	phone reimb.	-40.00
08/07/2023	35426	Quencer II, Andrew P	phone reimb.	-40.00
08/07/2023	35427	Employee Zech Shalz	phone reimb.	-40.00
08/08/2023	35428	Pacific Steel	LF Ranch, shop, employee reimb.	-3,273.52
08/08/2023	35429	Visa	phone, repairs & supplies, computer	-4,567.60
08/08/2023	35430	Mountain View Co-Op	repairs/tires/weed spray/diesel	-30,984.93
08/08/2023	35431	R&L Eagle Grocery	office and shop	-77.10
08/08/2023	35432	Breen Oil and Tire Company	propane	-180.25
08/08/2023	35433	Republic Services	utilities	-135.69
08/08/2023	35434	3 Rivers Communication	phone	-623.60
08/08/2023	35435	Teton Conservation District	MACD Area III Meeting	-30.00
08/09/2023	35460	Michelle Lauver-	cleaning supplies	-12.56
08/09/2023	35461	Greenfields Irrigation District	transfer back to hyrdro for CHC wire	-177,250.00
08/09/2023	35462	TB - 941	81-6001490	-9,931.00
08/09/2023	35463	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-2,002.00
08/09/2023	35464	TB - MPERA	retirement	-7,553.89
08/10/2023	35465	Ostberg, Levi	hay loss reimbursement	-1,163.00
08/23/2023	35489	TB - 941	81-6001490	-9,454.14
08/23/2023	35490	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-1,888.00
08/23/2023	35491	TB - MPERA	retirement	-7,127.12
08/31/2023	35492	BlueCross BlueShield of Montana	247191	-1,658.33
08/23/2023	35493	Bureau of Rec - Chris Gomer/ Sean K...	Arnold Coulee LOPP	-25,000.00
08/29/2023	35494	Jon's Automotive	#1 TRUCK	-1,011.00
08/31/2023	35533	Aflac	insurance	-160.72
08/31/2023	35534	MT Teamsters Employers Trust	health insurance	-20,272.00
08/31/2023	35535	Western Conference of Teamsters Pe...	pension	-2,603.75
08/31/2023	35536	Advanced Drainage System	pipe	-12,872.00
08/31/2023	35537	Augusta Gas Station, Inc.	fuel/oil	-531.66
08/31/2023	35538	Big Sky Sawmill	lumber	-512.80
08/31/2023	35539	Edge Marketing + Design, LLC	monthly web hosting	-181.25
08/31/2023	35540	Enviro Tech Watershed Consultant	contract work	-180.00
08/31/2023	35541	Gary Kasper & Company, Inc.	Accounting - Aug	-1,200.00

10:48 AM

09/07/23

Accrual Basis

# GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT



## Monthly Warrant List

August 2023

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
08/31/2023	35542	K's Auto Parts	repairs/oil	-173.11
08/31/2023	35543	K's Auto Parts - Choteau	repairs/oil	-477.45
08/31/2023	35544	MCI	long distance	-68.51
08/31/2023	35545	Mountain View Co-Op	repairs/fuel/tires/weed/grease	-2,027.61
08/31/2023	35546	National Laundry	shop supply	-176.31
08/31/2023	35547	NorthWestern Energy	utilities	-425.34
08/31/2023	35548	R&L Eagle Grocery	office/shop supply	-76.03
08/31/2023	35549	Severinsen Irrigation, LLC	Lower GSC Pipeline	-45,677.50
08/31/2023	35550	Six Robblees' Inc.	repairs	-356.52
08/31/2023	35552	SURPLUS PROPERTY & RECYCLING	Office supply	-67.00
08/31/2023	35553	Town of Fairfield	utilities	-233.00
08/31/2023	35554	Tractor & Equipment, Co	repairs	-604.06
08/31/2023	35555	True Value	shop supplies	-79.48
08/31/2023	35556	Victory Insurance Company	WC100-0010152-2023A	-2,630.00
08/31/2023	35557	Visa	phone/office/tires/computer/repairs	-1,938.59
08/31/2023	35558	Sun River Electric, Co-Op	utilities	-5,477.87
08/31/2023	35559	Sun River Electric, Co-Op	Arnold Coulee	-71,347.73
<b>Aug 23</b>				<b>-454,634.02</b>

Recap of August 2023 warrants:  
 Regular warrants  
 August 2023 payroll  
 Total

\$454,634.02  
 \$ 62,870.11  
 \$517,504.13

Approved by  Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 President  
 Submitted by  Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bookkeeper



To: GID Commissioners  
Jenny Gulick, GID Board Secretary

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

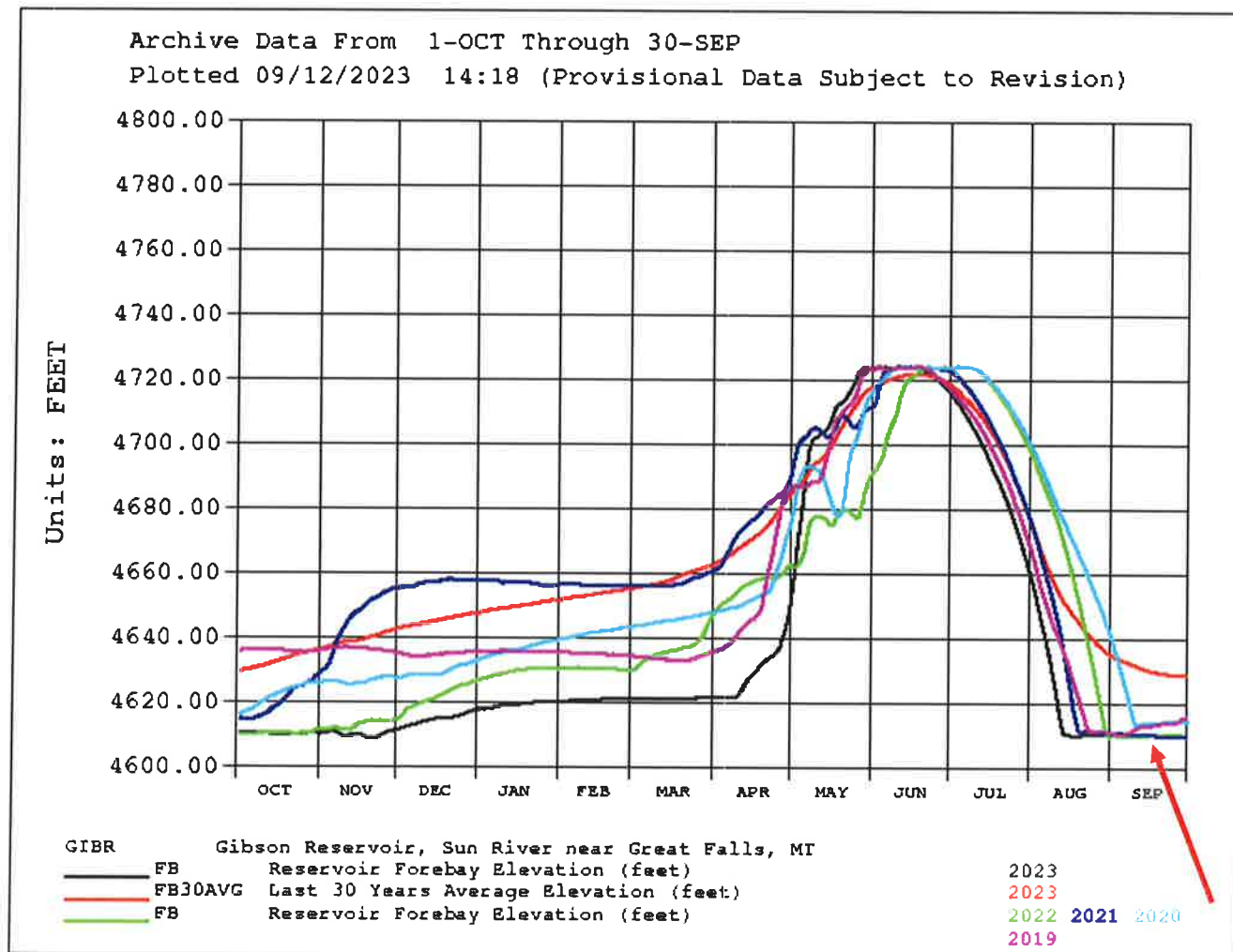
Subject: Manager's Report 09/12/23

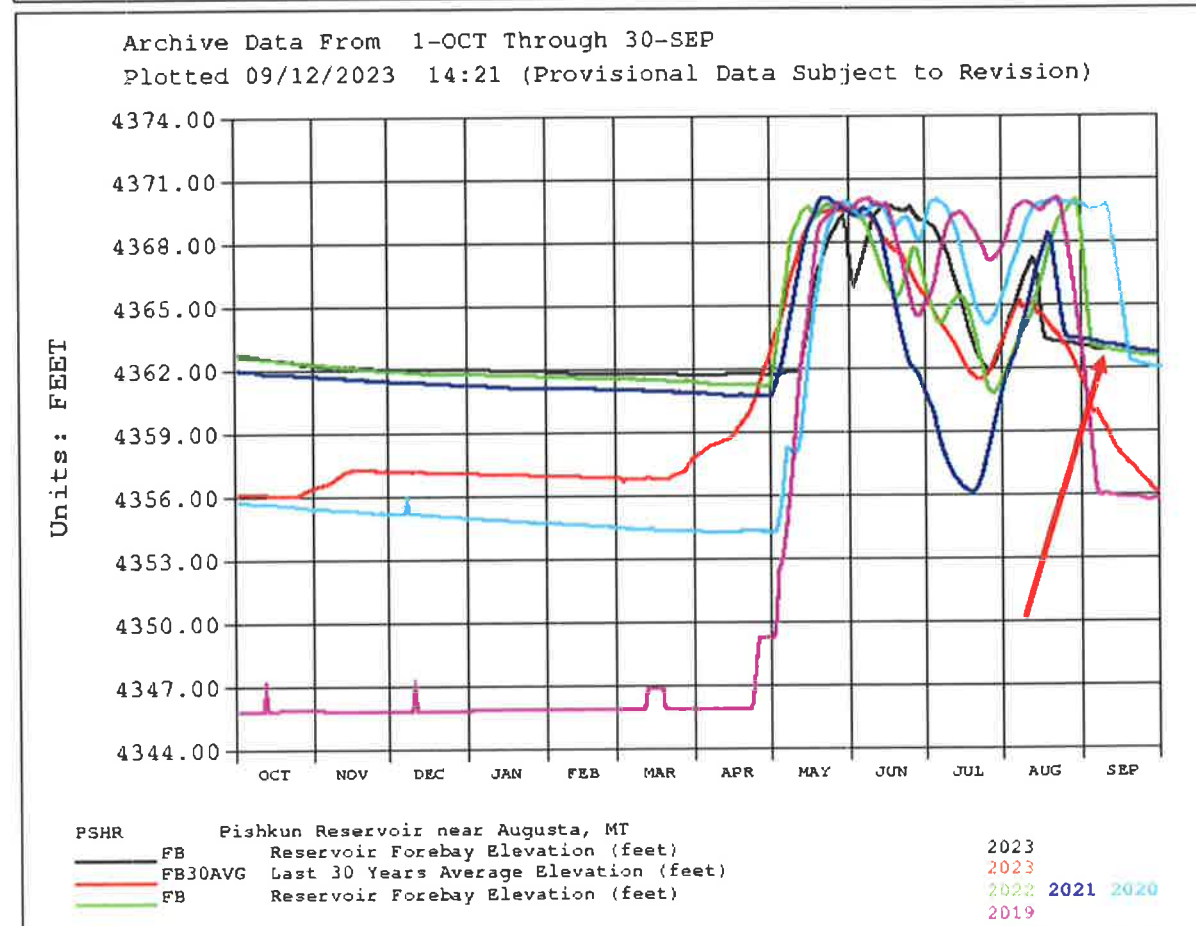
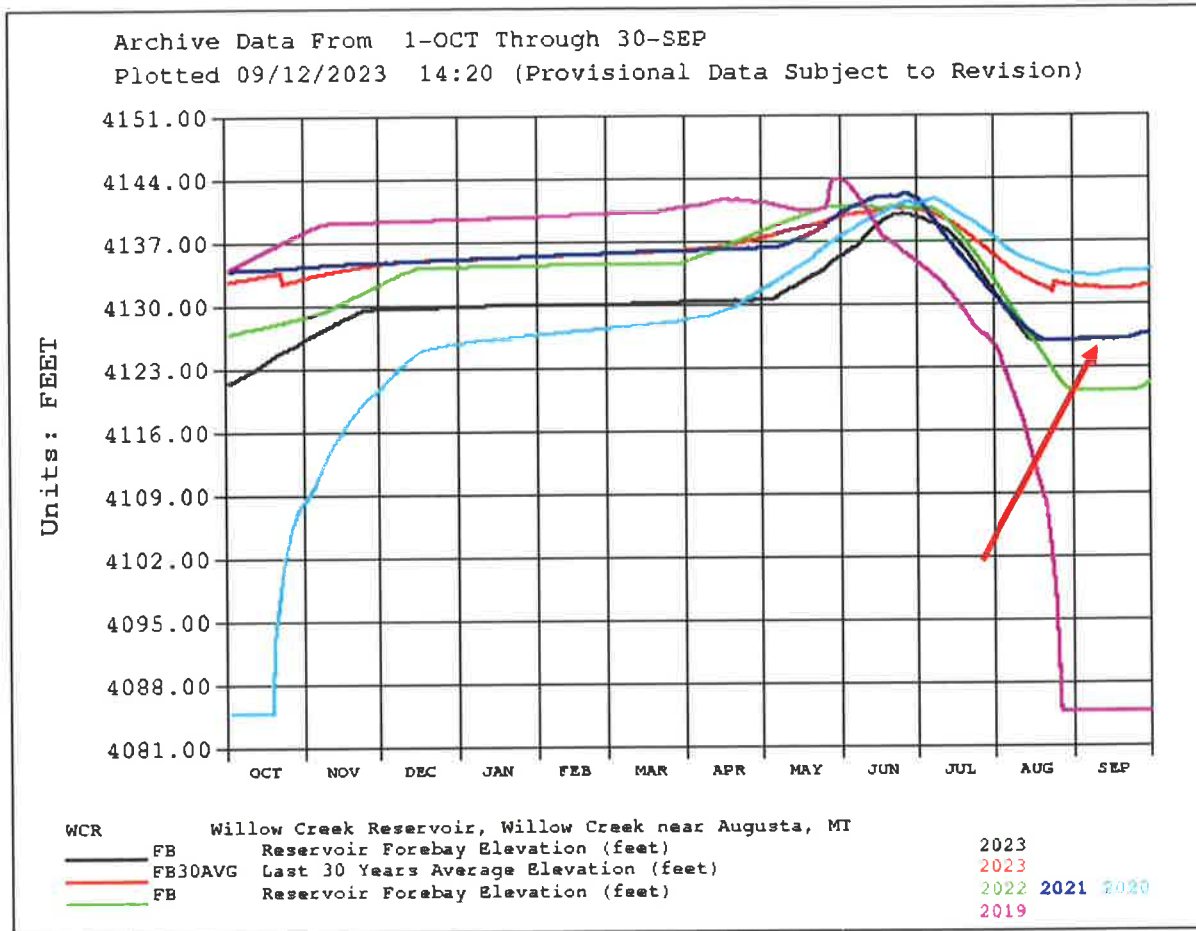
### 1) RESERVOIR & RIVER OPERATIONS AND PROJECTIONS AS OF 09/06/23

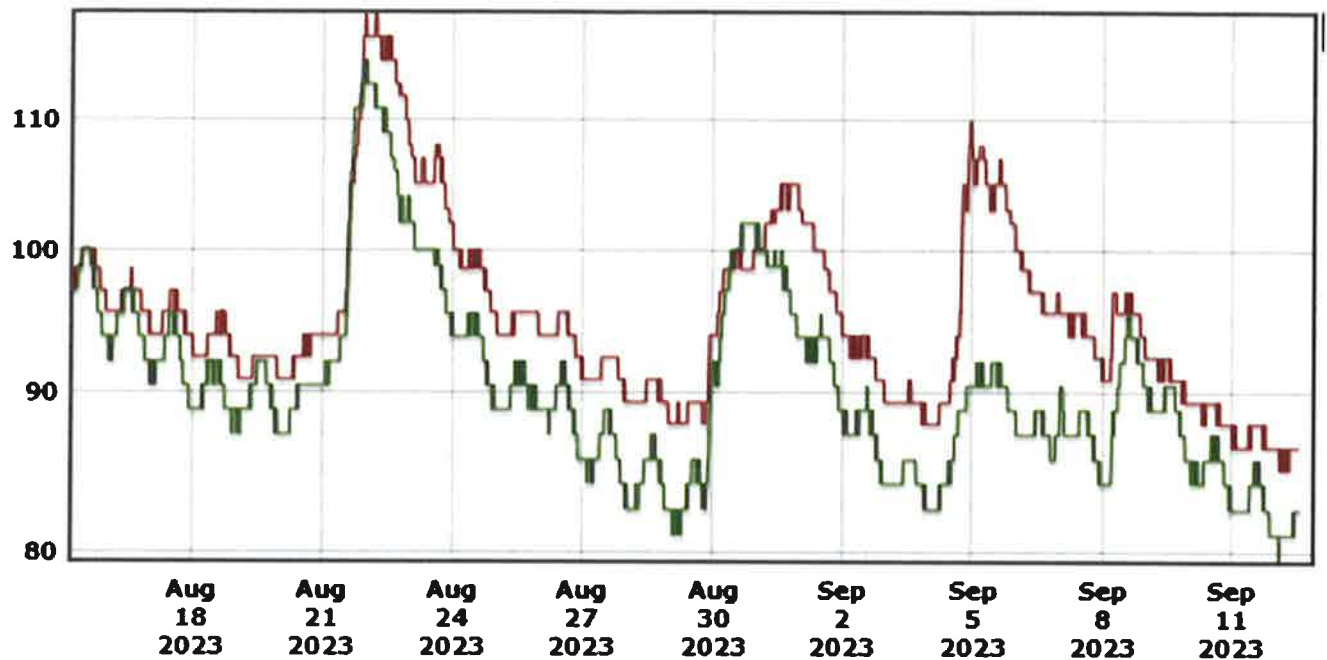
A. Reservoir operations and levels over the last 5 days were:

- Gibson Res: 5,650 Ac-ft, 5.7 Full & 38% of Normal, Post-season levels
- Gibson Inflows: varying from 180 to 205 cfs, 75% to 85 of Normal.
- Gibson Outflows: +/-200 cfs,
- Willow Creek Reservoir: 12,850 Ac-ft, 40% Full, 69% of Normal, Slight Rise
- Willow Creek Inflows: +/-5 cfs
- Willow Creek Releases: 0 cfs
- Pishkun Reservoir: 20,400 Ac-ft, 78% Full, 116% of Normal
- Pishkun Inflows: 0 cfs
- Pishkun Releases: 0 cfs

B. The National Climate Prediction Center is now predicting above normal temps and normal precipitation for September through November. December to February is predicted to be well-above normal temps and below normal precipitation.







**INFLOWS – NORTH & SOUTH FORKS OF SUN RIVER**

C. In summary.....

1. Gibson Reservoir storage was depleted and use of the PSC was discontinued on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
2. Pishkun Reservoir lasted until the 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. Releases from Willow Creek Reservoir were discontinued on August 17<sup>th</sup>.
4. The drain season lasted longer than anticipated. Ended on September 7<sup>th</sup>.
5. Inspections on Diversion Dam will delay the filling of Willow Creek Reservoir by +/-10 days.

**2) GID WATER RIGHT ISSUES**

- A. Still trying to amend the overall Project water right to reflect recent amendment to the Sun River Project authorization with respect to hydropower generation.
- B. Finished coordination with Reclamation regarding boundary discrepancies.
- C. Now addressing several issues where GID project water is being applied outside District boundaries.

**3) STAFF UPDATES**

- A. Zech Shalz left GID's employment the second week of August.
- B. The weed sprayers and mower Dave were done as of the end of August.
- C. Will need to hire 2 new ditch riders for next year as well as a couple of weed sprayers.

**4) OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

- A. Need to revisit with potential insurance agents to see if there are additional ways to reduce our premium.
- B. Working on next year's audit and since we received over \$750k in Federal funds during fiscal year 2022-2023, we are now required to complete a Single Audit in accordance with 2 CFR 200.500. Signed an engagement letter with Douglas Wilson for \$12,000.

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

- A. Jenny can provide any updates on the database if warranted.
- B. GID's annual assessment was raised \$5/acre per the Board's direction to cover the increased insurance costs as well as other inflationary issues.

**6) FARM UNIT OPERATIONS**

**A. Request to Split FU 739**

- 1. Landowner wishes to split FU 739 into two Farm Units: FU 739 and FU 739.1(new).
- 2. FU 739.1 was sold with the understanding that 10 acres of irrigation assessment would be included with the sale (split).
- 3. There are no changes in irrigation practice, nor irrigation coverage. The total number of assessed acres does not change. No water delivery or other issues are known.
- 4. **Review handout and address during Agenda portion.**

**7) MONTHLY FINANCIALS & 2023 BUDGET**

- A. The account receivables for August were \$9,938.
- B. Accounts payable for August totaled \$454,634 for the warrants as well as \$62,870 in salaries comprising two pay periods. Approximately \$319,275 of the costs are related to the Arnold Coulee Project.
- C. We must make another draw on the revolving line of credit with our local bank to make payroll this week well as make another installment payment on the turbines at the end of August. To date we have drawn \$
- D. In August, GID received \$65,000 for the Turnbull revenue generated in July. Already received \$62,000 in revenue from Turnbull for May and June. To date- \$127,000. Payment for August will be light.

**8) GID VEHICLES & HEAVY EQUIPMENT**

- A. Sold GID's fire truck for \$5,500.
- B. Still getting quotes for new pickup trucks. Nothing new.

**9) PEARSON LAWSUIT**

- A. As anticipated, Pearson filed an appeal for judicial review with the local District Court. Judge Whelan has been assigned.
- B. Scheduling Order Set
  - 1. Opening Brief – Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - 2. Answering Brief – Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - 3. Reply Brief – Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - 4. Trial – Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**10) WILLOW CREEK FEEDER CANAL MAINTENANCE & LAWSUIT**

- A. Scheduling Order Set
  - 1. Discovery Closes – March 29, 2024
  - 2. Trial – November 4, 2024
- B. Getting ready for depositions. I will be the 30(b)(6) witness for GID regarding this lawsuit. This is scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> in Great Falls.
- C. There will be a conference call with the lawyers and experts on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Any commissioners wanting to participate.

- D. GID's experts want to meet on-site on Oct. 19th. I have a SRWG Board meeting that day and cannot attend. May need to have either a Commissioner or Eric Mayer attend on GID's behalf.

## 11) HYDRO UPDATES

### A. General –

1. NWE has filed an intent with the Public Service Commission to update the QF-1 tariffs i.e., the avoided cost rate structure. The biggest impact is that it will be based on a method called Locational Marginal Pricing (LMP) which pays for energy based on local supply and demand on a 15-minute interval. This makes it very difficult to finance projects without an established, fixed price over a fixed time frame. The UDA Law firm is looking at GID to join the intervention team to oppose these changes. We have committed but can backout later if we change our minds.

### B. Arnold Coulee LOPP –

1. ✓ **LOPP** – The Executed LOPP Agreement has been finalized and is done.
2. **Transmission Design & Construction** – Contractor not working. SREC has Shanghaied the Contractor to do work in Highwood. To date on the latest segment.....
  - 3.8 miles (Segment #4) is done. Has been completed with both transmission and distribution wires,
  - north-south, 1 mile of Segment #5 has poles erected but no wire, and
  - the remaining 3.8 miles to go for Segment #5 has the poles framed but laying on the ground. The anticipated completion date is still December 2023.
3. **Transmission Easements** – Easement efforts continue to be a work in progress.
  - Still waiting for BLM to evaluate the amended Cultural Resource Study and redo the Environmental approval process.
  - Easement plats for easements across State Trust Lands for Arnold Coulee leg are being finalized. The lessee has agreed to the alignment crossing sections that he leases from the State. We are working on the State's final approval. This will involve paying a one-time fee of \$1,000 per acre.
  - The switchyard site will be on State Trust lands 1½ miles west of Jackson's Corner. This easement work has yet to be officially started.
  - The lack of easements and ROWs is still impacting our ability to finalize our INTERCAP Loan.
4. **BLM Site ROW** – BLM has everything they need to process the ROW requests. BLM is reviewing GID's and SREC's ROW request concurrently. Will not grant one without the other.
5. **SREC Interconnection & Transmission Agreements** – Representatives of NWE, WAPA, SREC, and GID held a follow-up meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>. WAPA is determining internally if and how the generated energy will impact them. The impact questions need to be answered in order to finalize our PPA negotiations. The interconnection agreement is still in SREC's court but is pending the WAPA interconnection discussions.
6. **Power Purchase Agreement** – Nothing new on the PPA submitted to NWE on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Northwestern Energy has acknowledged receipt and is

conducting their internal review. They are also evaluating the impact of GID's generation.

7. **Design Drawings** – The foundation block design was reviewed by Reclamation, and they returned their comments and suggestions. Waiting for finished drawings.
8. **Turbine-Generator Purchase** – Due to cash flow issues, GID failed to make the final payment on August 31<sup>st</sup> to CHC for \$198,440 (\$177,250+\$21,190). The \$21,190 site is for adding access hatches to the turbine intake upstream of the turning vanes. Unfortunately, I no longer expect to have the draft tubes installed this summer.
9. **WEEG WaterSmart Grant** – Getting ready to submit the next quarterly report due on 09/30/23. We have exhausted the \$2 Million grant allotment as well as satisfied GID's \$2 Million match requirement.
10. **INTERCAP Loan** – The GID Board has approved the Bond Resolution for the Loan. However, the Department of Commerce is holding off from processing the loan until all the easements/ROWs have been secured.
11. **Construction** – Construction is pending approval of a ROW from the BLM. Still may be able to set the draft tubes prior to next Spring.

C. Pishkun Inlet Hydro –

1. **Funding** – Finalization is in progress.
  - Working on the preliminary grant administration requirements for the WaterSmart WEEG. (Part of the \$4.3 million grant would address Pishkun Inlet Hydro.)
  - Working on the preliminary loan requirements for the \$5.03 million BIL loan guarantee through USBR's Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) program. Had a progress meeting this afternoon. Things are moving slowly.
  - Both the WEEG grant and the BIL loan include "Buy America" conditions that I will have to request waivers for the turbine, controllers, penstock, and wire.
  - Working on the preliminary grant agreement requirements for the \$125k DNRC grant and the \$1.5 million State loan guarantee. Had a phone conference with State reps on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Working on getting the grant for this Fall and the loan will be predicated on securing the easements.
2. **LOPP** – Received the Preliminary LOPP. Now sending a request to Reclamation to initiate the Final LOPP for this site.
3. **Transmission Easements** – Easement efforts will follow a similar path to the Arnold Coulee site. The cultural resource evaluation and environmental studies have already been completed already.
  - A small piece of BLM land will get approved with the Arnold Coulee ROW request.
  - Easements across State Trust Lands for the Pishkun Inlet will require easement plats. The lessee will also have to agree to those sections that they lease from the State.
  - An easement across private land is pending finalization of the BLM and State easements. GID has verbal acknowledgement and approval from the landowner.
  - Easements across Reclamation-withdrawn land will be addressed in the Final LOPP Agreement.



- A lack of easements and ROWs is a detriment to our ability to finalize GID's \$1.5 million RRGL Loan.
- 4. **Transmission Design & Construction** – Awaiting funding before initiating the design and construction phases.
- 5. **Power Purchase Agreement** – Will be submitting a PPA for this site ASAP to try and get ahead of NWE's latest efforts regarding the restructuring of QF-1 tariffs aka avoided costs.
- 6. **Design Drawings** – Will initiate an Engineering Services Agreement with the Sorenson Group. The design should parallel that of Arnold Coulee and therefore should be quicker and cheaper.
- 7. **Turbine-Generator Purchase** – We have already committed to CHC for the turbine/generator.
- D. Johnson Drop –
  - 1. **Funding** –
    - WaterSmart WEEG – Part of the \$4.3 million grant would address finishing Johnson Drop.
  - 2. **LOPP** – Need to send a request to Reclamation to initiate the permitting process for this site.
- E. A-Drop –
  - 2. **Funding** –
    - WaterSmart WEEG – Part of the \$4.3 million grant would address finishing A-Drop
  - 3. **LOPP** – Need to send a request to Reclamation to initiate the permitting process for this site.
- F. Gibson Hydro –
  - 1. I assume the FERC License on Gibson is officially dead.
  - 2. Nothing new regarding GID's proposal submitted to the Lt Governor. The proposal is for State financial assistance for Gibson Dam since the project will have tremendous public benefits.

## **12) GID INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS- Current or Planned**

- A. Hwy 89 Ditch Crossings
  - 1. Steve is working with the design engineer to reconfigure the ditch crossings as we proposed 2 years ago.
- B. Willow Creek Spillway Repair –
  - 1. Recent discussion regarding the mobilization and stockpiling of 9,000 CYs of Class II rip rap to be implemented in the case of the next potential flood event. GID and FSID would be responsible for a portion of the costs. GID could also be available to do some of the work under contract to BOR.
- C. Sun River Bridge Replacement –
  - 1. Issues regarding the public use status of the PSC road is still a potential concern.
  - 2. Inspection of the Sun River siphon was conducted on August 21<sup>st</sup>, and everything looked good.
  - 3. Geotechnical field work is scheduled to begin in October.
  - 4. Today, representatives from the Blackfeet tribe are touring the new bridge site.
  - 5. Ribbon cutting ceremony for bridge now planned for Summer of 2026.
- D. SRS 71 Check Replacement and Reregulation, Phase 1–
  - 1. Rubicon "smart" turnout gate ordered.
  - 2. Working off the \$125K DNRC grant received to do this work.







- E. Phase III J-Waste Way Facility, Spring Coulee Headworks –
  - 1. Nothing new.
  - 2. GID was awarded a \$15K DNRC RRGL planning grant that we submitted to complete Phase 3. Phase 3 is the confining berms, SCDA, and the re-regulation pond controls.
- F. Tunnel #3 Roof Collapse –
  - 1. GID was awarded a \$11.6 million loan guarantee through Reclamation's Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) funding program & a \$500k ARPA grant.
  - 2. Strategy-
    - i. Complete final design and finalize environmental compliance documents.
    - ii. Procure materials and solicit by next summer Contractor.
    - iii. Award contract so contractor is ready to roll when PSC shuts off.
    - iv. 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of Construction to start August 2024.
    - v. Use the ARPA grant & then finalize BIL loan over the next 9 months.
- G. Lower GSC Rehabilitation –
  - 1. Working off the \$75,000 WaterSmart grant received to help pay for this project.
  - 2. The amended Cultural Resources study has been completed.
  - 3. Design is done. Work is scheduled to start this Fall.
  - 4. Pipe has been delivered.

**13) TITLE TRANSFER**

- A. Nothing new. Received the draft MOU and agreement from USBR to move forward. Have not had a chance to review.

**14) MISC GID O&M PROJECTS**

- A. Eric will provide a verbal update if he's here.

**15) GID GRAZING LEASE PROGRAM**

- A. Range Rider Wilson has been checking pastures this summer. No major issues. Ron can give an update if he is present.

**16) DISTRICT MODERIZATION EFFORT WITH FCA**

- A. Now having weekly meetings with FCA. Discussing next steps.  
B. Working on a pressurized district study for the Ashuelot Bench with a re-regulation pond above the first drop. Steve is working on summarizing the necessary flow numbers to help with the analysis.  
C. I need help with the water balance model and (System Improvements Plan) SIP.

**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.  
B. Received another violation notice from DEQ regarding the Kasper Pit just north of Town. Submitted another request for a permit.

**18) SHORT-TERM TO DO LIST – SEPTEMBER**

- Need to find ways to reduce our insurance costs.
- Work getting 2021-2022 audit and special audit done.
- Submit PPA to NWE and LOPP request to BOR for Pishkun Inlet.
- Get BLM and MT DNRC approvals for site easement and transmission line easements for the Arnold Coulee site.
- With easements, finalize the DOC-BOI INTERCAP Loan.
- Continue to secure Transmission & Wheeling Agreement with SREC.
- Get DNRC grant agreement finalized for \$125k.
- Submit WEEG WaterSMART grant Performance and Financial Reports.
- Focus on new SRS-71 Headworks and Lower GSC ditch to pipeline projects.

**19) LONG-TERM TO DO LIST – OCTOBER & ON**

- Order pipe for tailrace channel underpass. (PENDING BLM ROW)
- Develop a 5yr/10yr Strategic Plan (Conservation & Management Plan)
- Develop a Systems Improvement Plan (SIP) with FCA

**NEXT GID BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM**

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