

# SDIC Annual Managers Report

2/13/2024

## Infrastructure:

-The main Cherry Orchard Pump Station ditch system was cleaned last summer. This included the main East/West ditch immediately adjacent to the pump station, along with the secondary North/South ditch along Honeyman Rd. This has allowed the pumps to run for longer periods with fewer cycles. We tried to time the cleaning with the replanting of the adjacent crop land so the spoils could be graded and farmed in, but the spoils did not dry in time.

-A rigid metal frame was built for the Johnson Pump #2 intake screen. This was to replace the cable support structure, hoping to prevent the further raising of the intake screen. It was fabricated with a manually adjustable component allowing it to continually add downward pressure on the intake structure, with the idea of being able to regain some of the lost clearance between the pump and the intake floor by slowly pushing the structure into the sub-soil where it was originally situated. It has gained back several inches of the lost clearance so far.

-The shop roof was replaced.

-The SDIC received a rebate check from the CRPUD for \$2120 that was processed through Energy Smart Industrial, Efficiency Incentives Program for the repairs we completed to the Evans #1 pump and motor; this was similar to the rebate we received for the Repairs to the Evans #2 pump and motor.

-By using ground penetrating radar and other means, we were able to identify what is believed to be the remnants of one of the Cherry Orchard toe drains, along with the southern end of the Olsen Farm toe drain. We were also able to locate the 24" CMP that traverses the Sublevee near the north end of the Santosh Slough.

-The Evans, Cherry Orchard, and North Pump stations motors were megger tested. All but the North #2 motor checked out fine, it appears to have breakdown of insulation between two of the three electrical phases, further investigation is needed.

-An inspection of the riverward toe along the entire perimeter levee was completed again this year. There were still the several known locations that need to be monitored, but no areas of concern.

## Operations:

-We reached out to FEMA and USACE regarding the process moving forward with the 2019 levee certification through USACE and the pending expiration of that certification in December 2024, and how that could affect the FEMA accreditation process moving forward. After the feedback received from FEMA and internal discussions within USACE, the current path forward will be a USACE periodic levee inspection in the spring of 2024 to assure re-certification can be completed by December 2024. This also appears to be the schedule proceeding forward to maintain FEMA accreditation; periodic inspections for levee re-certification, every five years. This was unexpected as we have not previously been given a specific schedule regarding periodic inspections and we just had a USACE "site visit" (formerly a routine inspection) in the spring of 2023.

-Vegetation management remains a continued focus. Herbicide management of woody vegetation was completed again this year along the entire sub levee, but with more completed along the southern end of the perimeter levee. Tree removal was a large focus again this year, with several large patches of trees removed along the riverward side of the perimeter levee mainly around the marinas. There were also several large areas of blackberries that were mechanically removed along the perimeter levee as well as along the Cherry Orchard ditch system prior to cleaning. The entire sub-levee was mowed, along with the landward slope and crown of the perimeter levee, as well as several areas along the perimeter

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levee's riverward benches. We also continue to mow the access roads to the interior pump stations as well as the roads along the Santosh Slough near the Smith and Honeyman pump stations.

-In September 2023 I received notice from the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the Columbia River Treaty with Canada. It's a large and complex issue, but it mainly deals with the control of the dams on the upper reaches of the Columbia River in Canada and the coordination of water storage between the two Countries. The treaty expires in September 2024 and is currently being renegotiated. The USACE held listening sessions regarding some of the potential changes in Columbia River flows they foresee being an issue if the treaty expires or is changed. From what I gathered, the most severe that could affect the SDIC, is more extreme Columbia River water level fluctuations, especially during the annual spring freshet. The following website has much more information as well as a video of the presentation.

<https://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/CRWM/Columbia-River-Treaty/>

## **Infrastructure & Operations-Looking Ahead / Action Items:**

-Periodic Inspection with USACE, pump stations on 2/15/2024 levee embankment on March 19-20, 2024.

-Periodic Inspection action items (thru levee culvert inspections, toe drain action plans, relief well testing)

-Continue tree and blackberry removal along the perimeter levee while also maintaining the progress made.

## **Best Practices:**

-The Operations and Maintenance Manual has been updated as of January 2024

-The Flood Emergency Response Plan has been updated as of January 2024

-The SDIC adopted an official Employee Handbook

-As part of the SDIC-SWOT analysis, a list of infrastructure improvement projects was identified. We have been working with Columbia County Economic Team to identify potential grant funding sources for some of the larger projects. We are also looking to integrate some of the smaller projects or phases of the larger projects into the 2024-25 SDIC budget cycle.

## **Website:**

-The website has been a major help for noticing our meetings along with providing relevant meeting materials. The meeting recordings and supporting documents are available there. Our large storage capacity has allowed us to leave up all meeting materials since inception.

## **Mercury/Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (DEQ Compliance):**

-The SDIC Willamette Basin Mercury TMDL plan was submitted, and receipt acknowledged on 9/2/22.

On 2/8/24 I received a signed letter from Oregon DEQ approving the SDIC Mercury TMDL Plan. This plan will now need to be included in our annual calendar of operations as it has a reporting matrix requirement.

-On 1/5/23 we received word from the Oregon DEQ that through litigation they are to review and rewrite the Willamette Basin Temperature TMDL's that were completed some time ago. During this review process, water conveyance entities (SDIC) were named as Designated Management Authorities (DMA) but are not required to complete a Temperature TMDL Plan at this time.