

SDIC Annual Managers Report

2/26/2025

Infrastructure:

- The Evans Pump station, Pump #3 was removed and both the motor and pump was rebuilt. As was suspected after previous visual inspections, the pump diffuser housing did have advanced stages of cavitation damage. Though the damage was not to the extent of the previous repairs to the Pump #1, the repairs did require a multi-staged process using several layers of Belzona compounds. The pump and motor have been reinstalled and returned to service.
- The original electrical control panel for the Cherry Orchard Pump station Pump #2 was replaced with updated components allowing this pump to operate in an automated fashion like the #1 Pump. This upgrade not only made this pump more reliable, but it also gave the station much needed redundancy. This was one of the infrastructure improvement projects identified in the 2023 SWOT analysis.
- This past summer, we sustained a major power supply failure at the Evans Pump station. The primary power supply to the station was originally installed as direct bury cable. One of the three direct bury lines shorted out. Though we were able to maintain power to the house, office, and shop by reconfiguring our fused input switch, we would not have been able to run any of the pumps. After some consideration and industry feedback, it was determined in the interest of reliability, best to replace all the lines versus repairing the broken line. The original lines were dug up and replaced with buried conduit and wire. An electrical vault was also installed immediately adjacent to the transformer pad enclosure; this will allow for the relatively easy replacement of primary wires in the future and alleviate the need to work within the constrictive transformer enclosure.

Operations:

- Vegetation management remains a continued focus. Herbicide management of woody vegetation was completed again this year along the entire perimeter and sub levees, as well as complete vegetation control along all areas of rip rap. 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 near the southern marinas. There were also several areas of large blackberries and small trees that were mechanically removed along the perimeter levee near the very southern end as well as around the Cherry Orchard pump station and North Tide Gates. 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 levee's riverward slope and benches, where accessible. 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.
- The Jackson Creek Diversion received its Bi-Annual cleaning.

Infrastructure & Operations-Looking Ahead / Action Items:

- Prioritization of the USACE formal inspection checklist items.
- Continue tree and blackberry removal along the perimeter levee while also maintaining the progress made.
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects identified in the SWOT Analysis.

Best Practices-Accreditation:

- This past spring the SDIC received a formal inspection from USACE for the re-certification of the levee. As I reported at the last annual meeting, this inspection was known to be forthcoming it was the immediate timing of it that was a bit of a surprise. As such this past summer's priorities focused around the unfinished rated items of the inspection, such as through levee culvert inspections, toe drain locating and video inspecting, and relief well testing. These formal inspections will be on a five-year cycle moving forward. The USACE formal inspections certify our levee, which is a requirement for FEMA

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accreditation. The SDIC passed the inspection and received re-certification from USACE in January 2025. Though we successfully passed the inspection there have been several changes that we will have to track moving forward, as well as an update to our emergency action plan. There have been updates to USACE internal policies regarding several rated items, mainly centered on relief wells and pump station discharge lines. These changes will affect our scheduled yearly and routine inspections. I am still awaiting the final report or “checklist” from USACE that I hope to have in the next couple weeks. This checklist will help us prioritize scheduled component inspections as well as correct items that received an unacceptable rating.

-During the power failure to the Evans Pump station I mentioned above, I decided to take advantage of a bad situation, while the pump station was completely de-energized and grounded for the wire replacement. I had Farnham Electric open and inspect all electrical control components for the pump station. This would allow them to determine exactly the current configuration and deliver to us an end to end engineered design for installation of emergency back-up generator power. This design will allow us to solicit a consistent package for public bid. The cost of the engineered design came back at \$30,000 which I have applied for a grant through Business Oregon to cover 80% of that cost. This project was identified as a high priority in our recent SWOT analysis.

-The SDIC is currently in cooperation with Columbia County, the City of Scappoose and US Senator Merkley’s office to secure grant funding through the Community Initiated Projects Program. This funding will be to replace and upgrade the culverts on the Santosh Slough that are under East Columbia Avenue and the CZ Trail. These culverts will be sized to flow coefficients identified in the WEST Interior Drainage Analysis and should relieve flooding within the City of Scappoose and County lands. This project was identified as a high priority in our SWOT analysis.

-This last spring I applied for grant funding through the Federal Senate Community Initiated Projects program to upgrade the control panels and monitoring platforms at Evans, North, and Cherry pump stations as well as install backup generator capability at the Evans Pump station. Our application was accepted for consideration, but it was subsequently denied in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

-Outside of the outstanding infrastructure improvement projects, the deliverable items identified in the 2023 SWOT analysis were completed this last summer.

Website:

-The upgraded website has proven to be a major step forward in our public outreach and transparency; and our overall interaction with the SDIC members and the public at large. All meeting notices and supporting documents are available on the website along with organizational documentation and pertinent information of the SDIC. It has also served well as an initial contact point for individuals seeking further information regarding our organization.