

Swalley is 119 years old this year, making you, our patrons, a part of the oldest institution in central Oregon. 2017 was a very busy year for us, and 2018 has been no different. We have a new staff member, new trucks, a fresh modernization blueprint, and have been busy writing grants and planning for the future -- a future that ensures that all our patrons get the water they need.

Some users experienced shortages during April and May of our shoulder season this year. The issue has recurred for many years now, and we have identified a couple of ways to solve the problem. These solutions will take time, but the surefire way to increase shoulder season water deliveries is to modernize our infrastructure through canal-piping projects and pick up water that is currently being lost through the bottom of our canals. The second way may involve sharing and transferring water rights with other local irrigation districts to optimize flow to those who need it when they need it. Piping projects and inter-district water transfers take a lot of time to execute, but we are working on these solutions every day. We are also being very cost-conscious in our planning efforts and doing everything we can to keep current and future costs down so that your water rates stay as reasonable as possible.

ESTABLISHED	1899
PATRONS	668
ACRES	~4,331



New Hire

The District has hired a new field technician and hydropower operator, Clay Adams. Clay is primarily responsible for shepherding water through the north end of our district as a Ditchrider/Field Tech, and has many other field and office-based responsibilities. Clay is excellent at troubleshooting mechanical and electrical problems, holds a certificate in Management of Electrical & Electronic Control Equipment, and is a competent welder, mechanic, and machinist. Clay spent the majority of his career managing the engineering department of a large fish processing ship deployed out of the Bering Sea, and we feel fortunate to have him as a part of our team. Clay and his family live within Swalley boundaries and have been Swalley patrons for many years, so please give Clay a warm welcome when you see him.

New Trucks

The District has sold three of its older service trucks and replaced them with newer ones. Through successful grant writing, we've purchased our "new-to us" trucks at no cost to our district and patrons.



System Modernization and Piping

The District is in the final stages of completing a Watershed Plan - Environmental Assessment through the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). With the Watershed Plan, we will have a very clear path for permitting and funding the modernization of our entire system over time. And we have been hard at work proactively securing grant funds to construct our first round of piping projects.

So far, we have been very successful with grant awards and have secured over \$2,127,000 for new piping projects through NRCS and other state-based sources. This is enough money to pipe our first round of projects, the Rogers and Rogers-sub Laterals. These laterals run by the Bend North Mall and proceed north for over three miles along the Old Bend Redmond Highway. We anticipate sending out construction notices to landowners along these two laterals in the coming months and are targeting this November 1st as a tentative construction start date.

Our goal is to secure as many federal and state grants as possible to pay for as much piping as possible, with as little cost to our patrons as possible. We pledge to work with land owners affected by the piping to disturb their property as little as possible. We also pledge to try and preserve as many trees and vegetation as possible during the construction process.

With pressing city growth and urbanization, growing environmental pressures, added layers of regulation, public safety liability around canals, and an obligation and expectation to conserve water to protect the Deschutes River, Swalley and its patrons must embrace the long-view and be proactive with piping our canals if we are to remain in business for another 119 years. We believe that these challenges create opportunities for protecting our water rights, creating a more efficient and reliable water delivery system, preserving natural resources, and helping our water users save on pumping and maintenance costs. So far, you, our patrons have overwhelmingly been supportive of modernization and canal-piping, so we have been working extremely hard to make that a reality.

As always, we thank you for your support, patronage, and encourage your comments and feedback.

Sincerely,


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