



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

1503 First Street South, Nampa, Idaho 83651
Tel: (208) 466-7861 -- Fax: (208) 463-0092
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Two- Year Partnership Program Designed To Help Feds Develop Better Working Relationship With Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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For Media Information Contact:
Chaneé Grant - (208) 466-7861

A group of Federal employees, who work in water related jobs, will spend two days later this month with the Treasure Valley's largest irrigation district to get a first-hand look at water delivery issues in the valley with the aim of fostering a better understanding and a closer working relationship between the two water agencies, officials with the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District have announced.



Nampa & Meridian water managers brief Bureau of Reclamation employees on the operation of the District's canal system during the two-day session in August. (NMID Photo)

The two-day program is the second half of this year's John Keys III Partnership program between the Pacific Northwest Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and an irrigation district in Idaho, Oregon,

and Washington. A two-day session was also held in August with NMID.

The group will tour NMID facilities November 14-15 and will get an inside look at the work that goes on at irrigation districts when the canals are empty of water.

The upcoming two days give the BOR participants a closer look at the operation of an irrigation district when canals are dry and highlights maintenance activities. This includes work such as lining canals with concrete, replacing open canals with underground pipes, repairing bank erosion problems, replacing headgates and preparing and collecting irrigation taxes, etc.

The exchanges mean the Bureau can share information directly with staff at the District about the wide range of water related tasks the agency does such as GIS mapping, water supply studies, engineering design and AgriMet weather stations. It also helps irrigation district personnel get a better handle on who are the best points of contact in the BOR organization.

NMID will host the program and conduct two more sessions again next year.

"The first of our sessions in August was designed to education the Federal employees about what we do and how we do it when the canals are full and we are delivering water. It was a great success and we are looking forward to a similar outcome with this session, said Daren Coon, NMID Secretary Treasurer

The program is named after the late John Keys III who headed the Bureau's Pacific Northwest Region and later served as the Reclamation Commissioner.

"We feel this partnership provides valuable benefits both to us and the Irrigation District," said Duncan F. Nims, Regional Learning Officer with the Bureau who oversees the program for BOR.

The Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District is a water storage, conveyance and distribution system founded in 1904. NMID supplies irrigation water to than 17,000 individual parcels of land, including 479 subdivisions in Ada and Canyon counties.

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