

Arnold Irrigation District

Monthly Board Meeting

April 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Bob Schuur at 3:00 pm. Board members present were Bob Schuur, Walt Warchol, and Roger Fadness. Office staff members present were Steve Johnson, Chris Webb, and Juanita Harvey. Also present were the District's attorney Mark Reinecke, patrons Jerry Rudloff, Steve Keffer, John Dick, Mike Penhollow, Barb Flynn with guest, and Deb Rudloff via zoom. Bill Roats from Roats Water Company and Gen Hubert from the DRC (Deschutes River Conservancy) arrived later for their portion of participation in the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MARCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Roger motioned, and Bob seconded his motion to approve the March 2023 board meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.
2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Walt motioned, and Roger seconded his motion to approve the accounts payable. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. MANAGER'S REPORT:
  - a. WATER REPORT:
    - i. DROUGHT AND WATER SUPPLY: Crescent is same as last year same time and is only slightly above last year and at 11% of full, Crane Prairie is full per the HCP and Wickiup is at 132,000 AF and last year at this time it was at 109,000 AF.  

The forecast is promising but we cannot be certain. Technically, we are still in a drought. Increased snowpack to last year is promising but doesn't always translate to remarkably increased stream flows.
    - ii. DBBC FORECAST TOOL UPDATE – DriFT DEMO: This is the new natural flow calculator. A US Bureau of Reclamation grant is covering the creation work of the DRiFT (Deschutes River Instream Flow Tool). This tool should provide more accurate information every day with an update every 15 minutes. It contains river and diversion data from 1982 to date and will be a robust tool for planning.
  - b. FINANCIAL REPORT: This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter financials. It is conservative on revenue because of reimbursement for piping project for work completed by Steve, Chris, and Juanita. Also, from fees collected from easement encroachments.  

The LGIP is collecting 4% interest. We keep as much of the District's money as possible in the LGIP. Last month's interest received was in excess of \$3,500.
  - c. MODERNIZATION PROJECTS:
    - i. MAIN CANAL PROJECT:
      - FUNDING UPDATE:

Steve is coordinating with Senator Merkley's office for a \$3,000,000 NRCS funds designation for Phase 3 FA of the project. Steve is also requesting Phase 3 TA dollars from NRCS

April 26<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the OWRD project grant application of appx \$2.9 million with an application to OWEB for restoration program match funds in the amount of \$250,000.

- CHANGE ORDERS:

Some corners of the canal are being evaluated for pipe realignment to improve equipment access and staging, but still within the easement.

- ii. DIVERSION GATE AUTOMATION & WATER MEASUREMENT: It is in the hands of Reclamation to finish the historical & EA work before proceeding.
  - d. ROATS WATER COMPANY: Roats and AID are close to finalizing an agreement.
  - e. AVION WATER, LLC – SOMERSET & ARROWHEAD + 6: Avion will be directly delivering water to these parcels instead of Arnold ID. A neighborhood meeting will be planned to review next steps with the land owners for the application to OWRD.
4. FIELD SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

The weir boxes have all been cleared out from all of the remnant parcels.

A safety meeting this month was on Water Safety and Hazards.

21 flume sections were replaced.

The Gosney box was rebuilt entirely from resetting the entire structure, rebuilding, and resurfacing.

A checkwall was built on the Ladera South of Knott Rd.

A pipe inspection camera was purchased.

The portion of the Rickard Pipe was exposed. It took several loads of reject gravel to cover and repair the area.

The Deschutes County Sheriff's inmate crew was brought in to remove brush (13 cubic yards of debris) underneath the flume.

Chris would like the board's approval to create a Safety Incentive Program for the team. Walt motioned and Roger seconded his motion in favor to develop a Safety Incentive Program with more detail. The vote was unanimous in favor.

5. OFFICE REPORT:

- a. SDAO SERVICE ELECTION: Worker's Compensation is no longer going to be handled through SDAO. We have to elect to go ahead with SAID under the SDAO umbrella. Bob

motioned to approve the SDAO service election to go with SAIF. Roger seconded his motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

- b. ASSESSMENTS: To date we have received \$797,463.30.
- c. TRANSFERS / LEASES / TEMPORARY TRANSFERS: Juanita submitted 26 temporary transfers for the 2023 irrigation season, and one instream lease. Juanita is still working on the permanent transfers.
- d. REMNANT PARCELS: Two more remnant parcel transfers were completed, and one property owner quitclaimed their water rights back to the District.
- e. EASEMENT RELEASES & ENCROACHMENTS: We haven't processed any releases or encroachments this month.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION: The Strategic Planning committee is working on what the District will look like after the pipe goes in.

The next step will be to have a discussion with the board regarding possibilities and options for the future of Arnold and its operations. We will keep this topic under "Old Business" on the agenda.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. SDIS HEALTH BENEFITS RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Through SDAO we have pooled benefits. Our renewal is from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. The medical portion of our insurance benefits have increased from 2% to 8%.

Our option is to increase deductibles and out of pocket maximums. Blue 7 tier is the recommendation by Steve which would save \$2,500. We need to renew by June. Steve will research our options further.

- b. SCHEDULE TOUR OF KRAH USA FACILITY: After some discussion, it is scheduled for Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Walt, Roger, and Bob are tentatively scheduled to leave at 1:00 pm for a 2:00 pm tour. Steve will work out the details with Mark Theetge.

8. OPEN FORUM:

- a. BARB FLYNN: Barb has paid her assessment for 2023 and she wants to know if she will be able to get her water in her pond this year. She wanted to know if there was anything we could do to help her get her water. Since Mr. Wheeler changed the level of the culvert, they haven't received their water in the same manner as in past years.

The Board suggested that Barb make the initial visit with Mr. Wheeler and if needed, the staff will step in after Barb fills us in on how her conversation went with Mr. Wheeler.

- b. ESTES LATERAL: Steve Keffer and John Dick were there on behalf of the Estes patrons. They asked if there was a possibility for grants in the future to complete the piping project.

Steve Johnson suggested that they check the market price of pipe by the end of the summer. If they could find the pipe at a fair price, the District would do the work for free except for the District's out-of-pocket costs.

There is a possibility of a grant through the NRCS but there is a high possibility that conserved water would have to be declared.

Steve Keffer and John Dick were also curious about the possibility of Gary English not agreeing to the piping through his property if we waited longer. Steve stated that the District has an easement through Gary's property and the improvements are beneficial to him as well as the patrons of the Estes lateral.

- c. MIKE PENHOLLOW: Mike asked about the possibility of getting 5.5 or 6.5 gpm right from the start. Steve stated that it was an impossibility for the beginning of the season.
- d. JERRY RUDLOFF: Jerry asked about the trees which were to be cut and dropped within the project area. Will they be limbed and moved or removed. Steve answered that they will be limbed and left on the property owner's land if the landowner would like to keep the trees. If not, the contractor will remove the trees. Jerry asked if the trees could be sold as a whole. Chris stated that the contractor will have to get a permit for each tax lot to sell the trees. They cannot be sold together.

Barb Flynn and her guest left the meeting at 4:58 pm.

Roger Fadness left the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Jerry Rudloff the meeting at 5:07 pm.

Walt left the meeting at 5:09 pm along with Steve Keffer, John Dick, and Mike Penhollow left at 5:09 pm.

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 5:09 pm and go into Executive Session but since the other two board members had already left, an executive session could not be held.