

Arnold Irrigation District
Monthly Board Meeting

May 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Bob Schuur at 3:11 pm. Board members present were Bob Schuur, Walt Warchol, and Rob Rastovich. Staff members present were Steve Johnson, Chris Webb, and Juanita Harvey. Also present was the District's attorney Mark Reinecke, district patrons Joyce Taylor, Barb Flynn, and Jerry Rudloff and non-patron Geoff Rudloff.

1. APPROVAL OF APRIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Walt motioned, and Rob seconded his motion to approve the April meeting minutes with one change as noted by Mark in 'C. ii., paragraph 9', remove the word "first" at the end of the first sentence. The vote was unanimous in favor.
2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Walt motioned, and Rob seconded his Walt to approve the accounts payable. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. WATER/STORAGE REPORT: Crescent Lake is improving; Crane Prairie has gained some water and is a little high at 49,000 AF to the ideal USFWS HCP guideline of 48,000 AF. The Little Deschutes is higher than last year at this time and Benham is somewhat lower. Overall natural flow in the Deschutes is running at 101% to last year same time.

Rob inquired about Haystack Reservoir and how long does the water last once it is full. Steve responded that it is about 10 days of water for NUID operations.

Steve then explained the flow tracking tool and how all the DBBC Districts on the Upper Deschutes benefit with daily flow and diversion numbers.

B. FINANCIALS: Steve explained that we are trying to move from a year-to-date budget to a monthly budget. It would be easier to follow the budget and the money spent and what is available.

The payment of \$24,000 received from the insurance company for the truck was moved into the LGIP Operations account and \$138,020 was moved to the LGIP Modernization (Piping Fund) account.

The Black Rock Consulting invoices and staff time piping project related will be reimbursed from NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service).

Steve inquired with the board if they felt it would make sense to move the invoices we received for the grant writing for our non-federal match to “Modernization and any legal billings associated with NRCS project should come out of the Water Protection fund since that is what it was allocated for originally.

C. MODERNIZATION PROJECTS:

- i. DIVERSION AUTOMATION: Steve submitted a grant application for the automation of the river headgate. The grant would pay up to 50% of the project. With the automated headgate we can change the cfs that is diverted, and the automation keeps the level of the headgate as it was set. This will save vast amount of manpower spent physically having to go to the diversion for daily adjustments, and conserve water as the river moves up and down during the day and a steady diversion level keeps it dialed in at the exact amount we want. The cost is approximately \$55,000 and the grant is \$27,500 from the Bureau of Reclamation. Power for the project is already present and most of the cost will be for electronics.

- ii. MAIN CANAL PROJECT: Steve submitted grant applications for matching funds for the Main Canal Piping project to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund, OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board), and OWRD (Oregon Water Resources Department). We will not hear back on these grant applications until late summer. The District’s WMCP (Water Management Conservation Plan) had expired and the OWRD will not approve a grant application without a current WMCP. Steve revised the WMCP and submitted it today electronically.

Steve prepared a GANTT chart for Phase 1 of the Main Canal project. Construction start is still anticipated near Thanksgiving.

D. TAX LOT 401: Steve found a quitclaim deed in which PPL (Pacific Power and Light) quitclaimed a 100-foot-wide piece of property to AID. The county is changing the county records to reflect the AID ownership of that piece of land along the Deschutes River. As a result, AID now owns the entire 100’ wide section of land covering the entire length of the flume in addition to the two individual parcels on the north end of the flume.

E. UPPER DESCHUTES BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT 101: Steve prepared an educational document for our patrons to help them understand water management in the basin. Bob and Jon both reviewed the document and stated that Steve did an excellent job of describing water management in our basin. Patrons will be notified via text of this document, and it will be posted on our webpage and the link will be emailed to our patrons.

4. FIELD SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Chris reported that the season start up went well with an earlier than usual start up.

We have hired a new ditch rider who will begin on April 18, 2022.

We need to replace one of the pickup trucks. Fleet trucks are 6 to 8 months out. We may have to look at different avenues for purchasing a pickup.

5. OFFICE REPORT: Juanita reported that out of the thirty patrons who were declared remnant parcels, 6 have completed the process and their Bargain and Sale Deeds have been recorded and they have received their checks for the purchase of their water rights and the refund for their 2022 assessments. Four have requested easement releases.

There are twenty-nine patrons who have not yet paid their 2022 assessments. Accrued interest has been added to their accounts and statements have been mailed out to these patrons. The total amount owing in delinquent assessments is \$28,660.68.

6. NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business brought up for discussion.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. REMNANT PARCELS – NORTH LATERAL: reviewed in Office Report

8. OPEN FORUM:

A. Joyce Taylor is a patron on the North Lateral and her parcel is one of the parcels declared a remnant parcel. Joyce voiced her disappointment in the manner in which they were notified of their properties being declared remnant parcels. She felt there was no transparency. She felt that it was not illegal for the District to move forward with these remnant parcels but it was unethical.

Steve explained that with Tillicum no longer taking their water from the North Lateral, there was not enough carry water to get the water as far as Murphy Rd. The District would need 700 acres of water to deliver 30 acres, and that was considered illegal use of water and a waste.

Joyce continued to say that communication is important and there was not any. She has hay for her cows not but when the weather heats up, her fields will be dry. Bob acknowledged that, with regard to the North Lateral decisions, the board had prioritized making sound operating decisions and that more communication would have helped the effected patrons understand the need for the changes on the North Lateral.

Rob Rastovich offered to have her bring her steers to his farm and he also offered to help her with hay.

- B. Barbara Flynn, a patron whose parcel is along the Baker Pond and has a pond right says she cannot even sell her house because the ponds on the other side of Baker Pond will not fill because they smaller ponds and are higher than the large Baker Pond. A year ago, a culvert was put in, but it appears that it may not be level.

Chris and Steve stated that they would have to check the culvert for being level and then decide how they would all proceed to make the necessary corrections so all the patrons with smaller ponds will have watering flowing to their ponds.

- C. Patron, Jerry Rudloff requested that District financial information be available to the patrons. It was mentioned that this information is always available upon request to the office. The board discussed and agreed to post on the District website the annual audited financial report and post the quarterly financials as they are available.
- D. Mark Reinecke spoke on the Tumalo court case. The decision on the property devaluation was given a determination that property owners did not have such a right to claim.
- E. Steve stated that he will give the board and patrons a bi-weekly update on the water forecast utilizing the DBBC forecast tool. He stated that it is still looking likely for an end of June time period for irrigation and expect flows to be available in late September/early October as last year.

- 9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

ARNOLD IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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