

July 13, 2021

Arnold Irrigation District
Monthly Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Bren Hirschberg at 3:07 pm. Board members present were Bren Hirschberg, Walt Warchol, Jon Smith, Bob Schuur, and Rob Rastovich. Office staff members present were Colin Wills, Matt Maurer, and Juanita Harvey. Also present was the district's attorney, Mark Reinecke, Heather McMeekin and Wes Price of Price/Fronk & Co., patrons, SJ Camarata, Don Jacobs, Ron Verdoorn and Chuck Fisher on behalf of Pape Properties, Inc., and Jerome Rudloff. Three non-patrons were also present.

Bren began the meeting stating that there will be no discussion regarding the Watershed Plan.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 AUDIT BY PRICE/FRONK & CO. (Wes Price & Heather McMeekin): Wes and Heather presented the audit with Wes stating that the district had a remarkably comparable year to the previous year. The board accepted the audit as presented and Wes and Heather left the meeting at 3:51 pm.
2. OPEN FORUM: Seeing that there were many items on the agenda for this meeting, Bren suggested the discussion moved to Open Forum to hear from all non-board members who were present for the meeting.

With many concerns about the drought and having to shut off delivery of water early, there were discussions with the board and patrons for options that could possibly help the district. All felt that water laws needed to change especially regarding seniority and water transfers. Rob addressed the patrons and explained all the issues surrounding all their concerns and stated that their concerns were topics that have been brought up numerous times and many of the problems cannot be solved quickly. Many would take years. Bren stated that there was \$411,000 in the piping fund account set aside strictly for that purpose. If, by vote of the patrons, they requested that this money be spent on legal water issues, that is the only way the use of funds in that account could be changed.

Some of the people present left the meeting at 4:08 pm. The remaining patrons present left the meeting at 4:29 pm.

3. APPROVAL OF JUNE 8th MEETING MINUTES: Bob motioned, and Rob seconded his motion to approve the minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor.
4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 11th SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: Bob motioned, and Rob seconded his motion to approve the minutes as written with the inclusion of the number of votes received in paragraph 4. The vote was unanimous in favor.

5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Walt motioned, and Bob seconded his motion to approve the accounts payable. The vote was unanimous in favor.

6. REPORTS:

a. MANAGER'S REPORT:

- i. WATER REPORT: Colin discussed the letter we sent out to patrons along with the summary letter and 3rd storage report we received from Jeremy Giffin, the Deschutes Basin Watermaster.

This year AID, Lone Pine and North Unit received 5,000 AF additional water which we can request once every 7 years per the HCP (Habitat Conservation Plan). Of the 5,000 AF, AID received 1,250 AF, Lone Pine received 1,250 AF and North Unit received 2,500 AF.

From June 14th until July 25th, each side of the rotations will receive 3 full rotations at 4.5 gpm and the last week, all patrons will receive full water at 5.5 gpm until the water is depleted and we receive a letter from the Watermaster informing us when we must shut water off.

The next storage report will be provided when we shut off.

The most recent drought report was discussed and a link to the drought report will be placed on the web page.

Bren thank Colin and Matt for doing a great job delivering water to all our patrons during this very difficult time.

- ii. FINANCIALS: Currently there is \$411,221 in the LGIP piping fund account, \$281,515 in the Operations fund account, \$273,526 in the Reserves account and \$124,447 in the checking account.

- b. FIELD SUPERVISOR REPORT: Matt reported that the rotations went well. During the first part of rotations, we lost a ditchrider. Matt and Chris worked many hours during the rotations since because of the loss of the ditchrider.

Walt asked about safety during the heat and respiratory protection against smoke inhalation during the fire season. Matt did hold a safety meeting for these issues to go over OSHA regulations regarding heat protection.

Matt is working on beneficial use maps provided by Juanita for temporary transfers and regular beneficial use.

- c. OFFICE REPORT: Juanita reported that she is working continuously on many beneficial use reports with Matt. These are taking up a lot of time, along with new temporary transfers for the following year. Currently there are 4 patrons who have outstanding balances on 2021 assessments. One of the 4 is in foreclosure status.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. MISCELLANEOUS:

Bren noted that there were a couple of announcements.

Matt notified the board that he submitted his resignation effective October 15, 2021. He hoped that it would be enough time for the district to hire a Field Supervisor and give him some time to train the new employee. Matt thanked the board for the opportunity to work at the district and was appreciative of all the knowledge he has picked up working here.

Colin then notified the board that he has submitted his resignation as well, effective October 29, 2021.

Colin prepared job descriptions for the three positions which will need to be filled those being a district manager, field supervisor and another ditchrider. He has had conversations with Mid-Oregon Personnel regarding the advertising of the key positions. These changes in staff will require a budget change because salaries will have to be at a competitive rate to match today's rates.

The board asked if both Colin and Matt would be willing to consult after they have left the district. They both agree if their new schedules allowed, they would consult.

The discussion then turned toward the job descriptions and salaries. The board determined that a fair range for a manager starting salary would be \$100,000 to \$110,000/y, \$30.00 to \$35.00/hr for the field supervisor DOE (depending on experience) and the ditchrider would start at \$24.00/hr.

Jon motioned to have Colin begin the search as discussed above. Walt seconded his motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

At this time Bren notified the board that he and his wife will be retiring to Arizona. At the close of escrow which will no longer be the owner of property within the irrigation district so this will be his last board meeting. The board expressed their gratitude for Bren's service on the board and wished him well.

- b. AID FUTURE PLANS: At this time Bren handed out a document of the challenges he felt the board and district are and will encounter and what he felt would be possible solutions.

 - c. GRANT FOR FREE POLARIS RANGER EV THROUGH OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL: The District received a grant opportunity from the Oregon Environmental Council for a free electric Polaris Ranger. The board agreed that Colin and Matt should discuss this opportunity further and make the determination if the district should move forward with this grant.
8. OLD BUSINESS: There were no items of old business which needed to be brought up for discussion.
9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

ARNOLD IRRIGATION DISTRICT
