

August 11, 2020  
Arnold Irrigation District  
Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Bren Hirschberg at 3:01 pm. Board members present were Bren Hirschberg, Walt Warchol, 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, Erin Killcullen from the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District, patron Marjorie Miller and Ethan Owens.

1. DSWCD (DESCHUTES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT: Erin Killcullen, Manager at the DSWCD came to introduce herself to the board and to inform the board the DSWCD had received a technical assistance grant which would allow them to assist the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) as they move ahead assisting with on farm grants for farmers. They have 1 year to use the funds received from the grant. During this year they will be working closely with the NRCS to evaluate project applications as they are submitted to determine which projects will be completed. Erin left the meeting at 3:16 pm.
  
2. ROTATION SCHEDULE: Patron Marjorie Miller came to speak to the board about her problems receiving water at her property. She described her system to the board and stated that during a normal season start up they do not receive water until her system is fully charged which takes 5 to 6 days. During the rotation, since it takes longer for her system to charge, they have not received irrigation water because the rotation is only for a 4-day cycle. She stated that they have had engineers out to their property and there is nothing they can do to fix their problem. She asked if the board would consider everyone on a case by case basis. She asked since the board had originally considered a 7-day rotation, could a 7-day rotation be considered again?

Bren explained the discussions and concerns about a 7-day rotation especially when it came to the farmers. Based on these considerations, the board felt it was best to do a 4-day rotation.

Rob spoke to Marjorie and stated that the District could not supply her water at 4.5 gpm every day because the District would have to use more water to deliver her water 24/7. She may have to try using 2 pumps. One pump at her pond sucking the water down from the weir. He suggested she call Ryan at Cascade Pump and Irrigation and he could show her how to hook up the 2 pumps in her system. He also added that she should add some air vents along her pipe.

Marjorie thanked the board and left the meeting at 3:50 pm.

3. RE-APPROVAL OF JUNE BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Juanita found comments in her email from Bob after the approval of the June minutes at the July meeting;

specifically, the section "4.a.1. Water Report". In Bob's comments, he had expanded the description of the discussion with a more accurate portrayal of the discussion. What was in the minutes did not do the discussion of the topic justice. Bob motioned to approve the re-written minutes with his comments. Walt seconded his motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

4. APPROVAL OF JULY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: Bob motioned, and Walt seconded his motion to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.
5. APPROVAL OF JULY MEETING MINUTES: Bob motioned, and Walt seconded his motion to approve the minutes with the deletion of the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 sentences in paragraph 5 of the Water Report. The vote was unanimous in favor.
6. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: With the exception of 2 checks Walt had questions about, Walt motioned, and Bob seconded his motion to approve the accounts payable. The vote was unanimous in favor.
7. REPORTS:

- a. MANAGER'S REPORT:

- i. WATER REPORT: Colin discussed the storage report he received from Kyle Gorman at the local Water Master's office. Colin estimated how many days he thought the District had remaining of water in storage. The cfs X 2.35 AF (includes loss) gives the total AF for one day divided by storage left will give the amount of days which are left.

The board discussed how to handle the last few days before shutting off and how to make sure our patrons will be ready with full ponds. If we pulled 90 cfs from the river, we would use approximately 211 AF per day leaving 3.74 days with all patrons receiving water.

Bren motioned and Walt seconded his motion that a notice will go out to all the District patrons stating that in the interest of treating all patrons equitably, all rotations will end tomorrow, Wednesday, August 12, 2020. Starting tomorrow, however, the District will increase the water taken out at the river to 90 cfs to delivery 4.5 gpm per acre to all patrons for the remaining 3 to 4 days. During the shoulder season if possible, water will be delivered at 5.5 gpm 24/7 until the end of the season. The vote was unanimous in favor.

An email will go out to all patrons who have an email on file with the district. Juanita will have to call all other patrons who have phone numbers on file. Any other patrons would be receiving a letter after the fact.

The communication would state that “All patrons have now received an equal number of rotations. Rotations have now concluded beginning tomorrow with everyone receiving their water right at 4.5 gpm per acre until the water runs out which will be approximately 3 to 4 days. There will not be any further communication regarding this matter.”

Rob inquired if there ended up being an Indian summer, would it be a possibility to stay on until October 31<sup>st</sup>? If water is available and it very well should be, the District has the authority to stay on until the 31<sup>st</sup> if they felt that would be necessary. The board agreed to table that conversation until the September meeting or October meeting.

- ii. FINANCIALS: Colin went over the LGIP and checking account balances. The financials were attached for their review. All the information regarding the cost of doing the rotation will be available in October.
  
- b. FIELD SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Matt recognized the ditch rider's hard work and efforts during the rotation period. They came into work in the early hours of the morning and worked 16-hour days.

Matt stated his concern about doing the rotation in the same manner if there was a time in the future such as this again. If this situation arose again, he would install check wall infrastructures ahead of time. Preparing the check walls as needed during the rotation was expensive, especially for payroll. The question with the rotation was did we save water or waste water? We increased the length of time we were able to deliver water but was it worth the cost?

Bren encouraged Colin and Matt to get together after irrigation season to discuss what needs to be done for an equitable and fluid way of delivery.

August's safety meeting was relating to stress and anxiety.

A new fish screen motor was installed, upgraded from a 1HP to a 2HP.

- c. OFFICE REPORT: On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, \$150.00 the late/administrative fee was added to all the 2020 delinquent accounts. 8 patrons owe for 2020 for a total of \$5,806.90. Of these 8 patrons, 4 owe for 2019 as well for a total of \$2,927.81.

Juanita is currently working on reconciling our system water rights records against those of the State records. The OWRD in Salem would like to issue the District a new certificate since it has been since 1997 since our last certificate was issued.

At the same time, still working on water right corrections, and sending out new patron packets.

The nomination period is coming up for Zones 2, 3 and 4. Zone 2 would be for 2021 and 2022, Zone 3 for 2021 and Zone 4 for 2021 through 2023. Juanita can prepare the nomination forms, if the current board members will be going out for signatures.

Since the rules for COVID are up in the air when it comes to gatherings, it is difficult to plan a Christmas party. A party date has been booked but our group with spouses is larger than the amount allowed in the room we normally book. The other room we could use is much more expensive. Rob said he would speak to an acquaintance of his to see what facilities they had open. Maybe something would work for the size of our group which was affordable.

- 8. NEW BUSINESS: There were no new items of business brought up for discussion.
- 9. OLD BUSINESS: There were no old items of business to be brought up for discussion.
- 10. OPEN FORUM: Ethan Owens felt that mass communication for a situation such as we just went through would be advisable such as group texting.

He asked if there were any steps in the future that could be taken to alleviate a situation such as this once again.

Rob said he would like to re-visit the notion to merge with other districts which could potentially help our patrons. He also felt it was important that districts had a lobbying component to change some of the water laws which he feels are antiquated and a lot of them do not apply. He also suggested that since piping was going to be a big part of our future, public relations was of the utmost importance.

Colin made note that the 1938 agreement expires December 2020. Since the agreement is about the release of storage now would be the time to make necessary changes to the agreement such as banking storage in Crescent if possible.

Bob felt it was important to send out an email at the end of the season in October regarding the district's predicament and communications regarding future situations.

- 11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:39 pm.

ARNOLD IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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