

Arnold Irrigation District
Monthly Board Meeting
March 10th, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm by Jon Smith. Board members present were Jon Smith, Walt Warchol, Roger Fadness, Michael Woll (via zoom) and Rob Rastovich (via zoom). Staff members present were Ashley Buckner, Cole Nashem, Dylan Noren, and Juanita Harvey. Also present was the District's attorney Garrett Chrostek, Grant Traynor from the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) and Seth Flanders from Deschutes Soil and Water Conservancy. Also present was Jeremy Griffin and Carolyn Sufit from the Oregon Water Resources Department. Kevin Crew from Black Rock Consulting and patron Mike Penhollow were also present.

1. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Michael motioned, and Roger seconded his motion to approve the January board meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor with Jon, Walt, and Rob voting in favor.

2. GUEST SPEAKER:

a. 2026 Irrigation Season Outlook with Jeremy Griffin: Jeremy stated that it would be a good idea to proceed with a stock run, but patrons cannot irrigate their fields. A stock run allows patrons to fill ponds with stock water for livestock and to fill cisterns for domestic use. He also reminded the board that, under applicable water laws, stock water may only be used for these purposes.

Water districts without stored water will see near-record low supplies, with the worst effects expected on the Little Deschutes River, Whychus Creek, and Tumalo Creek, and the "bump" in natural flow experienced over the last two years is expected to disappear, while storage in the Upper Basin reservoirs is anticipated to be depleted very quickly.

Jeremy and Carolyn left the meeting at 1:25 pm.

b. Modernization Update with Kevin Crew: An update was provided on Phases 3 and 4, which will include approximately 26,000 feet of piping. The intake screens and piping have been designed. Arnold Irrigation District (AID) plans to go out to bid jointly with Black Rock, enter into a contract, and complete the bidding process.

AID and Kevin are in talks currently with BNSF and ODOT regarding the crossings.

Kevin left the meeting at 1:49 pm.

3. MANAGER REPORT:

a. FINANCIAL REPORT: At this time the board will need to review the financial report.

4. OPERATIONS REPORT:

1. Cleaned and reorganized the yard, hauling scrap metal to radius recycling, throwing away any broken wood and PVC pipe, and moving some of the HDPE pipe into the yard for safety purposes.
2. Cleaned and reshaped the North Lateral using the excavator and dump truck, removing willows and other debris and hauling them to the landfill.
3. Found a sink hole while cleaning the North Lateral, we filled the sink hole with concrete on 2/13/2026.
4. Cleaned and reorganized the garage, moving the lockers upstairs to make more space for vehicles and or space for future workstations.
5. dug trench for Wired Electric so they can install a wiring for the generator.
6. Patrons on Tekampe pipe have complained about the amount of dirt getting into the delivery, so we dug out the downstream end of the culvert on the Goat Farm just upstream from Tekampe pipe.
7. OSHA came in on 2/23/26 to take a small tour of the office, yard, and flume and gave us a report of OSHA violations that we need to fix.
8. Had a safety meeting on 2/19/26 about water damage and water damage prevention.

5. OFFICE REPORT:

Assessment reminders were sent out on Thursday, February 27, since then we have collected \$366,344.53 .

We held an early safety meeting this month to complete several OSHA online training courses, including Ladder Safety, PPE Hazard Assessments, Lockout/Tagout, and Workplace Violence Prevention. These courses were required as part of our OSHA review, and we determined it was most efficient to complete them together in one morning session.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. ONGOING FLUME DISCUSSION: AID evaluated several options for replacing the flume. However, the project does not qualify for funding, therefore AID will maintain the existing structure for as long as possible.

b. FEE SCHEDULE: Roger motioned, and Walt seconded his motion to approve the updated fee schedule. The vote was unanimous in favor with Jon, Mike, and Rob voting in favor.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. WATER SEASON 2026 STARTUP: The board has decided that April 1st will be the start date for the water season. A stock run will begin the week before on Wednesday, March 25th flowing into start up. AID will send out a patron communication regarding the water season, stock run, and start up.

b. SDAO MEETING LAW: Jon and Walt attended the Public Meeting Laws Training in Medford on February 17th that held all current up to date information for Board Meetings.

8. OPEN FORUM: Grant from the DRC said the Lundy project is nearing completion with all piping in the ground. K&E is working on finishing touches such as fixing the fencing. There is a landowner walk through scheduled for April 2nd.

For anyone who like to register and attend the Integrated Water Management course this spring, please feel free to check out the flyer on AID website.

9. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Roger motioned, and Walt seconded his motion to approve the accounts payable. The vote was unanimous in favor with Jon, Mike, and Rob voting in favor.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: An executive session was not required at this meeting.

Jon motioned to adjourn the meeting, Roger seconded his motion to adjourn the meeting, the vote was unanimous in favor with Mike, Walt, and Rob adjourning at 2:42pm.