

July 14, 2020
Arnold Irrigation District
Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Bob Schuur at 3:12 pm. Board members present were Bob Schuur, Walt Warchol, and Rob Rastovich. Office staff members present were Colin Wills, Matt Maurer, and Juanita Harvey. The District's attorney, Mark Reinecke was also present, and patrons of Mountain High subdivision Jody Ward and Joe Cook were present via conference phone.

Before Bob commenced with agenda items, he asked if Jody Ward and Joe Cook would like to bring up any concerns first which the board could address and they could excuse themselves when their questions were answered or they could stay on if they choose to.

Jody expressed concern about not receiving enough notice about what is happening with the decreased flow rate and rotation. Joe was more interested in what is happening with regards to AID receiving help from other districts and how the future of this irrigation season looks.

1. APPROVAL OF JUNE BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Walt motioned, and Rob seconded his motion to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.
2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:
3. REPORTS:
 - a. MANAGER REPORT:

- i. WATER REPORT: The rotation for the District began on the 11th of July running 59 cfs. On a typical day during irrigation season, the District runs approximately 100 cfs. The storage report for Wickiup at the end of June showed there was 5,849 AF available and Arnold had not yet pulled any storage water.

Colin has had conversations with Tumalo Irrigation District (TID) and Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) and neither of the districts are in favor of allowing AID to borrow any storage water.

TID has 14,000 AF but they have to leave 10,000 AF for the Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF) so the remaining 4,000 AF could possibly be given to AID to use this year but they may need it next year and they are worried that AID may not be able to repay it.

COID has 3,000 AF remaining but they are not sure they can allow AID to borrow the water for fear of their patrons filing suit against COID. Rob said he understands the concern of a class action lawsuit from patrons.

Lone Pine Irrigation District (LPID) is pulling their full allotment of storage.

The newest numbers from July 5th show that there is 47,000 AF of storage and 38,000 AF of natural flow. Since the 5th, COID has increased the amount of water they are pulling.

Colin will be staying in close contact with the various District managers.

Bob asked if the DBBC was a possible forum for a joint effort. Colin will call COID tomorrow and inquire if something could be done with the help of the DBBC.

The Board inquired how long does it take the water arrive at its respective canals during rotation. Usually, they ramp up slowly and hope that by noon the water will be to the ends. The longest reach is about 12 hours and the minimum about 3 to 4 hours.

Governor Kate Brown declared a drought with Executive Order 20-31. This executive order was posted on the AID web page.

- ii. FINANCIALS: The LGIP and checking accounts were discussed. The District is in good financial position.
- iii. HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP): Weekly meetings continue to be held and the group is currently working on measures.

The grant funding which was going to be available for OWEB as match funding is no longer available due to the funds going out for the COVID-19 government funding.

- b. FIELD SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Matt informed the board the challenges the staff is coming up against when having to reduce the flow dramatically but keeping the levels high enough for everyone to receive water. Matt discussed the logistics of the following rotation.

Matt issued a concern about the safety of the ditch riders. They are working many long hours to have the rotations work as well as feasibly possible. This, along with the extreme hot temperatures is extremely hard on the staff. Someone suggested to hire a temporary employee. Matt didn't think a temporary employee would be beneficial at this time, because he already has two very new employees and he would have to train another new employee in the middle of a process that has never been handled in anyone's tenure at the District.

Jody Ward on the phone asked why patrons found out so late. Rob explained to her the discussions the board has been having and the decisions they had to make as a board to ensure that everyone would get some amount of water for as long as possible.

Rob suggested that we hire a public relations person to help with the communications to the patrons and the public.

- c. OFFICE REPORT: Juanita reported the status of the delinquent accounts have remained the same. The phone is remarkably busy with calls from patrons.

Ashley Davenport, a patron on the main canal has 1.00 acre of water rights with a 3.00 acre parcel of land. She would like to purchase 1 more acre of water. The extra acre would allow her water to flow better and of course she would have extra acreage that she could irrigate. Her current water right is grandfathered in prior to the change in policy. The policy states that anyone receiving water from the Main canal have at least 4 acres of irrigable land. Allowing her to purchase additional water under the 4 acres would be against the current policy. The board discussed the issue and found that it would be different if she did not have any water rights at all but since she already has one acre it would not be problematic for her to receive the extra acre.

At this time Jody Ward and Joe Cook left the call.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 4:11 pm, Bob called to suspend the regular meeting session and called an executive session to order pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body regarding litigation likely to be filed.

Bob called the regular session back to order at 4:44 pm.

- 5. OLD BUSINESS: There were no old business items brought up for discussion.
- 6. OPEN FORUM: There were no items brought up for discussion.
- 7. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

ARNOLD IRRIGATION DISTRICT

