

March 8, 2022

Arnold Irrigation District
Monthly Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Bob Schuur at 3:01 pm. Board members present were Bob Schuur, Walt Warchol, Jon Smith, and Rob Rastovich. Staff members present were Steve Johnson, Chris Webb, and Juanita Harvey. Also present was District's attorney, Mark Reinecke.

1. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2022 BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Jon motioned, and Rob seconded his motion to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.

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

3. MANAGER REPORT:

- A. WATER REPORT/STORAGE: The snow/water equivalent was 83% of the 30-year average last month. Flows are continuing to average 15% lower than last year.

Crane Prairie has filled to 45,600 AF to date and may not fill to 48,000 AF by April 1st, which is the end of storage season. The District is still anticipating having a 5,000 acre foot allocation and with the DBBC is in conversations with USFWS for the additional 5,000 AF allocation that is split amongst NUID, Arnold and Lone Pine. Wickiup is not filling well and Crescent is well below last year's levels.

As natural flow in the Deschutes River is below last year's historically low levels the District anticipates an irrigation season that will end in late June and possibly very early July.

Steve shared a forecast model he built utilizing 2021 actuals for all Central Oregon irrigation districts with water rights on the Deschutes River, reservoir fill totals, diversion totals and instream leases. Factor variables were built into the model so that different scenarios can be evaluated. Factors included percent of natural flow, maximum AID diversion totals and Crane Prairie storage volumes. Based on this model the AID irrigation season will be ending end of June. The model will be updated on a weekly basis and evaluated each month at the Board meeting.

Based on feedback from District patrons, it was decided that there will be no rotation of water as last year as there was no perception of crop benefit. The District will run water until its availability is depleted in full.

April 10 is still the intended start date but the Board will meet on March 29th to make the final start date determination.

The Board requested that staff prepare a patron communication summarizing the decisions of today and release via email and text service with posting to the AID website as soon as possible.

B. FINANCIALS AND CASH BALANCES: The February cash flow statement and financial statement was presented with normal expense levels and including the Goat Farm Project disbursement.

C. MODERNIZATION PROJECTS:

i. GOAT FARM LATERAL: Completed and paid in full. Will be able to test and observe flows and correct meter calibrations during later March stock run.

ii. MAIN CANAL PROJECT: Field Survey was completed, and results provided to BlackRock Consulting for incorporation into preliminary design work and in preparation for canal walk through in late March.

The Watershed Plan – Draft EA process is still ongoing with Farmers Conservation Alliance preparing responses to the received public comments to submit to NRCS-Oregon sometime this spring to then submit to NRCS in Washington DC by early summer for final approvals.

Funding sources for the non-Federal 25% match including The Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality - Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), Oregon Water Resources Dept and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board all have application deadlines in early April to early May. There is a board resolution requirement for the CWSRF for later this meeting as its application deadline is before the next Board meeting April 12.

4. FIELD SUPERVISOR REPORT: Chris went through the Field Supervisor's report in detail with a map denoting the location and type of all projects completed this past maintenance season. Pictures of individual projects this past month were shown to the Board and included the entire Gosney ditch and Brandon lateral cleaned, Rastovich lateral ditch road completion, and a few easement encroachments documented, and agreements recorded.

Chris and the two ditchriders completed CPR Training through a DBBC coordinated session.

New proposed OSHA smoke and heat regulations were discussed. All field staff will need to be Respirator Fit tested. Restrictions are expected with reduced work schedules when either the heat index or smoke AQI reach high or severe levels. This may require adoption of modified field hours as the summer progresses.

5. OFFICE REPORT: Juanita is absent for this month's meeting and Steve provided a limited update.

- A. Assessments collection continuing at levels same as last year.
- B. Transfers and Audit/Mapping of water rights is in progress.
- C. Staff Performance Review format was completed and shared with the Board. Reviews had been completed for both ditchriders and Chris Webb. This was an area to be addressed from the SDAO Administrative Practices audit completed in early September.
- D. Easement release fees were tabled and to be discussed under New Business.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. REMNANT PARCELS ON THE NORTH LATERAL: Communication continues with the eleven patrons to resolutions. There have been three patrons executing the quit claim process with the District. Efforts are ongoing to resolve the remainder.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution 2022-01 GROUND WATER PATRON POLICY: Steve reviewed the purpose and rationale to utilize the Deschutes Ground Water Mitigation Program to enhance water conservation in certain situations by replacing surface water deliveries with ground water delivery. This policy provides for the additional option for assessment payment to be as an annual payment in lieu of an exit fee. Mark Reinecke, the District's attorney had reviewed the policy and had no objection.

Rob Rastovich moved and Jon Smith seconded motion to approve. Unanimous vote by Board to adopt.

- B. Resolution 2022-02 CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND: Purpose of the resolution is to fulfill requirement for applying to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for Main Canal Project funding. Resolution provides authority to District Manager to enter into a loan agreement and establish a loan reserve account in the event of receiving project funding. Resolution also provides authority for District Manager to undertake the Project and to meet any and all established deadlines for entering into a cooperative agreement.

Jon Smith moved and Rob Rastovich seconded motion to approve. Unanimous vote by Board to adopt.

- C. Resolution 2022 UGB WATER RIGHTS WITH DEVELOPMENT: tabled

- d. EASEMENT RELEASE FEE FORMULA: - Steve presented a proposal to change the fees based on utilizing the Deschutes County DIAL system to obtain RMV and Purchase price of land. After discussion, Steve will have a formal proposal to the Board for the April Board meeting. In the interim, the Board authorized District Manager to charge no less than 90% of RMV or most recent sales price of parcel for determining the fee for release.

8. OPEN FORUM: There were no items brought up for discussion.

9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

ARNOLD IRRIGATION DISTRICT
