

Arnold Irrigation District  
Monthly Board Meeting

November 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 by Bob Schuur. Board members present were Bob Schuur, Jon Smith, Walt Warchol, Roger Fadness, & Rob Rastovich. Staff members present were Colin Wills, Chris Webb, Juanita Harvey, and Ashley Buckner. Also present were the District's attorney Mark Reinecke and patron Steve Keffer.

1. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Bob motioned, and Jon seconded his motion to approve the October meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor.
2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Walt motioned, and Rob seconded his motion to approve the accounts payable. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. MANAGER REPORT:
  - a. WATER REPORT: Crescent Lake is at 8:5 cfs, Benham Falls at 499 cfs, Deschutes below Bend at 401 cfs. Wickiup is at 105 cfs because they are releasing winter water. Crescent Lake is at 9,806 AF, Crane Prairie Reservoir is at 40,167 AF. 47,000 AF is the limit that can be filled at Crane Prairie because of the HCP. Wickiup is at 67,374 AF. The SNOTEL readings for Irish Taylor, Summit Lake, and Cascade Summit were also presented.

The Drought report still has the Deschutes Basin in Moderate D1 drought status.

- b. FINANCIAL REPORT: We are at  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year (September). Our finances will be tight until the end of the year. Bob asked if there is any projection for the end of the year. We will start moving money from our LGIP accounts into our checking account to make it through the year. As of 10/31/2024, our LGIP account balances were as follows: Operations - \$955.03, Reserves - \$83,029.57, and Modernization \$632,365.09. The checking account has a balance of \$6,908.69. The board should decide where the money should be transferred from to our checking account.

Rob asked about the shortfall in expenses. Per Colin, the reason was the \$160,000 which was included in the 2024 budget for water sale deals which did not come to fruition. They should not have been included in the budget as income because they had not yet occurred. There will be \$23,000 coming in from grant reimbursement, \$83,029 which we could use from our LGIP Reserve account, but we still fall short of \$54,000 to break even. We could add up all things related to modernization that were paid out of our checking & operations

account which could have been applied to modernization. The board asked for an accounting of what could come out of the modernization fund.

- c. MODERNIZATION PROJECT UPDATE: K&E has mobilized equipment and are moving pretty fast grubbing and performing the canal prep.

At the current inlet, the power has been removed along with everything else connected to the screen. The screen will be removed next and shipped to Bakersfield. At the new inlet, the screen will have a smaller mesh screen with more spray bars to keep the screen clean.

Jon asked if the NRCS knows about our pine needle problem. No matter what our problem is, we have to follow NRCS guidelines for funding. A conversation was had with Kevin Crew regarding having smaller valves which would work better.

- d. DBBC (DESCHUTES BASIN BOARD OF CONTROL) BUDGET: The DBBC invoices are based on District acreage, but it was brought up with the DBBC that AID should not have to pay for fish salvage. Beginning next year, the larger districts will foot that part of the invoice.

- 4. 2025 BUDGET: In order to help bring in revenue, we may have to sell or lease water for varied reasons from the water we have remaining. The board suggested we bring someone in that understands mitigation to confirm we are looking in the right direction.

There may be a light increase for 2025. A possibility to send out a letter with assessments to inform patrons that we have water available for sale. When we send out our letter informing our patrons of the increase, we need to compare ourselves to other districts.

The proposed budget increase in 2025 will be between 4.4 and 4.5 % in assessment increase. Jon and Rob felt that the budget should be what we spent in 2024 plus 5%. Colin should re-run the budget numbers before the next meeting. The proposed budget should not be so shrunk down. It should be more realistic.

Per Mark based on the minutes from the November 2018 board meeting, when we created the \$30/acre fee, we can add the portion of Colin's salary when he works on piping project details and grants, etc., and pay for those out of the modernization to our operating budget.

The board was asked what they felt the increase should be. Jon – 10 to 11%, Rob – 7%, Roger - 6% for 3 years, Bob 6% for 3 years, and Walt 6%. The average of these was 7%. Colin will rework the budget and schedule another meeting with the Budget Committee and have it ready to present at the December board meeting.

Staff and patrons left the meeting at 5:12 pm for an impromptu executive session of the board.

The regular meeting was called back to order at 5:47 pm.

5. OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT: An old Roats delivery in Tillicum was filled with concrete using 20 yards of reject purchased.

The McArdle lateral was brushed and cleaned in an effort to stop it from leaking on private land. Deschutes County inmates were used for this project. It resulted in 10 dump truck loads of debris.

11 truck loads of flume fire fuel have been removed with approximately 10 more loads needing to be removed.

The pipe inlet at the current location is prepped and ready for K&E to proceed. All electric has been removed along with pumps, handrailing, filter system, and water level sensors. 7 dump loads of pine needles were removed from this area to fill the county land.

Phase 2 piping prep has been completed with the removal of the Suttong siphon alarm system, headgates, and all district locks.

The Horse Butte canal clean up at the outlet, including the start of the Brandon and the Sundance laterals was completed using the Deschutes County inmates. This work was completed for safety and fire hazard.

Lock-out-tag-out at the river headgate was completed on 10-29-2024 for Phase 2 piping project. Per OSHA it was completed by the contractor and AID.

Currently, any failed flume sections are being replaced. 14 are scheduled. Upon completion of the replacements, lining of 1000 feet of the flume with geo-form lining will begin weather permitting. At this time, only 300 feet might be installed but will be completed as soon as possible.

The OWRD gauging station equipment installation at the river headworks is under construction. The District is building and installing the NEMA box stand along with a ladder to enter the concrete canal. A staff gauge and pully system will also be installed for the state to be able to make water measurements.

The October safety meeting was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> and the topic was Compressed Gas Safety. The full course was 15 minutes along with a video and a quiz.

Deschutes County Weed Department is licensed to spray weeds for the District. They will be hired to come out and spray a weed treatment.

6. OFFICE REPORT: Juanita is in the process of training Ashley for office duties, preparing for assessments which are going to be slightly different this year since Avion has to be excluded and then included again because of how the billing will work with Avion. The Avion invoice will not be increasing this year so a separate assessment has to be ran for the Avion patrons which Avion will pay.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. AID STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: Page 6 #1 – highlighted items have been updated.

1.3.1 Check meters put in and need to run water to see if it works. Flume needs immediate attention.

1.5.1 through 1.6.1 are postponed until after piping to see how these laterals work/operate.

2. moved out to 2027 and 2.2.1 and 2.3.1 are on hold. Can add or subtract as needed or as things change.

3.1.1 for Juanita's position. What we can do remotely.

Manager and Operation Manager cannot be remote. May be different for a slimmer staff if all district was piped but not in the near future.

Flume is important and succession planning for Juanita.

- b. PIPELINE STARTUP LESSONS LEARNED: Operational and start up process from Phase 1. As in stock runs we would run water to cut snow and run water to get rid of pine needles.

Will there be confined space training? Colin, Chris, and Dylan have been trained in confined space. Cole is the only one not trained at this time.

We will go by what the engineer gives us plus what we know to build a SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for start-up.

The compressor will be used for blockages in turnouts.

We need to purchase a kit which would go on a trailer or a flatbed for confined space. We could either own this or rent it out.

The nets which were purchased and used for a short while worked well but were difficult to clean because they were very heavy once all the debris was caught on them.

A camera is needed for debris screen operation.

At the inlet for Phase 2 we will either have 2 screens that work independently or together.

Jon asked about using Starlink. You do not pay if you do not use it. It is something that could come of the modernization fund.

- c. OWRD – CERTIFICATE NUMBERS: The final order for the Roats transfer was approved yesterday. 12.4 cfs will come off of the paper water for the Roats transfer. The next stage are the numbers for Phase 1 and Phase 2 conserved water.

The Phase 2 application along with NUID's application has to be submitted simultaneously, then we can sign the grant to get the grant funds from OWRD.

Right now, the numbers are 85 103 and 112 and then we deduct from that, but we have to take 6.6 cfs out for Phase 2. It will be much less than shown in the Watershed Plan because those were estimated numbers. We need to measure at the end of each phase.

- 8. NEW BUSINESS: There were no new items of business brought up for discussion.
- 9. OPEN FORUM: Discussion regarding the money we are short of for funding. Colin has a meeting on Wednesday at 3:00 pm with FCA (Farmer's Conservation Alliance) and NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) to discuss the funding needed. We should be getting money for the federal and state match.

K&E needs to know at our earliest knowledge of funding.

Regarding the Pape and Fenimore request for realignment, Ryan Pape worked through everything and realized it was not that big of an impact and will allow the pipe to go on through to Fenimore's.

Fenimore consented to pipe in the current canal as is after Chris and Colin discussed with him what would happen to the trees, fence, and septic with no alignment.

There will be no alignments through Phase 2 except through the Ward property (Thumb, LLC).

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.