

Arnold Irrigation District
Monthly Board Meeting
May 12th, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Jon Smith. Board members present were Jon Smith, Walt Warchol, Roger Fadness, and Michael Woll (via zoom). Staff members present were Chris Webb, Ashley Buckner, Cole Nashem, 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 Conservation District (DSWCD).

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

2. MANAGER REPORT:

a. Financial Report: This month, the District transitioned to cash-basis accounting. The checking account began the month with a balance of \$140,369.86 and ended with a balance of \$41,197.52. During the month, \$110,000 was transferred to the LGIP Modernization Fund.

Our current balances for the LGIP accounts are as follows: Modernization Fund is \$323,184.78, Operations with a balance of \$340,700.43, and Reserves at 64,712.18.

b. Storage Report: Jeremy Giffin, WaterMaster from the OWRD (Oregon Water Resources Department) reported the following in his bi-weekly storage report.

We started out the season with the fullest Wickiup and Crane Prairie Reservoirs than we have seen in a while. To start the season in Wickiup USFWS started at 16,748 AF and both Lone Pine and Arnold started the season with the maximum 6,000 AF, and looking at natural flow they are going to need it. We only had 7.38 cfs in leases at Debo at the end of April and let an extra 76 cfs flow below bend as an average for the month, but again this is because COID and Lone Pine did not turn on until mid-report period.

As forecasted, the natural flow was well below normal at 841 cfs and the Little Deschutes averaged a dismal 108 cfs for the month of April. We had losses through Benham Falls of 7% which put us right at the historical average. I was very pleased

to see that the only district to use storage for the report period was NUID and even then NUID got 62% of their diversion from live flow, lots of thanks go to Arnold ID.

3. OPERATIONS REPORT:

1. On April 20th, 2 of the 4 security cameras at our river intake were vandalized and stolen. Our IT department managed to replace the cameras and have them running again within a couple days.

2. On April 12th, we turned on the Lundy Lateral and were able to get the lateral running their full water right the same day.

3. A private pipe supplying three people on the main canal experienced a leak, which led to minor flooding on the property. The pipe has since been repaired and is back to running to their full acreage.

4. The Hanes Private lateral also experienced a leak during the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd. Ditch riders worked after hours to accommodate an emergency shut off. The pipe was later repaired and is now running its full water right.

5. During a canal cleaning of the Brandon Lateral walking section, a ditch rider noticed a patron had cut his weir to get more water from the canal, we promptly notified the patron of the violation and installed a new weir for their delivery. Their water is back to running their full water right and a bill has been sent to the patron.

6. We are currently running 51.9 cfs as of May 11th. All deliveries are currently running smoothly and at their 5.5gpm water right. No major issues have occurred.

4. OFFICE REPORT: This month's safety meeting was focused on Safety & Health Management, focusing on effective work practices, OSHA programs, and how important preventative maintenance and safety is.

Total of unpaid assessments is \$35,475.29, delinquent notices went out for unpaid assessments and patrons who have not paid will have their water shut off Friday, May 15th.

Ashley will be attending the OWRC Workshop in Salem in June for district administrative staff with structured presentations, discussion amongst participants, and networking.

Juanita successfully sold 9.9 acres of water rights that district had in our possession for \$7,425.00 and she is preparing an easement release in the amount of \$9100.00.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Health Insurance Discussion: A subcommittee was formed to further review the District's insurance coverage. The subcommittee will include Roger Fadness and Michael Woll, who will meet with Juanita and Chris on Wednesday the 13th to continue the review.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Updated Fee Schedule: Changes were made to AID fee schedule, Michael motioned, and Walt seconded his motion to approve the updated fee schedule. The vote was unanimous in favor with Jon and Roger voting in favor.

7. OPEN FORUM: Seth Flanders from the DSWCD thanked Chris for attending the first Saturday of the Integrated Water Course, a new hybrid course designed to help patrons and land stewards improve their irrigation efficiency, strengthen resilience, and plan for long-term water use in Central Oregon.

Grant Traynor provided positive feedback regarding Chris, noting that he recently attended the grant ceremony in Canyonville. He also reported that the Lundy operation is performing well and that the easement has been officially filed with the county.

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

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 2:18 pm, Jon called to suspend the regular session and called an executive session to order pursuant to ORS 192.600(2) (h) To consult with your attorney regarding your legal rights and duties in regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed.

At 3:17pm, Roger motioned to adjourn the executive session, Walt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor with Michael and Jon voting in favor.

At 3:24pm, the meeting was officially adjourned.