

Arnold Irrigation District  
Monthly Board Meeting

September 9th, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Roger Fadness. Board members present were Jon Smith, Walt Warchol, and Rob Rastovich via Zoom. Staff members present were Chris Webb, Ashley Buckner, and Juanita Harvey. Also present was the District's attorney Paul Taylor, and Gen Hubert and Grant Traynor from the Deschutes River Conservancy.

1. OPEN FORUM: Grant stated that K&E has a full schedule for the month of September and may need to postpone the Lundy project. However, they will make an effort to complete it before the start of the next water season. Additionally, he will look into securing state match funding for AID.
2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES: Roger motioned, and Jon seconded his motion to approve the August 2025 board meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor with Walt and Rob also voting in favor.
3. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Jon motioned, and Walt seconded his motion to approve the August accounts payable. The vote was unanimous in favor with Bob, Jon and Rob also voting in favor. September AP was signed but no motion was given to approve. Approval needed at October meeting.
4. MANAGER REPORT:
  - a. WATER REPORT: According to the US Drought Monitor, over 76% of Oregon is experiencing abnormally dry conditions, over 54% is in moderate drought, and over 31% is in severe drought. Additionally, less than 1% of the state is experiencing extreme drought conditions.

Over the last two weeks, precipitation was below normal for much of the state. However, above normal precipitation was recorded in parts of western and central Oregon, measuring up to 0.45" above normal.

As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, AID has used zero storage water, and successfully passed 12,000ft of storage water to North Unit. Jeremy Giffin from Oregon Water

Resources Department credited AID for being able to help its fellow Irrigation district.

As of September 9<sup>th</sup>, AID has been running 51.9 cfs.

- b. MODERNIZATION PROJECT: There are \$1,118,158 in funds remaining from the NRCS Phase 1 funds. The 1-year funds have to be spent first, then we can file for an extension by October 2026 to use the remainder of the funds for Phase 3/4.

The project funding was discussed using numbers provided by Black Rock. A federal funding analysis will be completed which will take anywhere from 3 to 6 months which will give us confirmation for future funding.

The DRC was present to discuss assistance for the District preparing grants. October 15<sup>th</sup> is the due date for the OWEB application. Approval for this grant wouldn't come until April 2026.

There is a Google grant available. The request for this grant is due by the end of September. Google first reviews the requests based on your needs and their criteria. If we meet these criteria, we would be notified and then an official grant application would be submitted.

- c. FINANCIAL REPORT: As of July 31<sup>st</sup>, Admin expenses were at 59.94%, Canal System Expenses at 131.51%, Employee expenses at 55.05%, and Operating Expenses at 53.49%.

At the end of August, we had \$426,723.18 in the Modernization fund, \$39,137.43 in Operations, and \$83,280.90 in Reserves.

##### 5. OPERATIONS REPORT:

- Emergency shut off on the DWC 1 pipe was performed on Thursday the 14th at 2:20 pm after receiving a call on the emergency line, the caller stated he had water flowing out of the ground in his yard. This is the 3rd break in this pipe this season.

- Phase one main canal pipe leak at Horse Butte rd. was starting to cause damage to the landowner's property. We moved the excavator on site and dug a 50' foot ditch back to the canal at the butterfly valve. This allowed us to take control of the water leaking from the pipe.
  - The main canal in DRW has developed a leak on the property adjacent to the canal. The leak has produced standing water approximately 40' feet from a house. With no effective way to repair the canal while the water is on, we will continue to monitor the leak until the off season. Shot-Crete is the most likely repair for this location.
  - The district has completed the walk through of phases 3 and 4 with David Prull on August 29th.
6. OFFICE REPORT: Ashley conducted the monthly safety meeting addressing road rage where staff watched a video and had a quiz.

Staff are also preparing for elections for Zones 1,2, and 4. Roger motioned, and Jon seconded his motion to approve mailing in elections. The vote was unanimous in favor with Walt and Rob also voting in favor.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. DISCUSS WATER SHUT OFF DATE: Chris has scheduled Taylor Northwest to be on site on October 13th to conduct vacuum excavation to address the leak identified in the main canal pipeline.

The Board reached a consensus to schedule the annual water shut off for October 17th. After considering various factors, including the needs of patrons and weather patterns, the Board determined that this date would be the most appropriate and practical date for ending the irrigation season. Roger motioned, and Jon seconded his motion to approve the October 17th shut off date. The vote was unanimous in favor with Walt and Rob also voting in favor.

- b. 2026 BUDGET COMMITTEE: Walt and Roger have been appointed to serve on the budget committee, with Chris and Juanita also in attendance. The committee is scheduled for Monday, the 22nd, at 11:00 a.m. During this meeting, they will review the proposed budget for the fiscal year of 2026.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 2:25 pm, Roger called to suspend the regular session and asked to call an executive session to order pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) To consider the employment of an officer, employee, staff member, or agent, and (e) to conduct deliberations with person(s) we have designated to negotiate real property transactions.

At 3:25 pm, Roger called to adjourn the executive session and called the regular session back to order at which time the regular meeting was adjourned.