

Arnold Irrigation District
Monthly Board Meeting
April 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Jon Smith. Board members present were Jon Smith, Walt Warchol, Roger Fadness, Michael Woll and Rob Rastovich (via zoom). Staff members present were 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). Also present was patron Mike Penhollow and the District's accountant from Local Ledgers, Candice Forsell.

1. APPROVAL OF MARCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Changes were made in the second paragraph under 2a from water "users" to water "districts". Roger motioned to amend the minutes with the suggested changes and approve the minutes. Michael seconded his motion. The vote was unanimous in favor with Jon, Walt, and Rob also voting in favor.

2. MANAGER REPORT:

a. Financial Report: Candice Forsell explained to the board the differences between cash and accrual-based financials. The Board agreed the financials would be easier to understand if they were in a cash basis.

b. Water Season 2026 Startup: According to the US Drought Monitor, just over 49% of Oregon is experiencing moderate (D1) to severe drought (D2). Over the past two weeks, D1 and D2 conditions expanded across much of the state, with D2 spreading from northeastern Oregon into parts of central and western Oregon.

3. OPERATIONS REPORT:

1. We completed our pre-startup operations towards the beginning of the month by ensuring the canals and properly cleaned and free of brush and other debris. Due to the heavy wind that took place before we turned on water, there were copious amounts of tumbleweeds, pine needles, and tree branches that needed to be cleared.

2. Regular truck maintenance such as oil changes, air filter changes, and inspections was performed to minimize the risk of breakdowns right before or during startup.

3. The drain field for runoff water at the inlet was rebuilt with ¾” reject to keep the surrounding ground from getting soft at the screens.

4. The inmate crew helped us clean the main canal from March 11th through the 13th, the crew was understaffed and because of this we were able to get the crew on the 18th to finish the entire main canal.

5. We started running water for the stock run on March 25th. The piped section of the canal near the butterfly valve experienced a leakage last water season and was repaired during the off season, there are no signs of leakage around that repair.

6. On April 1st we increased water flow and performed all necessary turn Ons and turn Offs as requested by the patrons.

7. We are currently running 48.3cfs as off April 10th.

4. OFFICE REPORT: The District has collected \$725,410.49 in assessments since February 9th. As many patrons know, interest has started accruing for the unpaid assessments as of April 1st.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

a. GRANT TRAYNOR – DRC – LUNDY PROJECT: Grant completed the walk through for the Lundy on Calico Road and is happy to report the pipe is working great. K&E will be installing gates as needed and fence repairs for the patrons.

b. OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD (OWEB) WATER ACQUISITION GRANT: Arnold Phase 3&4 OWEB grant application was submitted for \$2.7million. There are high hopes that Arnold will likely receive the full amount. The decision will be made April 29th between 10:15am and 11:15am by the OWEB board

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Health Insurance Discussion: The District is considering finding a new Health Insurance provider with a plan that benefits the employees better.

7. OPEN FORUM: Seth Flanders from DSWCD wanted to give an update on the Integrated Water Management course, if anyone is interested in joining. They may join at anytime via Zoom on Thursdays from April 9th to June 18th. This also includes three Saturday field tours. The form is located on AID’s homepage.

Mike Penhollow asked what the District is currently running, as stated in the Operations report, the District is running at 48.3cfs as of April 10th.

Once the river hits below 90cfs, AID will begin running on storage, currently the river is running at 105cfs.

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

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: An executive session was not required at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48pm.