

**OFFICIAL MINUTES AND ACTIONS TAKEN
ARCH HURLEY CONSERVANCY DISTRICT'S
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Directors Present: Larry Perkins, President; UV Henson, Secretary/Treasurer; Pablo Lopez, Director; John Gilbertson, Director; Tom Bruhn, Director

Directors/Staff

Absent:

Staff Present: Franklin McCasland, District Manager; Donna Lafferty, Office Manager

Guests Present: Don Lopez; Jimmy Speed; Fred Stieg; Chelle Delaney of Quay County Sun; Drake Swenson; Johnny Irving; Paul Estrada; Thomas Evans; Bob Morgan; Phillip Box; Wilbert Pederson; Donald Carter; Robert Evans; Catherine Bugg, Gary Cordova; Roberta Ball

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER-

Finding a quorum present and finding this regularly scheduled meeting of the Arch Hurley Conservancy District's Board of Directors duly advertised, as required by statute, District President Perkins called this meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the district office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING MARCH 11, 2008-

Director Bruhn moved to approve the draft minutes of the Arch Hurley Conservancy District's March 11, 2008, regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Henson. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “YES”

Bruhn – “YES”

Lopez – “YES”

Henson – “YES”

Gilbertson – YES

VISITORS COMMENTS-

Donald Carter stated that he thought that the Directors were too controlling and micro-managing the limited water situation instead of letting the farmers handle it. He asked the Board to open the gates at Conchas and send the water down the canals. Phillip Box stated that the farmers are the ones in control of when the water is released from Conchas with the policy of 40 ac feet of orders that has worked well for many years for the Arch Hurley farmers.

Bob Morgan stated that he thought that the irrigation sprinklers' usage should be measured with a meter. AHCD will not be able to improve the water efficiency until all of the water is measured.

Don Lopez will defer his comments on item #4

GARY CORDOVA

Gary Cordova, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers stated that there hasn't been much inflow into Conchas Lake. Scheduled work for the dam is clean out and dewater the stilling basin, the last time it was done was in 1974. Also, rewiring the main dam and painting the interior tunnels are anticipated. He stated that Gates 2 and 4 are leaking. Mr. Cordova stated that when Eagles Nest doesn't run, there isn't any inflow into Conchas Dam.

ROBERTA BALL

Roberta Ball gave a presentation of forecasted and actual inflow and outflow for year 2007 and 2008. The predictions and actual figures are provided by NRCS and NWS. Within her presentation, different scenarios were displayed. Roberta stated that 2007 was a drought year and it was forecasted by NRCS to not be a drought year. NRCS has forecasted that 2008 will be in a drought and the outlook continues with dry conditions. It was asked if there are gauges to get readings from Cimarron, Springer and Vermejo. Cimarron and Vermejo have gauges. It is cost prohibitive to install and maintain more gauges. The evaporation is figured within each scenario, which is approximately 70 ac feet per day according to this time of the year.

DISCUSSION/ACTION 2008 WATER ALLOCATION REVIEW

At this time, there will be no additional allocation of water. It was stated that once 40 a.f of water has been paid for and ordered the water will be turned on. Tom Bruhn asked if the water could be released in blocks. This type of release is possible for water systems that are charged all the time. The canals will only be charged once, so farmers will need to irrigate at that time if they so desire. Manager McCasland stated that the burning in Unit B is completed and burning will start in Unit C today. The major laterals are being done first.

REVIEW OF LIVESTOCK PETITION

A petition for review only was presented.

DISCUSSION/ACTION-IRRIGATION FLOW METERS

An information packet was presented to the Board on irrigation flow meters. Manager Franklin McCasland recommended a propeller type meter. It would be placed in the pipe and would document the GPM. The cost is \$700.00 to \$750.00. The meter that has the built-in flow straightener is \$1169.00 to \$1200.00. There are about 20 farmers at this time that have sprinklers that are not measured. More and more sprinklers are being installed, the Board needs to make sure that the water is measured. It was stated that some of the turnouts are measured. Director Gilbertson stated that irrigation sprinklers need to be measured over a weir blade. If there isn't a weir blade there, then one needs to be installed. The cost of a weir blade is \$3500.00 or more. These weir blades could be installed during the off season and they would be at the landowner's expense. No action was taken on the flow meters. The Board instructed the manager to do some more research into other types of flow meters.

DISCUSSION/ACTION-2009 BUDGET WORKSHOP DATE

A preliminary budget will be presented to the Board at the next board meeting. It will be reviewed by the Board.

MANAGER'S REPORT-

District Manager Franklin McCasland made statements on the following items:

The BOR inspection of the District's homes on March 4th and 5th concluded that they have no historical value. BOR has submitted findings to the State Historic Society for their approval and are still waiting for their response.

The 2008 assessments were mailed out on March 24, 2008.

The Manager reviewed water measuring with the Ditchriders.

Bureau of Reclamation representatives, Kelli Triplett and Susan Corson trained the staff on March 17 and on March 18 and 19 helped area land owners with RRA certification.

On March 17 the ditchriders began dragging the canals and burning weeds. The wind has been a problem, so the ditchriders burn early in the morning and on the weekends.

Estimated that it would take 10–14 days of work to finish. There are many ditches that are full of sand.

On March 20th, AHCD received \$47,608.04 from DFA of 2006 grant money.

There have been some equipment repairs – replace motor and valve bodies in gradalls.

There have been some computer and software concerns and an appointment was scheduled to have Westgate and Rimroc here on April 9. AHCD will most likely have to up-grade the server and work stations.

Bob Parks is home from the hospital. He is currently on oxygen and will probably retire early from Arch Hurley.

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS-

President Perkins wanted to thank the District for the flowers that were sent for the recent loss of a family member. He also wanted to comment on the employee’s hard work and constituents interest in AHCD.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS -

Director Gilbertson stated that the District needs to put old history, that can’t be changed, behind us and come up with a plan for the future. Would like to get lawyer’s advice on license and judicating water

Director Lopez asked if ditchrider homes are inspected periodically. Manager McCasland stated that they are inspected on a 6 month basis and if there are any problems, they are documented. Each ditchrider is required to put up a \$500.00 security deposit for the home.

Director Bruhn stated that he had visited with Gary Cordova about activities upstream of Conchas Lake. State Engineer needs to get a water meter and document water usage. Suggested to people present that they check around before signing any leases concerning wind.

Director Henson had no comments.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS-

Director Henson made a motion to pay the bills submitted, seconded by Director Lopez. Motion carried 5-0.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “YES”

Bruhn – “YES”

Gilbertson – YES

Lopez – “YES”

Henson – “YES”

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING-

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m. with unanimous vote.

ARCH HURLEY CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Larry Perkins, President

ATTEST:

Secretary, UV Henson