

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

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Directors Present: Vice President Phillip Box, Secretary/Treasurer UV Henson,
Director J.D. McEwen and Director Robert Lopez

Directors/Staff

Absent: President Larry Perkins

Staff Present: District Manager Franklin McCasland and Office Manager Donna Lafferty

Guests Present: Jimmy Speed, George Evetts, Debra Mitchell, Richard and Frances Dahl.

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, Vice President Box called this meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the District Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Vice President Phillip Box and the Invocation was given by Vice President Phillip Box.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2015**

Director Lopez made the motion to approve the draft minutes of the Arch Hurley Conservancy District's January 13, 2015, regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Director McEwen. Motion carried 4-0.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “ABSENT”

McEwen – “YES”

Box – “YES”

Lopez – “YES”

Henson – “YES”

MANAGER'S REPORT

Today the Conchas Lake elevation is at 4,177.2 feet. Last year at this time the elevation of Conchas Lake was 4,178.8 feet. Conchas Lake received 1,755 acre feet of inflow for the month of January and had a loss of 231 acre feet from evaporation and other losses.

NEW MEXICO STATEWIDE SNOWPACK
CANADIAN RIVER BASIN

Percent of Median
82

Last Year Percent of Median
48

On February 3, a group of individuals representing the eastern side of the state met with the state land commissioner Aubrey Dunn. We discussed the impact of the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

There was legislation introduced in this session that would require all Conservancy Districts to have seven board members. If the districts project was in two or more counties, the county with the highest population would be required have three board members from that county. This bill was amended for only the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

On February 16, there will be a regional water planning meeting at the Tucumcari Convention Center at 1:30.

There will be land use planning meetings on March 9th and 10th at several locations in Curry County. The presentation is hosted by Karen Bud Fallon.

The USACE called and informed AHCD that they were going to flush the gates on Conchas Dam to remove some sediment that has built up in front of the gates. Joe and Steve will give a full report at the March meeting.

The men are cleaning ditches, repairing cement laterals, replacing weir blades and staff gauges throughout the district.

REVIEW CONCHAS LAKE ELEVATION

Manager McCasland stated that the elevation of the lake is 4177.2. Manager McCasland stated that inflow and cooler temperatures are factors that have increased the lake elevation from last month. Allocation will be an action item on the agenda in March.

SKIP VERNON’S APPROVAL OF DESIGN TO PUMP SPILL WATER

Director Henson made the motion to approve Skip Vernon’s pumping spill water plan. The motion was seconded by Director Lopez. Motion carried 4-0.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “ABSENT”
McEwen – “YES”

Box – “YES”

Lopez – “YES”
Henson – “YES”

CAPITAL OUTLAY FROM THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Arch Hurley did put in a request for Capital Outlay for 2015. In December of 2014 the State had in reserves \$285 million and as of February 6, 2015, the reserves are at \$80 million. Keep in mind that the \$80 million will be divided three ways between the governor, senators and representatives. Manager McCasland does not anticipate receiving any monies this year.

SET INTEREST RATE ON NEW ISC LOANS

Director McEwen made the motion to leave the interest rate for new ISC loans at 4%. The motion was seconded by Director Henson. Motion carried 4-0.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “ABSENT”
McEwen – “YES”

Box – “YES”

Lopez – “YES”
Henson – “YES”

LIQUIDATION OF SURPLUS AND EXCESS EQUIPMENT

A letter was sent to the new state auditor on January 8, 2015 and to date no response. AHCD plans to advertise the liquidation during March. The deadline for bids will be set for first of April. Bids will be opened and presented to the Board at their meeting on April 14.

LEASES REQUIRED FOR CLASS “A” LAND BOR AUDIT COMPLIANCE

The BOR requires leases to be on file. The BOR is getting strict on landowners that have leases and not reporting it. Sometimes a lease will put a landowner over the 240 acres threshold which requires them to fill out RRA forms, when a landowner is already over the 240 acres, it is required for all leases to be on RRA forms. The BOR is not concerned if a landowner stays under the threshold of 240 acres including the leased land. The BOR will ask AHCD for water runs and if it is determined that water was run on land that put

the acreage over 240 and no RRA forms were completed, then there will be a fine to lessee.

REVIEW AND AMEND WATER DELIVERY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Water Delivery Policies and Procedures was reviewed by directors. In the pamphlet it states 40 cfs to turn on and turn off. Last year with limited water, the directors decided on 50 cfs to turn on and 30 cfs to turn off. The 40 is based on a full allocation because in the pamphlet it states “normal annual irrigation season”. The Board would like Manager McCasland to amend the policy with an explanation as to when those numbers would be adjusted. That explanation to be written in the pamphlet will be presented at next meeting.

BOR REVIEW OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE EXAM

Manager McCasland explained that an e-mail was received in Nov. 2014, from the BOR informing Arch Hurley that they wanted to complete inspections of 2 or 3 siphons. That would entail AHCD pumping out the siphons, which is quite costly. An e-mail was sent in Jan. 2015, from the BOR informing AHCD that they would do an inspection with the system completely charged and running water. They wanted to do the inspection in late April or early May. No siphons will be inspected this year.

NMED SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU TESTING WATER QUALITY ON THE CANADIAN AND DRY CIMARRON RIVER

The area of the Canadian and Dry Cimarron River will be tested for the quality of water. The federal government has funded the New Mexico Environment Department to check water quality within the next 2 years. Manager McCasland believes this the beginning of the Clean Water Act enforcement. Other organizations, such as Soil and Water Conservation District are also taking water sample for their own records.

LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN UPDATE

On February 3, Manger McCasland attended a meeting with Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn along with 9 other counties. Historically Game and Fish sets the boundaries by the county’s boundaries. When a prairie chicken is spotted, a 3 ½ mile radius is taken from that spot and within that circle no grazing, fence building, electric poles, wind mills, etc are allowed. The economic impact this imposes is very expensive. Farmers Electric estimates the cost of overhead line to underground line to be over five times the cost of overhead line if required because of LPC. This is information that everyone needs to know.

VISITOR COMMENTS

George Evetts expressed concern over the license the BOR currently holds. He wants to transfer the license to Arch. Hurley. Approval of transferring the license has to be approved at all levels of the BOR. He would like to be kept informed of the progress of this transfer.

Richard Dahl asked about metering the flow into Conchas Lake. V-Pres Box stated he did not know of the State Engineer's Office metering any in-flow. Los Alamo Lab did a study about the Canadian River shed and why there wasn't any inflow. The lack of inflow was attributed to the drought. District #7 in Cimarron has a limited staff and that staff focuses on processing domestic applications and then devotes attention to monitoring diversion concerns.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

No director's comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Lopez made the motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Director McEwen. A roll call was taken and each of the directors voted yes. Motion carried 4-0. Directors went into executive session at 9:50 a.m.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “ABSENT”
McEwen – “YES”

Box – “YES”

Lopez – “YES”
Henson – “YES”

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Henson made the motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Director Lopez. A roll call was taken and each of the directors voted yes. Motion carried 4-0. Directors came out of executive session at 10:05 a.m. Vice President Box stated that only limited personnel matters were discussed. There was no action from executive session.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “ABSENT”
McEwen – “YES”

Box – “YES”

Lopez – “YES”
Henson – “YES”

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Director Henson made a motion to pay the submitted bills. The motion was seconded by Director Lopez. Motion carried 4-0.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “ABSENT”
McEwen – “YES”

Box – “YES”

Lopez – “YES”
Henson – “YES”

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m. with a unanimous vote.

ARCH HURLEY CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Vice President Phillip Box

ATTEST:

Secretary/Treasurer UV Henson

