

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

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016**

**Directors Present:** President Larry Perkins, Vice President Robert Lopez,  
Secretary/Treasurer UV Henson, Director Debra Mitchell and  
Director John Griffiths

**Directors/Staff  
Absent:**

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

**Guests Present:** Jimmy Speed and Phillip Box

**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,  
President Perkins called this meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. in the District Office.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION**

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by President Larry Perkins and the Invocation was  
given by President Larry Perkins.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2015**

Director Lopez made the motion to approve the draft minutes of the Arch Hurley  
Conservancy District's March 8, 2016, regular meeting. The motion was seconded by  
Director Henson. Motion carried 5-0.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “YES”  
Mitchell – “YES”

Griffiths – “YES”

Lopez – “YES”  
Henson – “YES”

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Today the Conchas Lake elevation is 4,186.2 feet. Last year at this time the elevation of Conchas Lake was 4,177.2 feet. Conchas Lake received 1,638 acre feet of inflow for the month of March. Evaporation and other losses were 781 acre feet.

On March 9, I attended the NMSU Farm Alliance meeting at the Tucumcari Convention Center. There was a large amount of participation from many counties around the state. The main concern of the group was that water is having the most significant impact on the agriculture industry. Senator Woods and Randy Rust from the BOR were in our breakout group.

On March 14, Craig informed me that sometime over the weekend that the batteries were stolen from the long reach excavator. The excavator was on the Hudson cleaning sediment out of the canal.

On March 15, I attended a multi-county Lesser Prairie Chicken meeting by Karen Budd-Fallen. She also spoke to the group about new endangered species that are coming to a county near you. The recommendation from Karen is that every county and all of the entities within that county needs to have a land use plan in place to identify the historical uses of our land.

On March 14, AHCD had a fire that burned some private property adjoining the Hudson Canal.

On April 4, Debra Mitchell and I attended the ISC Regional Water Planning meeting. The next meeting will be May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 at the Tucumcari Convention Center.

On April 14, Michelle Jaynes will be participating in Earth Day at the Outdoor Classroom. They are expecting 600-800 students from our area to attend. Michelle has designed a flyer to hand out and will be speaking to different age groups about the dangers of our canals. This is a safety outreach program for the youth in our community. AHCD has attended this event for several years and it has been successful.

On April 25 thru April 28, the AHCD office staff will be attending a Regional Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) Training Workshop in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

On April 13 & 20, the NMDFA will be hosting a Budget Training workshop for Special District in Santa Fe. AHCD staff will attend on one of the dates.

AHCD was informed of a Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) training on May 18. AHCD staff will be attending this training. Every entity that requests Capital Outlay or any other state funding must have an updated and state approved ICIP in place to be awarded funding. AHCD new ICIP is due on June 15.

A few weeks after the start of the 2016 irrigation season, AHCD will be trading in the 2015 Case 580 backhoe for a new 2016 model. This trade is with Titan Equipment located in Albuquerque.

The maintenance men have cleaned the canal from the Conchas Lake outlet to Tunnel 1. They have also inspected the delivery canal from Conchas to the County Line Check. All issues have been resolved and is ready to begin the irrigation season. They have applied 27 tons of sodium bentonite in a section of the elevated canal between the Y and Check 2.

The men have completed burning all of the irrigation units except for G Unit. The wind this year has been limiting us on our safe burn days. We will have to go back and spot burn in some areas of all of the units. This year we will be flushing more of the weeds out of the system through the waste ways throughout the delivery system.

The men are building up the checks in the main canal and in each of their unit laterals.

### **REVIEW CONCHAS LAKE ELEVATION AND WATER ALLOCATION**

Manager McCasland stated that the elevation of Conchas Lake is 4186.2. Director Mitchell made the motion to not allocate at this time. The motion was seconded by Director Lopez. Motion carried 5-0.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “YES”  
Mitchell – “YES”

Griffiths – “YES”

Lopez – “YES”  
Henson – “YES”

### **APPROVE AHCD 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT TO DFA**

Director Henson made the motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter DFA report. The motion was seconded by Director Lopez. Motion carried 5-0.

Directors Voted:

Perkins – “YES”  
Mitchell – “YES”

Griffiths – “YES”

Lopez – “YES”  
Henson – “YES”

### **UPDATE ON ISC REGIONAL WATER PLANNING**

Manager McCasland reported that Debra Mitchell and he attended the Regional Water Planning Meeting on April 4. He reported that they are getting close to final plan. The next meeting will be May 16. This water plan allows for entities to get state and federal funding.

## **DISTRICT 4 LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND OVERVIEW OF 2016 SESSION**

The District 4 meeting was held March 30 in Clovis. District 4 is comprised of 6 counties. The senators and representatives each spoke on the legislative session, their contribution to bills and capital outlay money and what impacted them the most.

### **REVIEW 2016 CAPITAL OUTLAY AND DISCUSS EXPENDITURE**

Manager McCasland reported that Arch Hurley received \$80,000 in capital outlay. The piece of equipment Arch Hurley would like to purchase is a front end loader with a 2.5 yard bucket.

### **GRASS FIRE NORTH OF CHECK 6**

Manager McCasland reported that 92.5 acres burned. The area is north of Check 6. Some fence will need to be repaired for the two landowners that were affected by the fire.

### **PHILLIP BOX, RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT UPDATE**

Phillip Box presented paperwork that detailed the on-going progress of the Renewable Energy Project. It is attached and a part of the minutes.

### **VISITOR COMMENTS**

Phillip Box informed everyone of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union meeting on April 29. It will held 5:30 – 7:00 pm at the Quay County Fair Barn. The program is concentrating on property and water rights and the options that land owners may have to generate revenue from their water. The program will feature Attorney and State Legislator Matthew McQueen and Beth Mills from NM Land Conservancy.

### **DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Director Mitchell wanted to let everyone know that after the board meeting, she sends out a text informing people of what happened at the board meeting. If anyone is interested in receiving this information, contact her and she will add them to her list.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Director Lopez made the motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Director Mitchell. Motion carried 5-0. A roll call was taken and each of the directors voted yes. Directors went into executive session at 10:47 a.m.

	Directors Voted:	
Perkins – “YES”		Lopez – “YES”
Mitchell – “YES”	Griffiths – “YES”	Henson – “YES”

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Director Griffiths made the motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Director Mitchell. Motion carried 5-0. A roll call was taken and each of the directors voted yes. Directors came out of executive session at 11:17 a.m. President Perkins stated that no action will be taken and only limited personnel matters were discussed.

	Directors Voted:	
Perkins – “YES”		Lopez – “YES”
Mitchell – “YES”	Griffiths – “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 5-0.

	Directors Voted:	
Perkins – “YES”		Lopez – “YES”
Mitchell – “YES”	Griffiths – “YES”	Henson – “YES”

### **ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m. with a unanimous vote.

ARCH HURLEY CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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President Larry Perkins

**ATTEST:**

Secretary/Treasurer UV Henson

To: Arch Hurley Board of Directors

From: Phillip Box, AHCD Renewable Energy Representative

April 12, 2016

RE: Update on Renewable Energy Project

On March 09, 2016 Franklin McCasland, Larry Perkins, Debra Mitchell, U V Henson, and I attended a program/project called “Resilience in NM Agriculture.” This program/project put together by a New Mexico First.

About New Mexico First: Best known for its statewide town hall meetings and nonpartisan policy research, New Mexico First brings together people from all walks of life to identify practical solutions to the state’s toughest problems. Co-founded in 1986 by Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman, with the present honorary co-chairs are Senator Tom Udall and Senator Martin Heinrich.

“Through New Mexico First’s town halls, citizens have developed recommendations on water, energy, economic development, education reform, healthcare, leadership, youth development, entrepreneurship, and other topics.”

We each had an opportunity to visit with Randy Rust from the Albuquerque Bureau of Reclamation office.

On April 07, 2016, I called and visited with Randy to get an update on what they have done to date regarding the AHCD Renewable Energy Project:

- He reassured me that they were with and behind us on seeing this becoming a successful project.
- Brent Rehees was by his office a couple of weeks ago and ask for an update on the progress the Albuquerque office had made in regards to the Renewable Energy Project and partial title transfer for AHCD.
- They have made contact with James Hess in the Washington DC office and Randy hopes to have more information from Mr. Hess by the May AHCD board meeting date.
- One of the goals would be to have total Title Transfer to the District in 30-40 years; this may or may not be with debt forgiveness, it all must remain budget neutral.
- Continuing to study to gain knowledge and develop support in what the options are.

- They are studying the Particle Land Transfer heavily at this time. It may or may not be the easiest, quickest or best, but it is what the Bureau knows the most amount about. It has been done before, but they have a lot of work to do to see if and how it best fits AHCD.
- They will assist and review the proposed Particle Land Transfer (relinquish withdrawal) proposal.

Expected Process Flow of the Particle Land Transfer:

- AHCD has to craft the proposal.
- Albuquerque BOR office will assist, review, bless and support it.
- They then will forward it to Salt Lake City office for the same.
- The Salt Lake City office will send it to Washington DC.
- Randy expects that Jess Hess would be the person to pass it the BOR Commissioner.
- The commissioner would then take it to the congress.

It is possible that it would be opposed by some group, but if the state congressional delegation is on board it very likely will get done.

One of the questions that will have to be answered is; what is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) position on the Particle Land Transfer:

- What is their willingness and workload to dispose of public land within the district? I need to clarify with Randy if he was referring to AHCD or the BLM district for this area.
- At some point Ken Rice will need to visit with his co-equal at the BLM.

What does AHCD need to do?

- Contact the BLM office that manages the area that AHCD is in. This would best be done before Ken Rice visits with them.
- Do they have a Resource Management Plan for this area?
- Randy would like to conference in when visiting with them about the proposed transfer.

My thoughts to consider and discuss:

- The request for particle title transfer for should be for full 640 acres in order to allow AHCD to expand in the future.
- What about the acreages around the ditch rider houses above 1-2 acres?

Respectfully Submitted

Phillip Box, AHCD Renewable Energy Representative

