

FARMERS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
EMERGENCY DROUGHT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Monday, June 29, 2015, at the district office for the purpose of discussing emergency drought-related issues and water supply. Those in attendance were directors Eric von Lubken, Tim Annala, Don Chandler, Bill Munk and Pete Siragusa. District Manager, Jer Camarata; Office Manager, June Brock; Water Rights Specialist, Rick Brock; Irrigation Foreman, Salvador Velazquez; Irrigation Technician, Jeff Cook; Attorney, Jeff Baker, and guest Brian Brandt of the Hood River Golf Course.

Chairman Eric von Lubken called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m.

DROUGHT STATUS

Jer reported that as of June 27th the upper reservoir was down ~10” below spill and the lower reservoir was ~10.5’ below spill and dropping rapidly; the alarming supply/demand forecast and existing burn-rate being the primary purpose for asking for an emergency meeting. By the time the meeting was called to order, the lower reservoir had dropped to ~16’ despite initial conservation efforts and aggressive pressure reductions. Much discussion ensued.

Jer explained that current curtailment of 25% should be applied district wide and that all junior water right holders were to be shut off, except for a few special cases amounting to a very small amount of water. Currently, the lower district is demanding around 50 cfs, with the upper and middle districts pulling ~33.5 cfs. Supplies in the upper and middle district are estimated to be at 75%. Cherry harvest is mostly over, and pear harvest should start around the first week of August; Jer mentioned that this is calculated to be the worst water year in over 35 years, and certainly the lowest Tucker Gauge readings since 1965. Snowpack has never been recorded this dismal. If the upper and middle districts continue to irrigate at the current, alarming burn-rate, Jer said that he and staff are estimating that reservoir supplies would only last ~50 days. Staff and field crew attending the meeting concurred and expressed their concerns.

Much discussion ensued regarding 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 day rotation options for the upper and middle district. After much discussion and input considered from the public in attendance at the meeting, it was moved by Tim Annala and seconded by Bill Munk that the upper and middle districts are to go on an ~3 day on and 3 day off rotation [staff later interpreted the motion to mean a 3.5 day on/off rotation in order to split the 7 day week evenly so that specific and firm on/off days of the week could be announced to the public], enforcing shut off for non-compliance after 24-hour notice. The motion passed with all in favor. The self-compliance rotation is to start on Sunday July 5th. More aggressive compliance and “policing” will go into effect upon drought declaration signed by Governor Brown. Announcements will be posted in the Hood River News, the District Website, the Hood River Radio Station (KIHR) various county wide websites, etc. Staff is authorized and encouraged to use media outlets. All district patrons will be asked to let lawns and non-essential landscaping go dormant.

Counsel has been directed to further memorialize the decision through Resolution 8-15, a

resolution declaring an emergency authorizing the district to implement water rotation procedures to address current drought conditions (See attached).

ADJOURN:

There being no further business; Erick von Lubken adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Signed: _____
Secretary, Bill Munk

Attest: _____
Chairman, Erick von Lubken