

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2026
64697 Cook Avenue
Bend, Oregon 97703

BOARD: Ed Galazzo, Jack Billings, Ron Cochran, Martin Warbington, Yves Teirlynck
STAFF: Chris Schull, April Harris Spath
ATTORNEY: Mark Reinecke
GUESTS: Nunzie Gould, Jim Guild, Scott Davis, Kathy Powell, Greg Mohnen, David Arnold, Becky Arnold, Sam Davis, Carolyn Davis, Tea Teirlynck, Janet Craig, Karin Cody, Matt Foster, Susie Hart, Steph Garner, Andi Sillers, Jack Farley, Carol Shull, Dutch Huyett, Steve Putnam, David Hampton, Seth Flanders, Ashley Karitis, Marianne Walker, Mary Wallis, Hana Cooper, Joel Gisler, Julia Gisler. Zoom Attendees: Jeff Stuermer, Dwight Gaudet, Michael G

Chairman Galazzo called the regular board meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and appointed April Harris Spath scribe and announced that patron Susie Hart was recording the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

At 10:02 a.m. the Board recessed the regular session and entered executive session per:

- ORS 192.660(2)(f): To consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by law, including written advice from your attorney.
- ORS 192.660(2)(e): To conduct deliberations with persons you have designated to negotiate real property transactions.

RECONVENE

Following the executive session, Chairman Galazzo reconvened the regular session at 10:33 a.m. and announced that patron Susie Hart was recording the meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2026 BOARD MEETING

Director Warbington made a motion to approve the February 2026 board meeting minutes. Vice Chair Billings seconded the motion. Chairman Galazzo, Director Cochran, and Director Teirlynck voted in favor, and it passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

WATER SUPPLY REPORT

The current water supply report and graph indicated that Crescent Lake was 29% full at ~25,400 AF. With the current data that was available and the water outlook not looking good, Manager Schull stated he was not expecting Tumalo Creek to reach high enough flows at any point during the upcoming season to deliver 100%. He felt we should be able to manage 70% delivery at the beginning of the season and then increase if circumstances allow it. He was still working on the calculations for how long we could expect to stretch Crescent Lake's storage water. It would all depend on when Tumalo Creek drops, which there is no way to predict. For those who may be against the district piping, Chairman Galazzo and Schull discussed how much of a difference it would make if the district was fully piped. Schull stated that if the district was fully piped, we could deliver 70% to everyone, even during a bad water year. Chairman Galazzo asked Schull how long we could run at 60%. Schull explained that he did not know if we could do 60%, but at 70% he predicted we would only be able to pull from Crescent until mid-August.

WATER START DATE

Manager Schull proposed beginning the season April 6th, stating that not everyone needed to take the water as soon as it was available. Director Teirlynck asked if we were ready to begin the season with the district being down one ditch rider. Schull stated he had a couple interviews scheduled and that ditch riding was a position that cannot be taught without water in the ditch because the learning experience for a ditch rider is entirely hands-on. He also stated that in the past he had hired field staff at both the beginning of a season and the beginning of a rotation and it was manageable. It was agreed upon that the official water start date would be April 6, 2026. Chairman Galazzo suggested we send an email with information on the current water supply.

RESOLUTION #2026-01

Director Teirlynck explained that he had been working with Office Manager Spath to prepare an overview of the source of the \$2.75M that was in the District's Money Market account at the end of 2025. He stated these funds cannot be booked as a provision on the balance sheet because we fall under GASB accounting standards. The origin of those \$2.75 funds resulted primarily from property sales, land lease income, interest earned on cash, and reserve funds from 2011-2025. Chairman Galazzo read Resolution #2026-01 and requested a board vote to approve the resolution, which would set a specific amount of these available funds to be used for future capital projects, major repairs, infrastructure improvements, and replacement of district facilities and equipment. Chairman Galazzo, Vice Chair Billings, Director Cochran, Director Warbington, and Director Teirlynck all voted in favor to designate \$2,750,000 of the district's reserve funds for the purpose described and Resolution #2026-01 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #2026-02

The Board reviewed the budget resolution that was presented at both the January special meeting and the February regular board meeting. Chairman Galazzo read Resolution #2026-02 and requested a board vote to approve the resolution. Director Teirlynck commented on the resolution stating that for the 2026 budget, revenue from land leases and interest earned on cash was not included in the calculations for the assessments which would leave us in a positive net position again at year end. Director Warbington stated we could take this into account when we discuss next year's operating budget. Chairman Galazzo, Vice Chair Billings, Director Cochran, Director Warbington, and Director Teirlynck all voted in favor to approve the resolution for the 2026 operating budget that was approved at the January special meeting and Resolution #2026-02 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #2026-03

Office Manager Spath updated the Board on outstanding assessments and how many patrons were delinquent. There were two patrons that had outstanding assessments from 2024. Liens had been filed on both patrons, as discussed at the October 2025 board meeting. Attorney Reinecke answered patron's questions about the process and explained that if the board moves to make a motion for foreclosure, he could also send them one final letter before officially filing the foreclosure documents. Chairman Galazzo made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-03, which directed that the recorded liens for all delinquent incurred charges remaining unpaid from the 2024 annual assessment year shall be foreclosed by the District through its legal counsel. Director Warbington seconded the motion. Vice Chair Billings, Director Cochran, and Director Teirlynck voted in favor and Resolution #2026-03 was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

As discussed at prior board meetings, Chairman Galazzo stated that the District needed to update and/or adopt new policies. He had a discussion with Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) on the subject and received some sample policies that the Board can review and modify to fit our district. TID would then send SDAO copies of the proposed policies so that they could provide input for the Board before they formally adopt any new policies. Patron Sam Davis stated he would be willing to volunteer his

time to assist with the development of these policies if the Board took his suggestions seriously. Galazzo stated that in his opinion, TID's current policies were not clearly defined and that is what he aimed to improve. Director Teirlynck volunteered at the last meeting to put together a project proposal for updating TID Policies and Procedures and he presented a copy of his proposal to the Board. He had also been in communication with SDAO about what they could assist with, and what topics would need further assistance from HR Answers, who currently offers four hours of consulting available through our SDAO membership benefits. If we were to fully utilize all resources available through HR Answers, it would cost approximately \$10k. Galazzo stated that patrons were welcome to submit their comments to be considered throughout the process and once a more defined plan was in place for the process, it would be discussed in more detail. Galazzo reminded patrons that this was a process that would take time, and the district does have professional resources available through our membership with SDAO.

Chairman Galazzo asked Vice Chair Billings for an update on options for recording meetings. Patron Sam Davis had been working with Billings on researching the topic and presented his findings. Davis stated it would cost approximately \$5-10k for a good quality system that had clear audio. Galazzo asked for patron input on the current quality through our Zoom connection and it was reported that the audio from Zoom was very clear but could also depend on their internet connection. Manager Schull shared input he received at the District Manager's Workshop that he recently attended stating the feedback he received was that Webex was the most secure platform. Patron Nunzie Gould suggested the board record the next meeting with our current Zoom platform and test out the quality to see if it meets the district's needs. Chairman Galazzo agreed with the suggestion, and it was determined that we would give it a try for the April board meeting.

Regarding the discussion at the last board meeting about Manager Schull traveling to Washington D.C., Chairman Galazzo asked Schull what he had determined his travel costs would be and his objectives for the upcoming trip. Schull stated the total cost would be \$4,000. His objectives would include direct engagement with representatives to secure the \$16.4M that is on the table in federal grants that had been earmarked for TID. He would be accompanying April Snell from OWRC, and Clancy Flynn, the District Manager of Owyhee Irrigation District. Manager Schull and Director Cochran answered patron's questions and explained how these trips were beneficial to securing funds and why these in-person meetings were so important. Chairman Galazzo made a motion to approve Manager Schull's trip to Washington D.C. next month, authorizing a total budget of \$4,000 for all expenses. Director Cochran seconded the motion. Vice Chair Billings requested clarification on the purpose of making a formal vote. Chairman Galazzo explained that they did not have time to put a travel policy in place prior to his travel dates. Billings agreed it was important for him to go but reiterated that Schull would need to be aware of his expenses and make an effort to keep costs down. Director Teirlynck shared his concerns about the trip falling during a difficult water year and being short staffed, as well as the financial impact. Due to his concerns Director Teirlynck abstained from voting, and Vice Chair Billings stated that he also would abstain from voting. Chairman Galazzo, Director Cochran, and Director Warbington voted in favor and the motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

Vice Chair Billings reminded the Board that they still needed to respond to the grievances that patron Susie Hart filed. Hart noted that the deadline had passed and presented printed copies of ORS 192.705 to the Board, stating the district was required to post the statue on their website. Chairman Galazzo apologized for the delay, and asked Billings to follow up on the issue. Attorney Reinecke informed Billings that he could provide him with guidance on the proper way to proceed. Hart questioned Reinecke's involvement in representing board members. Reinecke explained that although it was accurate that he cannot represent any board member as an individual, he can represent the board as an entirety. Galazzo explained that the guidance he received from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) was that if the grievance was directed to the entire Board, the district's legal counsel was allowed to represent the Board as a whole. However, if the grievance was directly against an individual board member, then yes, they would need their own representation. Reinecke provided patron Karin Cody with explanations about his firm's invoices.

Cody requested a summary of all legal costs related to Susie Hart's complaints and Office Manager Spath stated she would gather that information for her. Hart told the Board that they needed to comply with the law by posting a Grievance Policy on the district's website. Director Teirlynck stated he would add a Grievance Policy to the list of policies that needed to be adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager Schull informed the board that he learned there was a new requirement for all elected officials to complete a Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse in Oregon training, which would include all directors currently serving on the Tumalo Irrigation District Board of Directors. The purpose of the mandatory training was designed to help public officials better understand their responsibilities as a reporter.

Manager Schull announced that there would be a town hall for the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) on March 18th at the Riverhouse Convention Center in Bend and that patrons could find the details posted on TID's website.

Chairman Galazzo and Manager Schull attended a meeting for DBBC board members to be updated by the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative (DBWC) on the current challenges that the DBWC was facing with moving forward. Schull explained DBBC's role in the DBWC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Attorney Reinecke discussed Senate Bill 179 - Opt-in Immunity for Special Districts. SDAO had asked Reinecke to prepare a template that districts can complete if they choose to opt-in. There is no cost to opt-in and Reinecke stated it would provide additional protection for the district. Chairman Galazzo asked the Board to review the memo that was prepared so that they could make an educated decision. SDAO provided the following information: *Oregon's trail use immunity statute, ORS 105.668, offers targeted protection against negligence claims arising from the use of trails and similar structures located within public easements or unimproved rights of way by non-motorized users. Beginning January 1, 2026, Senate Bill 179 expands the authority to opt into this immunity to all local governments (including special districts), complementing the statute's automatic coverage.*

MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH VOUCHER LIST

Director Cochran made a motion to approve the March 2026 voucher list, and Chairman Galazzo seconded the motion. Vice Chair Billings, Director Warbington, and Director Teirlynck voted in favor, and it passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The date of the next regular board meeting was set for Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Executive session at 10:00 a.m. and returning to regular session at approximately 10:30 a.m.)

ADJOURN

Chairman Galazzo made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 1:37 p.m. and Director Teirlynck seconded the motion. Vice Chair Billings, Director Warbington, and Director Cochran voted in favor, and it passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.