

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2025
64697 Cook Avenue
Bend, Oregon 97703

BOARD: Ron Cochran, Martin Warbington, Steve Putnam, Carol Shull, Ed Galazzo
STAFF: Chris Schull, April Harris Spath
GUESTS: Jack Billings; Zoom Attendee: Susie Hart

Chairman Cochran called the special board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and appointed April Harris Spath scribe.

2025 ELECTION STATEMENT OF VOTES

A vote by mail election was held for Division 1 and Division 3 on November 12, 2025. The results of the 2025 Board of Directors election were as follows:

Division 1: There were 91 total votes, and Yves Teirlynck won the election with a total of 60 votes.

Division 3: There were 93 total votes, and Jack Billings won the election with a total of 66 votes.

Manager Schull, as Election Official, declared the results were accurate and signed a Statement of Vote for each division. The terms of office for both Division 1 and Division 3 will be for three years, beginning January 2026, and terminating January 2029.

2026 BUDGET REVIEW

Printed copies of the 2026 proposed budget were reviewed line by line. The following items were discussed:

Annual Assessments – Reviewed projected assessments for 2026, and a summary of increases and decreases over the past 8 years.

Fuel Purchases – Director Galazzo and Patron Jack Billings recommended looking into a Costco credit card for fuel purchases.

Easement Maintenance – Billings asked about weed control and where that would fall into the budget. Manager Schull explained that would be considered easement maintenance, and that the field crew was currently in the process of applying for pesticide licenses.

DEQ Loans – Office Manager Spath provided details about the two DEQ loans, what the interest rates were and the projected payoff dates.

Health Insurance – Employee benefits were discussed. Schull stated that based on a survey of other districts, 65% of the districts in Oregon cover employees and families 100%. TID currently covers 95%. Over the past 10 years premiums have gone up and down, increasing as much as 8% and decreasing as much as 25%.

401K Retirement Plan – Schull also stated that TID's 3% match for retirement is the lowest contribution compared to other Special Districts.

Salaries – The Board reviewed salary detail for all employees except the District Manager, which Chairman Cochran stated would be discussed at the December meeting. A 3% COL increase for staff was proposed.

Board Fees – Chairman Cochran mentioned increasing the board fees annual figure since we have two new board members beginning in January who may elect to collect the fee.

Water Transfer Expenses – The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) has almost doubled their fees, and it is expected that they will be increasing an additional 50% next year. In 2024, the cost to file a petition for a District Permanent Transfer was \$3,800. The fee for 2025 is \$5,700. This line item also includes the cost of Title Searches that are required when transferring water rights from one property to another.

Staff/Board Travel & Meals – Manager Schull mentioned that he is now the Federal Affairs Chair for the Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC). He is not sure yet if the OWRC will contribute to the cost of traveling for the new position. Director Shull inquired about whether the district sets per diem rates for meals and travel. Schull stated that it has always been based on best practice.

Liability Insurance – Jack Billings asked some questions about the district's liability insurance. Office Manager Spath provided him with a copy of the 2025 liability policy, which he briefly reviewed, stating it appears to be an excellent policy.

Crime Policy – Office Manager Spath asked the Board if they reviewed the information she provided on the district's current crime coverage, and whether it should be increased. The Comprehensive Crime Coverage Policy meets the intent of the Bond Requirements of ORS 198.220. Chairman Cochran stated that he believes the current coverage is sufficient.

Dues & Fees – Along with the water transfer fees, OWRD has increased their Dam Inspection Fees. The cost for a Low Hazard dam, previously \$120, will now be \$190. The cost for a High Hazard dam, previously \$790, will now be \$1,235. TID has two dams that are inspected by OWRD, one low hazard and one high hazard.

District Fees (Revenue) – Office Manager Spath recommended increasing the fee charged to patrons for water transfers to offset the increased fee charged by OWRD to submit a petition. She also recommended increasing the Property Transfers Fee, and the Water Verification Fee. Neither of these have increased in several years.

COMMENTS

Director Putnam asked Manager Schull if he had looked into purchasing a generator for the fish screens for when there are power outages. Schull said there is too much liability. Putnam suggested a portable generator that could be relocated when needed. Schull said that he would look into it and see if he could find one that has enough horsepower to run the fish screens.

Director Shull stated that going forward, if TID purchases a new truck it should be a utility truck. Directors Shull and Galazzo both commented that they had received a lot of negative feedback regarding the 2024 Dodge Ram that was purchased last January. Galazzo stated that the district needs to be aware of how patrons perceive such purchases, and that we need to remain transparent. Manager Schull reminded the board that it was the cheapest truck available during the end of year sales event and it was priced below the cost of most of the mid-line models.

Patron Susie Hart stated she had reviewed the vehicle maintenance records for the Tahoe that was traded in for the Dodge, and it appeared that other than one repair, the work done on the Tahoe was covered under warranty and the main expense was for vehicle rentals. Manager Schull answered her questions about the Tahoe, stating that the dealership referred to it as a "COVID" vehicle and dealer expected there would be additional issues.

ADJOURN

Director Shull made a motion to adjourn the special board meeting at 12:54 p.m. Director Putnam seconded the motion. Chairman Cochran, Vice Chair Warbington, and Director Galazzo voted in favor, and it passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

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