

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 09, 2025
64697 Cook Avenue
Bend, Oregon 97703

BOARD: Ron Cochran, Martin Warbington, Steve Putnam, Carol Shull, Ed Galazzo
STAFF: Chris Schull, April Harris Spath
ATTORNEY: Mark Reinecke
GUESTS: Susie Hart, Karin Cody & Dutch, Greg Mohnen, Randy Putnam, Yves Teirlynck, David Arnold, Becky Arnold, Doug Stout, Kathy Powell, Ted Walton, Bob Varco, Marianne Walker, Todd Peplin
Zoom Attendees: Jeff Stuermer, Christine Larson, Seth Flanders

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

At 10:01 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)(h): To consult with your attorney regarding your legal rights and duties in regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed.

RECONVENE

Following the executive session, Chairman Cochran reconvened the regular session at 10:40 a.m. and announced that patron Susie Hart was recording the meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2025 BOARD MEETINGS

Director Putnam made a motion to approve the minutes for the two November 2025 board meetings. Vice Chair Warbington seconded the motion. Chairman Cochran, Director Galazzo, and Director Shull voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

WATER SUPPLY REPORT

The current water supply report and graph indicated that Crescent Lake was 23% full at ~19,600 AF. Manager Schull stated the snowpack levels so far this year were very low.

OWRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Manager Schull, Matt Lane, Chairman Cochran, and Director Galazzo all attended the Oregon Water Resource Congress' annual conference this year. Manager Schull stated that he attended a Family Farm Alliance meeting to discuss funding for TID's current piping needs. Director Galazzo stated he was glad he had the opportunity to meet with Bureau of Reclamation representatives and believes they were beneficial meetings.

DEER SIGNAGE

Patron Doug Stout contacted Manager Schull with a request to post a deer warning sign on the strip of land that TID owns on the west side of Cline Falls Road. Schull stated that he contacted the county but had not yet received approval for an LED sign. Patron Nunzie Gould submitted a written comment expressing her support and suggesting that TID add a line item in the budget for wildlife habitat sign

installation. Parton David Arnold asked if the board felt the cost to the district would be worth it because he doubts that the signs will make a difference. Stout stated that he had asked that same question of someone who had installed these signs and the response he received was positive. Office Manager Spath asked the board if this should be added to the budget as Gould suggested. Vice Chair Warbington stated that he did not think it would be a large enough expense to warrant a separate line item on the budget. Schull stated that he would inform the board when he received a cost estimate. Vice Chair Warbington made a motion to allow these warning signs to be posted on TID land. Director Putnam seconded the motion. Chairman Cochran, Director Galazzo, and Director Shull voted in favor, and the motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patron Kathy Powell presented information to the board about a tree on her property that should have been removed after the Group 3 piping project was completed. Powell stated that the tree is hazardous and warrants a timely resolution. Manager Schull stated that TID plans to work with Powell to get the tree down and that he would include it in the next round of tree falling that TID does. Powell expressed the urgency, stating that it needs to happen now and cannot wait until January. She provided pictures of the tree and clarification on the issue, along with the research she had done, and stated that she would like a say in who TID hires to perform the work. Chairman Cochran asked Powell who she had spoken to so far and made a recommendation. Powell offered to provide 3 bids.

Patron Nunzie Gould brought it to TID's attention that a Water Management Conservation Plan (WMCP) was due to be completed in 2026. She suggested that it be included in the 2026 budget, since it cost approximately \$10k the last time it was completed in 2016. Manager Schull stated that he had spoken with Engineer Kevin Crew, who had completed the last one, and that he did not estimate that it would cost that much. Schull believes the amount included in the current budget for Conservation & Rehab Consulting under Special Projects would be enough to cover the cost.

Manager Schull provided updates on funding for Group 6B and Group 6C, stating that it will take at least six months to get through the red tape for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for 6C and that he will be working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for funding to match the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) grant for 6B.

Patron Susie Hart requested more clarification on grant funds, asking Manager Schull if the grants were in writing. Schull replied that they were. Hart stated that she had requested the documents for grants for previous projects and there was always a written agreement and that when she requested documentation of the current grants Schull had been discussing, she was only provided with a link to the Congress Bill and not an actual document. Schull said that state grants were done differently than Federal grants and re-stated that the funds are earmarked. He said would email her more information about where it was stated that the funds were earmarked specifically for TID.

Director Shull stated that there were three points that she wanted to be made:

- 1) She feels that patrons need to stay back away from the conference table, commenting that Susie Hart had been encroaching on the space of those sitting at the table.
- 2) She feels Susie Hart has been nitpicking everything the Board does, yet she has noticed that in Hart's communications her name has been spelled wrong. Her name is spelled Shull, not Schull.
- 3) She asked about TID's current branding, as she had noticed some of TID's equipment has a circle with the letters TID inside, and others have a mountain outline with Tumalo Irrigation District spelled out. Schull pointed out that the newer trucks have the mountain logo, which is what he is currently using for TID's logo.

Susie Hart responded to Director Shull's comments, stating that Carol had valid points but that she had been instructed that she cannot put her recorder on the table, so she has to move closer to catch what is being said.

Susie Hart asked Office Manager Spath, the scribe, why the minutes don't always match her audio recordings. Chairman Cochran stated that the minutes do not need to be verbatim, and that the Board always reviews the minutes before approving them.

Chairman Cochran read a statement in response to the Letter of Grievance that Susie Hart submitted to the Board at the November 11, 2025 board meeting. He said the board acknowledged that while the vehicle replacement issue was discussed publicly, it was not formally voted on at the time; after consulting legal counsel, the board corrected this by ratifying the action in a public meeting in accordance with Oregon Public Meetings Law. The authorization ensured transparency. There was no personal benefit to anyone, and the trade-in supported efficient district operations. The board was committed to ensuring future votes were properly taken and recorded in the future and the board considered the matter resolved. Hart responded, explaining why she felt that ratifying a decision is not acceptable. Attorney Reinecke commented that the Board corrected the mistake. Hart requested a copy of the statement that Cochran read and he said that he would provide that. Hart stated that she would be submitting another grievance later that day, as she had forgotten to bring a copy with her to the meeting.

Todd Peplin, Programs Lead with the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District, presented information on the new classes that will be available in 2026. These will be online classes using a Google Platform and will be held every Thursday beginning April 9th through June 18th. In addition to these online Thursday classes, there will be three field sessions on Saturdays. Peplin stated that he would be retiring at the end of the month and introduced Seth Flanders, who was just hired as their new Irrigation Specialist.

Patron Yves Teirlynck stated that he had been reviewing the past five years of TID's financials and has several observations and some concerns, including the following:

- Any infrastructure cost should not be part of our 'core' P&L and should not be flagged in 'other' income and expense, which is reserved for items unrelated to running an irrigation district (e.g. income from leasing our lands for cell towers, interest income on bank accounts,...)
- The Operating budget should not be adopted at the January board meeting when there are new board members who will be joining the board at that same meeting, as they have no time to review or discuss it before approving it.
- Recommended that TID have a CPA available to help the TID accountant with any technical accounting questions. This should be a different resource from the external auditor, in order to guarantee the latter's independence.
- He also pointed out that there has been an inconsistent approach in depreciation of infrastructure works.

Vice Chair Warbington agreed with Teirlynck's statements but stated that we would need to verify that we would not be going against our bylaws by not passing the budget at the January meeting. He stated that it is most likely too late to put this type of change into place now, but that we can consider it going forward. Teirlynck suggested passing a preliminary budget in January and reviewing it again in March. He said that he would be putting together an independent assessment for the board to review. Patrons asked if that would be available for them to review as well. Office Manager Spath explained that anything submitted to the board that is not exempt by law is available through a public records request.

Patron Susie Hart made one last statement, saying that she wanted to clarify that she has never threatened to sue TID, and has no intention of pursuing legal action; therefore, the board has no reason to discuss her during executive sessions.

The board thanked Director Steve Putnam for his many years of service on the board. They also thanked Director Carol Shull for her time on the board, and for stepping up and taking her husband's place on the Board after his unexpected passing.

MOTION TO APPROVE DECEMBER 2025 VOUCHER LIST

Director Putnam made a motion to approve the December 2025 voucher list. Director Shull seconded the motion. Chairman Cochran, Vice Chair Warbington, and Director Galazzo voted in favor, and it passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The date of the annual board meeting was set for Tuesday, January 13, 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

Director Putnam made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 11:55 a.m. Director Shull seconded the motion. Chairman Cochran, Vice Chair Warbington, and Director Galazzo voted in favor, and it passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.