

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 11, 2023**  
**64697 Cook Avenue**  
**Bend, Oregon 97703**

BOARD: Ron Cochran, Martin Warbington, Jack Farley, Steve Putnam, Carol Shull  
STAFF: Chris Schull, April Harris Spath  
ATTORNEY: Mark Reinecke  
GUESTS: Greg Mohnen, David Hampton, Hana Cooper, Todd Peplin, Sheila Menefee, Bob Buddenbohn, Stephanie Garner, Larry Lean, Susan Hart, David Arnold, Bob Varco, Casey Roscoe, Marianne Walker

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

At 10:00 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.
- ORS 192.660(2)(e): To conduct deliberations with persons you have designated to negotiate real property transactions.

**RECONVENE**

Following executive session, Chairman Cochran left the meeting. Vice Chair Warbington reconvened the regular session at 11:00 a.m.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 2023 BOARD MEETING**

Director Putnam made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2023 board meeting. Director Shull seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**WATER SUPPLY REPORT**

Manager Schull reviewed the current water supply report and attached graph, which indicated that Crescent Lake was 19% full at ~16,000 AF. Schull answered questions from patrons about our water supply and the rotation that started June 26<sup>th</sup>. The week prior to the start of rotation, Tumalo Creek dropped from 160 cfs to 80 cfs and didn't bounce back. This caused a severe water shortage district-wide that affected many patrons. Schull stated that in previous years Tumalo Creek would "bounce" when it was starting to run out, which would allow us time to get water from Crescent to supplement our supply. He expected the same to happen this year, but it never bounced back up. This left several patrons without water that week.

**WATER SHUT OFF DATE**

The water shut off date for the season has been set for September 8th. We recognize this date is significantly earlier than previous year, but it was based on the fact that the District will be out of water by then. Tumalo Creek died 3 weeks earlier than last year without bouncing back and Crescent Lake only reached ~ 17,500 acre feet after this spring's runoff. Schull stated we should be able to do stock runs this year for the areas that won't be under construction.

### **WATER TRANSFERS**

The Board reviewed three proposed water transfers. N23.002 transfers 3 acres from the Mark Murzin & Krista Knoernschild Trust, with 1.5 acres transferring to Michael & Sandra Skiens and 1.5 acres to David & Rebecca Arnold. N23.004 transfers 2.0 acres from ERMK, LLC to the McClain Revocable Trust. N23.005 transfers total of 3.35 between Sir Edward LLC & Shoshana Hermeling-Buckendorf, both self-to-self transfers and 1.95 acres from Sir Edward to Hermeling. Vice Chair Warbington made a motion approving both transfers. Director Putnam seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **RECALL ELECTION**

Patron Kelly Hugulet approached the District about wanting to recall the Director of Division 1. District staff has reached out to SDAO, the Deschutes County Clerk's office and legal counsel for guidance on the process. If a completed and qualifying petition is submitted, there will be a special election for Division 1.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Stephanie Garner discussed the challenges with her delivery and asked others for their opinion on whether she should keep her water rights or sell them. Manager Schull stated that he could have our staff look at her delivery and see if there is anything we can do to help.

Casey Roscoe asked if we could buy water rights from Swalley Irrigation District. Manager Schull stated that we did buy 5 acres from them recently and have discussed purchasing more. However, that is just a change in Place of Use (POU) and expands our District and the amount of land that needs irrigated. There is not currently a process to add extra water into our system for the use of carry water, per Oregon Water Law.

David Hampton asked about Tumalo Reservoir and if there is something we can do to improve the storage capability. The Board explained that we have spent years discussing our options and in 2019 started setting money aside in a Capital Improvement Fund for this purpose.

Todd Peplin, Programs Lead with the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District, stated they will be having a pivot workshop at the end of August at Tumalo Aspen Ranch. Thompson Pump will be there to discuss the basics on pivots and Nelson will be there to discuss nozzles. These workshops are beneficial to beginners but will also consist of more technical discussions for experienced irrigators. Peplin stated they are continuously looking for programs and applying for grants to help farmers with water conservation and hopes this will include assistance with piping private ditches someday. Their staff members are available to meet with patrons on their property to discuss their options and if there is a program that could help their individual needs.

Bob Buddenbohn would like the District to work on communication, updating the website daily on the individual laterals. Manager Schull stated that he did investigate installing digital meters at every delivery but that it was incredibly expensive and completely out of the range of our budget. Some have suggested sending more texts out to reduce incoming phone calls. Schull explained that texts cause more calls.

### **MOTION TO APPROVE JULY 2023 VOUCHER LIST**

Director Putnam made a motion to approve the July 2023 voucher list. Director Shull seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The date of the next board meeting was set for August 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN**

Director Putnam made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:17 p.m. Director Shull seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.