BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2026
Tumalo Irrigation District Office
64697 Cook Ave, Bend OR 97703

BOARD: Jack Billings, Martin Warbington, Yves Teirlynck, David Hampton, Jeffrey Stuermer
STAFF: Chris Schull, April Spath
ATTORNEY: Garrett Chrostek
GUESTS: Rob Fish, Ed Galazzo, Nunzie Gould, Jim Gould, Ashley Karitis, Greg Mohnen, Steve Putnam, David Arnold, Becky Arnold, Susie Hart, Bob Varco, Seth Flanders, Kathy Powell, Frank Siemsen, Christine Larson
Zoom Attendees: Michael Miller, Emily Johnson, BAKIphone (unidentified attendee)

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

TUMALO SEWER DISTRICT

Robert Fish introduced himself as President of the newly formed Tumalo Basin Sewer District. He provided an overview of the district's formation, the need for a sewer system, and its plans for development. Their district is currently exploring options and searching for property, including potential interest in land owned by TID. Fish asked what TID might be willing and able to do to assist.

Fish explained the type of land needed for the proposed system. Their district does not currently have revenue and is actively pursuing grant funding. Once operational, revenue would come from users and be based on usage. Estimated construction costs range from $5 million to $17 million.

Vice Chair Warbington expressed a desire for more reliable data rather than preliminary estimates of what the project could or should entail. Chairman Billings explained that TID could not commit to anything without first reviewing a written proposal. Fish noted that preparing a proposal was difficult at this stage due to their lack of revenue and asked whether he could work through some details with a two-member subcommittee.

Director Hampton suggested that Fish return with a list of specific properties in which they are interested.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Considering time constraints, the Board determined that an executive session was not necessary.

RECONVENE

The regular session remained open. At 10:30 a.m., it was noted that Susie Hart was recording the meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2026 BOARD MEETINGS

Vice Chair Warbington made a motion to approve the minutes for both September 2026 board meetings. Director Stuermer seconded the motion. Chairman Billings, Director Teirlynck, and Director Hampton all voted in favor and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

WATER SUPPLY REPORT

The current water supply report and graph indicated that Crescent Lake was 10% full at ~ 8,300 AF. Manager Schull reported that the water supply outlook remained poor, with snowpack levels below average for this time of year. He anticipated that a rotation would likely be necessary again next year.

PIPING UPDATE

Taylor NW was awarded the contract for the Group 6B piping project and has been working through administrative requirements. Pipe materials were expected to be delivered during the first week of November, with ground-disturbing work expected to begin around October 26. TID's engineer and Taylor NW were discussing change orders that would extend the project by approximately 600 feet to utilize the full amount of grant funding awarded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Director Teirlynck inquired about expenses paid to date for the Technical Assistance (TA) portion of the project and expressed concern about TID covering these costs until grant reimbursements are received. It was explained that reimbursement requests are generally submitted when a significant amount has accumulated because NRCS allows only one request to be processed at a time. NRCS will not process a subsequent request until the previous one has been fully processed, which can take considerable time. Therefore, TID generally waits until there is a substantial amount to request before submitting reimbursement paperwork.

Office Manager Spath explained that she typically submits reimbursement requests when the contractor's monthly invoice is received, as those invoices can represent significant expenses. However, she will submit a reimbursement request this month for all TA invoices received to date. Once that request has been processed, TID expects to have received its first invoice from Taylor NW and will submit another reimbursement request at that time.

2026 ELECTION

Two qualifying petitions were received for Division 4 from Jeff Stuermer and Ronald Cochran. Two qualifying petitions were received for Division 5 from Martin Warbington and Micki Olsen. The Board declared an election for the open positions of Board Director for Divisions 4 and 5. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at the District office and will be conducted by mail-in ballot.

It was explained that the Board was responsible for appointing three election judges to serve as the board of election for the divisions in which the election is being held. Each judge must be an elector from the division in which the election is being conducted. Patron Kathy Powell, from Division 4, volunteered to serve as an election judge.

Chairman Billings moved to authorize Manager Schull to take nominations and appoint three judges for the election proceedings. Director Teirlynck seconded the motion. Vice Chair Warbington, Director Hampton, and Director Stuermer voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

The Board was updated on the current status of delinquent accounts. Office staff had mailed letters to delinquent patrons with their September 1 monthly statements and sent a final notice with their October 1 statements. Since the September 8 board meeting, fourteen patrons had paid their accounts in full, and six patrons had contacted the District and signed payment plans agreeing to pay their balances in full by the end of the year. Thirteen accounts remained delinquent without payment arrangements, including six accounts with both the first and second installments outstanding.

Vice Chair Warbington moved to direct staff to request that the District's general counsel send letters to patrons who had not paid for either their first or second installments and had not communicated with the District. Vice Chair Warbington clarified that the patrons would be responsible for reimbursing the District for the attorney's fees. Director Stuermer seconded the motion. Chairman Billings, Director Teirlynck, and Director Hampton voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

OTHER

Manager Schull reported that the 2026 Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region Classroom Dam Operating Training will be held in person December 9–10 in Yakima, Washington, with no virtual option available. He explained the purpose of the training and recommended sending all four field staff members, noting that none of the crew had completed the training previously and that the location was relatively close this year.

The training is free to attend; however, meals and lodging would be additional expenses. Manager Schull estimated the total cost to send all four employees at approximately $2,200, based on a hotel block rate of $110 per night and standard per diem rates for meals. The four employees would travel together in Manager Schull's truck.

Director Stuermer questioned whether sending all four employees was necessary. After discussion, the Board indicated that the estimated expense was acceptable and authorized Manager Schull to proceed with the arrangements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patron Ashley Karitis read a letter to the Board and requested that it be included as an exhibit to the meeting minutes. Karitis provided copies of the letter and a dossier to Scribe Spath for distribution to the Board. Manager Schull explained his understanding of the issue and shared his perspective, stating that the Bureau of Land Management's participation was essential to finding a solution. Karitis disagreed with Schull's assessment and urged the Board to read the full dossier, which she stated had taken six years to prepare. Vice Chair Warbington recommended adding the topic to the Board's carry-over list to ensure it receives further attention. Scribe April Spath confirmed she would scan the full dossier and distribute it to the Board.

Seth Flanders, the new Irrigation Specialist for the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District, reported that the final rounds of on-farm agricultural and forestry grants available to patrons were approaching. He requested a spot on the following month's agenda to provide information about available grants and the application process. Flanders also thanked Manager Schull for his participation in discussions with their grant committee.

Patron Susie Hart asked the Board to confirm receipt of her most recent letter expressing concerns about Manager Schull. The Board confirmed receipt, and Hart requested that the Board take action regarding her concerns. Director Teirlynck and Chairman Billings stated that Manager Schull was preparing a response to her previous letter. Manager Schull added that he would also address the most recent letter.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

The Board received a draft copy of the Employee Handbook, along with detailed discussion topics, prepared by Laurie Grenya, President of HR Answers, Inc., which the Board had hired earlier in the year to provide consulting services. Director Hampton moved to hold a special meeting as soon as possible to allow additional time for a thorough review of the handbook. Director Stuermer agreed that the special meeting should be dedicated solely to discussion of the handbook. Director Teirlynck stated that he would like to check in with Laurie Grenya, as he had been appointed to the subcommittee initially established to work with HR Answers, Inc.

The Board discussed possible dates for the special meeting. Office Manager Spath stated that she would contact Grenya to propose a couple of dates and then coordinate with the Board to determine a meeting time.

APPROVE VOUCHER LIST

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

NEXT MEETING DATE

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Board discussed at the previous month's meeting moving the November regular board meeting from the second Tuesday of the month to the following Monday.

The next regular board meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., with executive session beginning at 10:00 a.m. and regular session expected to resume at approximately 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURN

Director Stuermer moved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:03 p.m. Vice Chair Warbington seconded the motion. Chairman Billings, Director Hampton, and Director Teirlynck voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.