

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2024
64697 Cook Avenue
Bend, Oregon 97703

BOARD: Ron Cochran, Steve Putnam, Carol Shull, Ed Galazzo
STAFF: Chris Schull, April Harris Spath
ATTORNEY: Attorney Reinecke
GUESTS: David Arnold, Greg Mohnen, Andrew Green, Greg Osborne, Bob Varco, Ross Schultz, Susie Hart

Chairman Cochran called the regular board meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and appointed April Harris Spath scribe.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Director Ed Galazzo read his oath of office and signed it in front of a notary.

NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON FOR THE BOARD

Director Putnam nominated Ron Cochran for the position of Chairman of the Board for 2024. Director Shull seconded the nomination, and the appointment was approved unanimously.

NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE BOARD

Chairman Cochran nominated Martin Warbington for the position of Vice Chair of the Board for 2024. Although Warbington was not present for the meeting, he had communicated with both Chairman Cochran and Manager Schull prior to the meeting that he would accept the position should he be nominated. Director Putnam seconded the nomination, and the appointment was approved unanimously.

APPOINT MANAGER/SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

Chairman Cochran made a motion to appoint Chris Schull to the position of Manager and Secretary to the Board for 2024. Director Putnam seconded the motion, and the appointment was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

At 10:09 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, the regular session was reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2023 BOARD MEETINGS

Director Shull made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2023 board meeting. Director Putnam 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 10% full at ~9,000 AF.

GROUP 4 UPDATE

K&E Excavating is progressing on schedule for Group 4.

GRANTS UPDATE

State grants have been secured for Group 6B, which will enclose the Columbia Southern canal from Hwy 20 to Connarn Rd. We are still waiting for BOR to make a decision on the grant we requested. Applications have also been submitted for Group 6C, which will go from Connarn to the end of White Rock Loop. Plus, we have applied for a different type of grant for Group 5, which would enclose the entire Couch Lateral. (This is a drought assistance grant through BOR that would not require any matching funds).

TELEMETRY SYSTEM UPDATE

The District's telemetry system has been down for some time and Manager Schull has been working on a plan to have the system rebuilt. The quote he received was \$27k and he would like to allocate Capital Funds from the LTA to cover the cost. Director Putnam made a motion to proceed with updating the system using long-term funds. Director Shull seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BACKHOE REPLACEMENT

Manager Schull reported that both of the District's backhoes have needed a significant number of repairs that are becoming costly. He feels that it may be time to consider replacing the equipment. He will begin looking into the cost. Chairman Cochran suggested that he also obtain costs to lease the equipment as well as cost to replace.

ELECTION POLICY UPDATE

To be aligned with the current ORS outline for irrigation district elections and to address potential recalls, the District's Election Policy needed to be revised. Legal counsel revised the policy, and a draft was presented to the Board to review before the next meeting.

RECREATIONAL IMMUNITY

Attorney Reinecke reviewed a memo about the effort that has been made to revise the statute to restore recreational immunity. Oregon's "recreational use immunity" statute is intended to protect landowners who allow public use of their land from lawsuits. Reinecke will update the Board if there are any legislative changes made. In the meantime, insurance companies have recommended posting signs that say "Recreational Use Only".

SET REGULAR BOARD MEETING PLACE, DATE AND TIME

The District will continue to hold the regular board meetings at the district office on the second Tuesday of each month, with the Board starting the executive session at 10 a.m. and returning to regular session at approximately 11:00 a.m. Manager Schull is working on scheduling a special meeting that will be held this year prior to the beginning of the irrigation season.

2024 BOARD MEMBER MEETING FEES

Director Putnam made a motion to leave the board member meeting fees at \$50.00 per meeting for those members who choose to take the fee. Director Shull seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2024 ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

As discussed, and part of the 2024 budget that was approved last month, annual assessments will increase \$23 per account and \$3 per acre. Director Putnam made a motion approving the new rates for the 2024 annual assessments. Director Galazzo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2024 DISTRICT FEES

Director Putnam made a motion to approve the fee schedule for 2024, which remains the same as the prior year, except for a \$50 increase for water transfers. Director Galazzo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Mohnen, President of the Central Oregon Hay Growers Association, stated they are partnering with the OSU Extension Service on the Central Oregon Forage Seminar that will be held in Prineville on February 20, 2024.

MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY 2024 VOUCHER LIST

Director Putnam made a motion to approve the January 2024 voucher list. Director Shull seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The date of the next regular board meeting was set for February 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

Director Shull made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:07 p.m. Director Putnam seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.