

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2026  
64697 Cook Avenue  
Bend, Oregon 97703

BOARD: Ed Galazzo, Jack Billings, Ron Cochran, Martin Warbington, Yves Teirlynck  
STAFF: Chris Schull, April Harris Spath  
ATTORNEY: Garrett Chrostek  
GUESTS: Greg Mohnen, Scott Davis, Steve Putnam, Sam Davis, Carolyn Davis, Dale Smith, Nunzie Gould, Jim Guild, Susie Hart, Mary Wallis, Janet Craig, Carol Shull, David Arnold, Becky Arnold, Jack Farley, Dutch Huyett, Karin Cody, Joel Gisler, Julia Gisler, Tea Teirlynck, Christine Larson, Hanna Cooper, April Snell, Bob Buddenbohn, Marianne Walker  
Zoom Attendees: Jeff Stuermer, Dustin Pomeroy, Michael G

Chairman Galazzo called the regular board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and appointed April Harris Spath scribe and announced that patron Susie Hart was recording the meeting.

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)(e): To conduct deliberations with persons you have designated to negotiate real property transactions.

RECONVENE

Following the executive session, Chairman Galazzo reconvened the regular session at 10:33 a.m. and announced that patron Susie Hart was recording the meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 2026 BOARD MEETINGS

Chairman Galazzo asked if everyone reviewed the minutes and then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for both the January 13th regular meeting and the January 26th special meeting. Director Warbington made a motion to approve the minutes for both January 2026 board meetings, and Director Teirlynck seconded the motion. Director Cochran, Director Teirlynck, and Vice Chair Billings 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 28% full at ~24,200 AF. The current snowpack report was only showing about 6 inches above Tumalo Creek and the drainage up at Crescent Lake was only at 25% of average. Manager Schull stated there was a lot of water missing this year and he would be surprised if the lake hit 30,000 AF. The Deschutes Basin Board of Control submitted a request to the county commissioners for a drought declaration. Schull said this was the first time they had ever had to ask for a drought declaration this early.

WATER START DATE

Manager Schull proposed April 13th as a water start date for the 2026 irrigation season. Chairman Galazzo asked if we could start earlier this year just to get the ground wet, considering it was currently very dry out there. Schull said the earliest we were allowed to start running water was April 1st and we generally use those first couple of weeks to fill Tumalo Reservoir. Galazzo stated he would like to postpone setting the

date until next month. The board agreed to postpone setting the date but stated it won't be any later than April 13th.

### INSTREAM LEASING PROGRAM

Manager Schull requested direction from the board on whether we should participate in the instream leasing program this year. Any acreage that is instream leased must remain in the river, which affects how much we are allowed to draw into our system. With the water outlook looking so bad, Schull was concerned and would like to limit the acres that are leased this year. Chairman Galazzo expressed his concern about patrons who are used to being able to instream lease once every five years to protect their water rights. The board agreed that we should try to limit the acreage, but that we need to honor the patron's wishes if they want to participate in the program. Patron Nunzie Gould asked how we track beneficial use for patrons with unmapped rights and Schull explained that we use our GIS mapping program and aerial imagery that is updated annually, along with ditchrider reports.

### OWRC

Manager Schull introduced April Snell, the executive director of the Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC). Snell began with sharing her professional experience, stating that she began with OWRC as Assistant Director in 2007 and became Executive Director in 2012. Prior to working with OWRC, she worked at the Oregon Water Resources Department. OWRC only has 3 staff members and she wears many hats. OWRC was created in 1912 and is one of the greatest advocates for Oregon irrigation districts. She talked about the value of the OWRC and the importance of districts actively participating, especially in the educational programs they provide. Snell stated that all water belongs to the public, and patrons are responsible for using that water beneficially. There are state laws and basin rules that districts need to be aware of and OWRC makes sure districts are kept up to date on those. OWRC also makes sure that our voices are heard on a legislative level. She said that traveling to Washington D.C. to tell our story helps us to obtain grants and obtain policy assistance. TID is on the verge of completing all the piping projects that were included in our Watershed plan and is the only other district in Oregon, besides Three Sisters Irrigation District, that has accomplished this goal.

In relation to traveling to Washington D.C. every year, Yves stated he is struggling with understanding why TID's manager is being asked to represent all the other districts with his new position as Chair of the Federal Affairs Committee when TID is on a smaller scale compared to the other 40 plus irrigation districts in Oregon. He believes it would make more sense to ask someone from a larger district. April Snell explained that it was not always best to go with the largest district. She also stated that TID's former manager, Elmer McDaniels, was always in favor of supporting other districts and that it never crossed her mind that it would be a problem for his successors. Patron Scott Davis asked how many other managers go to D.C. on behalf of OWRC. Snell said that two others from different parts of Oregon will join her and Manager Schull this year. Davis asked if the travel costs can be shared by all the districts if these managers are going on behalf of multiple districts. Snell explained that OWRC is 90% funded by membership dues, which include a base fee and then a per acre fee. She said that if TID decided not to cover Manager Schull's costs, they could take it to the OWRC board to consider.

Chairman Galazzo asked Manager Schull what the dates were for this year's D.C. trip, what his objectives were, how much it would cost, and how it would benefit TID. Schull stated he would be leaving April 18th and returning April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and that meetings would be scheduled between Monday and Thursday. Galazzo asked why he was leaving on a Saturday if the first meeting wasn't until Monday. Schull explained the entire group would fly in on Saturday and then meet on Sunday to go over their plans for the week, and it would also give them an opportunity to recover from jet lag. Schull said his budget for the trip was \$3,500. As for his goals and objectives, he stated there was about \$18M in outstanding grant funds on the table between EPA, BOR and NRCS. The benefit to TID would be to make sure we keep the funding we have and get the process started to start utilizing those funds. April Snell explained that some of the meetings

are not even scheduled until they get there, but that a detailed report would be provided upon their return. Galazzo asked how they determine the dates for these trips, noting that they fall during the start of our irrigation season. Snell explained that they choose the dates based on when all of congress would be in town.

April Snell answered questions about the Oregon Water Resources Foundation, stating it is a nonprofit foundation that is completely separate from OWRC. All donations go towards providing college scholarships and there are no overhead or administrative costs involved.

Patron Nunzie Gould asked Snell what the chances were of TID still receiving drought funding with the current administration when there are nationwide droughts. Snell stated that anything is possible.

Vice Chair Billings asked April Snell for a written summary about OWRC and what they do so that we could put it on our website for our patrons.

Chairman Galazzo asked for a vote from the board on approving Manager Schull's travel to Washington D.C. this year. Director Warbington stated that he was in favor of the vote. Vice Chair Billings suggested tabling the decision until next month. Galazzo asked Schull for a written budget to review. Director Teirlynck suggested creating policies that would address these issues. Galazzo stated he would be bringing that up under New Business.

#### 2026 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Chairman Galazzo asked for an explanation on why we need a budget resolution. Manager Schull stated that after he reached out to other districts, he realized we should be passing a budget resolution as part of our annual budget process. Director Teirlynck commented that he was confused at the last meeting why we were suddenly doing something that we hadn't done in the past, so he did some research. He explained that there are two processes for collecting assessments, what he referred to as the regular process (ORS 545.311 through 545.479), and the alternative process (ORS 545.482 through 545.508). Under the alternative process, the Board Secretary is the collector. He pointed out that with more powers, there needs to be more controls. One component is there needs to be a more distinct separation of funds. A second component is that a resolution needs to be passed. He also stated that under this process we need a surety bond. Former director Carol Shull stated we covered that subject last year. Teirlynck explained that there was a general statute (ORS 198.220) which is an umbrella for all special districts and covered by TID's insurance policy. However, ORS 545.498, specific to irrigation districts, was stricter and he believes that a surety bond is still required. Chairman Galazzo asked TID's legal counsel to research the matter and get back to us. Therefore, it was decided that they should table the approval of the resolution until the next meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair Billings researched options for recording board meetings. He presented the board with information on the cost of a Meeting Owl and the hardware required to install it. Office Manager Spath asked what the advantage would be of having a video recording compared to the less complicated and less expensive option of keeping audio recordings. Billings stated it would resolve the issue of knowing who is speaking. Chairman Galazzo stated he thinks we should consider it and Director Teirlynck agreed, stating we could make it available to patrons on the Cloud.

At the January special meeting, Director Teirlynck and Office Manager Spath were appointed to investigate the district's options for collecting funds for provisions and determine the best way to record and allocate non-assessment revenue. Teirlynck stated that although they had made some improvements to the P&L, he was still waiting for the 2025 books to be closed with the auditor so that they could start with a clean slate. Spath sent the year-end financial reports to the auditor and Teirlynck would be preparing a summary

of questions to be addressed during the audit process. Chairman Galazzo noted that we still need guidance from a professional to assist in evaluating the condition of TID's infrastructure to identify immediate and long-term needs.

Vice Chair Billings was appointed at the January annual meeting to review the grievances that were submitted by patron Susie Hart and bring a recommendation to the board. Billings stated that with the events that had taken place since the initial grievance, he felt it was not appropriate to discuss the matter at that time. Chairman Galazzo stated the OGEC is currently reviewing a complaint and should be getting back to the district within the next month on the results of their investigation.

Chairman Galazzo stated he would like legal counsel to review SB197 that went into effect January 1st, stating it would not cost anything, but that TID would need to opt in.

Chairman Galazzo would like to set up a committee to review TID's current policies and put some new policies into place that would protect the district and prevent the many issues that have come up over the past year. He asked for volunteers from both the board and patrons to work on this in coordination with SDAO, utilizing the consulting hours they provide as a benefit to the district. Director Teirlynck volunteered to reach out to SDAO for guidance. Galazzo asked him to prepare something for the board to review at the next meeting on the best way to proceed with setting up a committee.

Chairman Galazzo announced that his term was up at the end of the year and he did not intend to run again.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Patron Susie Hart asked when the January special meeting was rescheduled from the 28th to the 26th and how the district notified patrons. Chairman Galazzo explained it was only a couple of days after the tentative date was set at the annual meeting that they realized there were scheduling conflicts that would interfere with the entire board being available to meet. Office Manager Spath immediately reached out to all directors and coordinated a time that would work for the entire board. She then immediately posted notice of the date change to several places on the front page of the district's website.

#### MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY VOUCHER LIST

Vice Chair Billings asked what the charge from Storm Water Services was for. Manager Schull answered that it was for clearing a culvert during the last stock run. Billings commented that he had a piece of equipment the district could use that he would be happy to give to TID.

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

#### NEXT MEETING DATE

The date of the next regular board meeting was set for Tuesday, March 10, 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 Warbington made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:51 p.m. and Director Teirlynck seconded the motion. Chairman Galazzo, Vice Chair Billings, and Director Cochran voted in favor, and it passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.