

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 13, 2024
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: David Arnold, Dwight Gaudet, Greg Mohnen, Andrew Green, David Hampton, Jeff Stuermer, Mindy Wolfe, Hana Cooper, Mike Maloney, Linda Maloney, Sam Davis, Todd Peplin, Max Mills, Tea Teirlynck, Susie Hart

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)(e): To conduct deliberations with persons you have designated to negotiate real property transactions.
- ORS 192.660(2)(f): To consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by law, including written advice from your attorney. – NO DISCUSSION
- 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 JULY 2024 BOARD MEETING

Director Shull made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2024 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 16% full at ~13,800 AF. Schull stated that Tumalo Creek had been holding steady and we have more water for rotation this season compared to prior years. The completion of Group 4, which enclosed 12.5 miles of open ditch, has impacted how the system is run. Overall, it has significantly improved our ability to deliver faster and conserve water. This year, there is more water available than needed to deliver 100% to half of the district, but not enough to deliver 70% to the entire district. To avoid continued rotations, we tried to fill Tumalo Reservoir as a second source. However, the attempt was unsuccessful and did not retain enough of the water that we diverted. The final shut off date for the 2024 Irrigation Season was discussed. The "DITCH" rotation will be shut off the morning of Monday, September 16th. The "PIPED" rotation will be shut off the morning of Monday, September 23rd. Schull stated this would leave ~10,000 AF in Crescent Lake.

VANDALISM

The morning of August 9th, TID's field crew discovered vandalism at the Steidl Dam fish screens. The vandals found a way over the security fence and attempted to remove the motor from the fish screens.

Manager Schull estimates there to be around \$15k in damage. The field crew did what they could to reinforce the barbed wire that is currently on the fence. We will be reaching out to SDAO about applying for a security grant to install cameras.

TUMALO RESERVOIR IMPROVEMENTS

Manager Schull would like to address the challenge of maintaining Tumalo Reservoir. To improve Tumalo Reservoir, the District must be able to perform regular maintenance of the land. Deschutes County classifies the reservoir as a mine and a wetland and states that the District cannot maintain the reservoir without their permission and limits the amount of material that can be removed from the property. It was determined in prior discussions that the first step is to eliminate the wetland delimitation. The next step is to get a determination from the County stating that what we do at Tumalo Reservoir will not affect the water resources of the County. Director Putnam made a motion to proceed with allowing Attorney Chrostek to develop a strategy and to spend a portion of the funds that have been set aside for Tumalo Reservoir maintenance, up to \$10k. Vice Chair Warbington seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

EASEMENT MAINTENANCE

As we continue to enclose open canals, restoration work is done and over time that vegetation grows to unsafe heights. Manager Schull has concerns about potential fire risk as the ditch riders have to drive through this vegetation in hot weather. He is researching options for equipment that can be used to keep the vegetation mowed down. Once he finds the right piece of equipment, he will present the options to the Board.

WATER THEFT

Last weekend TID attempted to be proactive by wetting the open ditches with a limited amount of water to speed up the time it takes for water to get to the tail ends of the open ditches on Monday when the changeover for rotation occurs. This backfired when several patrons took it upon themselves to place boards, haybales, and other items, to dam up the water in the ditches for their own benefit. A notice was sent out to patrons informing them that such activities are considered water theft and violate TID's policies and Oregon law. The individuals that management has confirmed to be guilty of such actions, will be receiving a letter from Manager Schull. This will be considered their 1st offense, and the letter will serve as a warning per the water theft policy that we have in place. This policy allows the District to issue a fine if there is a 2nd offense.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Manager Schull answered questions about rotation and water supply.

Mindy Wolfe expressed her frustration that TID sent a text stating that rotation would be discussed at the board meeting the following month, and then she received a text a week later stating that rotation was starting the following Monday. Schull explained why we had to make that adjustment due to an abrupt change in Tumalo Creek's levels.

MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST 2024 VOUCHER LIST

Director Putnam made a motion to approve the August 2024 voucher list. Vice Chair Warbington seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The date of the next board meeting was set for September 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (Executive session at 10:00 and returning to Regular session at 11:00.)

ADJOURN

Director Shull made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 12:08 p.m. Director Putnam seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.