

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 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: Greg Mohnen, Susie Hart, Hana Cooper, Patrice Spyrka, Bob Varco, Todd Peplin,
Marianne Walker

Chairman Cochran called the regular board meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and appointed April Harris Spath scribe.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

At 10:03 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 11:09 a.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 2024 BOARD MEETING

Director Putnam made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2024 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 ~16,600 AF. Schull predicts the lake will gain around 15,000 AF from snowmelt this spring. If the lake reaches 30,000 AF, the District can deliver 70% to all patrons until mid-September without a rotation.

ANNUAL MEETING

There will be a District meeting on May 16th to discuss our water outlook for the 2024 season. Patrons were notified by text, email, and postcard. Manager Schull stated that Regional Watermaster Jeremy Giffin, Energy Trust of Oregon, and Todd from the Deschutes Soil & Conservation District will be in attendance.

GROUP 4 UPDATE

Manager Schull stated that K&E Excavating is still working on clean-up, but water is running through the new pipe and everyone who wanted water, is getting it.

FUTURE PIPING PROJECT UPDATES

Group 6B, which goes from Hwy 20 to Connarn, is 50% funded. We are still waiting for BOR to approve the WaterSmart grant. Both State & EPA funds have been secured for Group 6C, which will continue from Connarn and end at Deschutes River Ranch Group. Funding for Group 5, which will pipe the Couch lateral, is under review by BOR.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR WATER ROTATIONS

Director Putnam reviewed with the Board the portion of the “Duffy Decree” that states water rotations are allowable between neighbors. This was a decree that was signed by Judge Duffy in 1933, “In the matter of the determination of the relative rights to the use of the waters of the Deschutes River and its tributaries, a tributary of the Columbia River.” Manager Schull stated the challenge with that is the patrons would need to be on a shared system.

WATER TRANSFER

The Board reviewed a proposed water transfer. N24.001 transfers 1.2 acres from Christopher & Lisa Mizeur to Michael & Karin Arthur, along with a self-to-self transfer of 0.5 acres. Vice Chair Warbington made a motion approving the transfer. Director Putnam seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VERIZON CELL TOWER LEASE

Manager Schull submitted the District’s counteroffer. American Tower responded, stating they cannot get anywhere close to our proposal. The first offer included a one-time signing bonus of \$2,000 and a \$200 monthly increase. American Tower is now offering \$18,000/year (\$1,500/month). We are currently receiving \$15,972/year (\$1,331/month). The Board provided Schull with direction on a response to American Tower.

CREP SUMMARY

TID requested \$100,000 from the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program (CREP). Energy Trust of Oregon will match planning grants received by ODOE for hydropower projects. TID can expect \$200,000 in total toward planning efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marianne Walker requested that it be stated for the record that winter mites have gotten over 75% of their fields this year and she feels it’s the result of not getting a full season of water for 3 years in a row and having to rotate. They have plans to re-seed and are hoping it will be successful. There were discussions about how other farmers have dealt with them in the past and what they feel could be the cause. Hana Cooper stated that the properties that she manages also have them this year. Greg Mohnen stated that his fields do not, but he also does not grow just orchard grass*, which is all that the Walkers grow. Todd Peplin recommended reaching out to the OSU Extension Service for advice.

*(Greg plants a mix of grasses; 40% Orchard,20% Smooth brome,10%Timothy,10% Rye perennial,20% Tall fescue.)

Susan Hart has concerns about getting the correct amount of water this year, as last year there was a mix up between her delivery and her neighbors. She asked about the “shared delivery” that Director Putnam mentioned in relation to the Duffy Decree. Bob Varco explained to her that it doesn’t mean a shared delivery, but a rotation between neighbors, meaning when the neighbor is using the water, hers would have to be off and vice versa. Manager Schull stated that we will do what we can to get her full allotment to her this year.

Patrice Spyrka asked if they need to call the office if they want more water, referencing Manager Schull's statement of "TID now being able to deliver 100%". He stated that she should give it a couple of days and if she hasn't seen the increase, give the office a call.

Director Galazzo said that he met Sam Davis the prior week, a patron on the northside that was strongly expressing his concerns about not getting any water. Manager Schull stated that Davis was getting his water.

MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 2024 VOUCHER LIST

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

NEXT MEETING DATE

The date of the next board meeting was set for June 11, 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 12:02 p.m. Director Putnam seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.