

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
TALENT IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MAY 6, 2025**

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TALENT IRRIGATION DISTRICT met in regular session at the office of the District located at 104 West Valley View Road, Talent, Oregon, on the above date. President Winters called the board meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL BY: Manager Derry

PRESENT: Mike Winters ----- President
Jeff Bohn ----- Director
Wanda Derry ----- Secretary/Manager
Sharee Burns ----- Assistant Manager
Bo Bergren ----- Dam Operator

VISITORS: John Funke ----- Water User at 585 W. Valley View Rd.
and U.S.B.R. Green Springs Power
Plant Operator
Ricky Clark ----- OSU Extension Service
Adam Levine ----- OSU Research Engineer
Ralph Gysin ----- Water User at 4720 Coal Mine Rd.

ABSENT: Jeff Hogan ----- Vice-President

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS OF APRIL 1, 2025

The Minutes of the Regular and Executive Session board meetings of April 1, 2025, were considered. Director Bohn made a motion to approve both minutes as presented, and the motion was seconded by President Winters. President Winters and Director Bohn both voted in favor of the motion. The board members and Manager Derry signed the minutes.

MARCH CLAIM SHEET TOTALING \$288,293.67

The Board reviewed the Claim Sheet for March for check numbers 3512 through 3589 and the itemized list of Visa charges for the month. The total Claim Sheet amount of \$288,293.67, less the exceptional items of \$130,480.12, leaves a Claim Sheet balance of \$157,813.55 for the regular expenses for the month.

A motion was made by Director Bohn to approve the Claim Sheet and the list of itemized Visa charges for March as presented. The motion was seconded by President Winters. President Winters

and Director Bohn both voted in favor of the motion. Both President Winters and Manager Derry signed the Claim Sheet.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY, ITEMIZED BUDGET COMPARISON, ASSESSMENTS RECEIVABLE, BALANCE SHEET AND PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR MARCH 2025

The budget should be 50% for March; the Income is 80% and Expenses are 52%. Manager Derry stated as a comparison to this month last year, the Income was 74% and Expenses were 44%.

WATER SUPPLY

Manager Derry stated that the water supply is looking very good. The supply numbers as of this morning are:

Howard Prairie	56,023 acre feet or 92%
Hyatt Lake	15,248 acre feet or 94%
Emigrant Lake	<u>38,708 acre feet or 99%</u>
Total Storage	92,710 acre feet or 95%

We started flushing the canals on April 28th with minimal releases. Flushing the Ashland and East canals proved very difficult this year due to the mulching done on both canals this winter. We went through and cleaned out a lot of the debris, however the water picked up more making the cleaning of the trash racks a challenge.

Dam Operator Bergren started releasing 20 cfs out of Hyatt Lake yesterday to keep it from spilling over the spillway. He continues to do daily OVIC's on Hyatt and weekly ones on Howard Prairie.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER PERSON)

John Funke – Water User at 585 W. Valley View Rd. with .60 irrigated acre. John is also the Green Springs Power Plant Operator

No comment.

Ralph Gysin – 4720 Coal Mine Road, Medford

Ralph said he wants to get his headgates unlocked. Manager Derry asked him if he called the office to request having them unlocked and he stated that he should not have to call in, they should just be unlocked. Manager Derry will have the office call the ditch rider to have him unlock the headgates.

Adam Levine – OSU Research Engineer and Ricky Clark also from OSU Extension Service

Adam came back to the Board to discuss the water sampling project that he previously presented to our Board and MID's board of directors. Neither our Board nor MID's board were in favor of the project at that time. Adam said the researchers will drop the water quality sampling from the project

but want to proceed with the quantity project. He said MID's board is fairly favorable for the new project.

Adam said OSU wants to work with the districts since there is a good water supply this year. They would get a map of the system and take samples at 50 different points along the system, taking the samples 3 times during the season. The samples will be taken with vials. They use stable isotopes to measure oxygen atoms. President Winters interrupted Adam and stated the people taking samples would be agents of the District. Patrons do not like other people coming onto their property. The people taking the samples would need to go through background checks before entering private property. Landowners would need to be contacted to give their permission for the work. The District is very busy. In addition, President Winters stated that Adam never supplied the District with the data they put together from the study they previously did at an irrigation district in eastern Oregon. Ricky stated the work was done at North Unit Irrigation District and it was not district wide; it was done with willing participants.

President Winters stated that we still want to see what was done in the other district. Adam asked if he sent the data to the District office if it would be provided to the Board and President Winters said it would. All information for the Board should be supplied to the District office.

CREW WORK REPORT AND EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

A copy of the crew report was supplied to the Board. Manager Derry briefly reviewed some of the work that was accomplished which includes the following:

1. All canals were flushed, and we started making some water deliveries last week.
2. The Harley Davidson pipeline on the Talent Main Canal was installed by Central Pipeline (per their bid).
3. We completed 2 shotcrete jobs on the East Canal at Powell's and the Fish property. We patched the section of the Ashland Canal where the Tamap liner was leaking. We could not use shotcrete here because the ground was still too wet for concrete trucks to drive to the site.
4. Completed the installation of the 6 new water measurement sites with the Eyasco contract approved by the Board.
5. We mowed the Talent Canal and are working on the West Canal with our equipment. We hired out the mowing on the East Canal and Ashland Canal to get it done before fire season starts.
6. We started flushing the Upper West and Fredericks laterals yesterday.
7. The annual site inspections for Howard Prairie and Hyatt Lake were conducted by one Bureau personnel and Dam Operator Bo Bergren. Everything went well with the inspections.

UPDATE ON RBWUC, INC. ISSUES

The bills provide more details on each item. Because these are attorney-client privileged topics, the following statements are very general.

Biological Opinion

Participate in monthly status calls with Reclamation.

Jordan Ramis invoice through March 31, 2025, \$115 ÷ 3 = **\$38.33 per district**

Adjudication

Receive and complete the review of the Klamath County Circuit Court's Opinion.

Jordan Ramis invoice through March 31, 2025, \$2,790 ÷ 3 = **\$930.00 per district**

Water Right Regulation

Meetings to discuss approval of DOWL Engineers conceptual design for Fourmile bifurcation structure. Respond to Tribes' attorney regarding status of NEPA efforts.

Jordan Ramis invoice through March 31, 2025, \$1,365 ÷ 3 = **\$455.00 per district**

The District's one-third of the invoices total \$1,423.33

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF RE-TRANSFER OF WATER RIGHT 25-1:

Manager Derry stated the original transfer for this property was #23-2 and was completed in September of 2024. It transferred .50 acre to the existing 1.70 acres making the total water right 2.20 acres. The current owners say the placement of water rights is not where they want to use the water, so they want to re-transfer 1.50 acres within the tax lot.

We have only done one of these re-transfers, which for our purpose is a simple process, however, it is more complicated working with OWRD. The owners will need to show beneficial use this year on the .50 acre of the 23-2 transfer and then make the change to this new location.

25-1 Brandon/Lauren White & Barry/Carol White 38-1W-01 200 1.50 acres
662 Cliffside Dr., Medford – total tax lot acres 79.76

The Board can give preliminary approval of this transfer, but we will need to delay final approval until the Whites have applied water to the location of the first transfer and then proceed with the re-transfer. A motion was made by Director Bohn and seconded by President Winters to preliminary approve Transfer 25-1 as presented. The President Winters and Director Bohn both voted in favor of the motion.

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF TRANSFER 25-2

25-2 FROM: Ross/Collette Waddell 39-2E-19 1700 0.75 acres
4880 Hwy 66, Ashland – total tax lot acres 18.35
TO: Shane/Julia Stiles 39-2E-19 1600 0.50 acres
4780 Hwy 66, Ashland – total tax lot acres 1.64

Manager Derry explained that this transfer is in the private section of the Reiten Lateral. Mr. Stiles has been working on it for over a year. He obtained signatures from the people that use the lateral to get permission from them to be added on as another user. He also obtained a written, recorded easement from the Tesluk-Karrell Trust owners to put in an irrigation line to get the water to his property. The transfer has been reviewed by the Ashland Canal ditch rider, and he did not see any issues with approving it. The water use is being moved from one parcel to another on the same private lateral so there is no additional water needed on the lateral. The District's point of delivery for this property is the Ashland Canal which is where our responsibility for water delivery ends.

A motion was made by Director Bohn and seconded by President Winters to preliminary approve Transfer 25-1 as presented. President Winters and Director Bohn both voted in favor of the motion.

REQUEST TO HAVE LATE FEE WAIVED FROM ALEXANDRA ROSCHER AT 2079 KNOWLES ROAD – 38-2W-04 TL 2002 WITH .90 IRRIGATED ACRE

The email from Ms. Roscher was supplied to the Board for their review. Manager Derry explained that prior to receiving her email, Ms. Roscher called our office on March 24, 2025, to let us know that her check to TID was stolen. She stated that she would be in to drop off a new check from the new checking account. However, she waited until April 9th to send her husband in with the new check for \$220 and the late fee of \$25 had already been added to the account. We explained that we are sympathetic to their situation, however they had 7 workdays from the time of their phone call on March 24th to April 1st to drop off the new check. In addition, we explained that if we make an exception for them then we must make exceptions for all others to make requests for various reasons. They were not satisfied with this answer and sent in an email to get the decision from the Board.

Upon reviewing the email and documentation of the timeline in which the payment could have been made, a motion was made by Director Bohn and seconded by President Winters to deny the waiver request from Ms. Roscher. President Winters and Director Bohn each voted to deny the request.

EASTSIDE CANAL PIPING PROJECT PHASE 1

Assistant Manager Burns stated that on December 27, 2024, the District submitted a grant proposal to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) proposing to pipe approximately 4,363 feet of the Eastside Canal. This project has many benefits including more efficient water management, water delivery, water reliability, and reduction of operation and maintenance costs. In addition, it will improve water quality in the Bear Creek Watershed. On April 11, 2025, our project was scored to see if it meets the criteria for funding. On April 18, 2025, we were notified that our project was unanimously recommended for funding. The project will be presented to the OWRD Board on June 12-13, 2025, for final funding approval. A copy of the project explanation and the OWRD scoring sheet along with the draft statement of work were supplied to the Board for their review.

With the OWRD grant award, staff is asking for a motion to use \$1,000,000 of the EPA Billings Siphon/ East Canal grant as matching funds. A motion was made by Director Bohn and seconded by

President Winters to use \$1,000,000 of the EPA Billings Siphon/Last Canal grant as matching funds. President Winters and Director Bohn each voted to each voted in favor of the motion.

UPDATE ON THE EPA REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST PHASE I OF THE BILLINGS SIPHON PROJECT

Assistant Manager Burns stated that six weeks ago, the District submitted our first request for reimbursement. Our last update from EPA was on Thursday May 1, 2025. The initial review by both the EPA project officer and EPA grant specialist indicated all documents, invoices and EPA required forms are in order. They are now under final review. Based on this conversation, we anticipate receiving our first reimbursement of \$260,358.42 within the next few weeks. As a special note: EPA notified us that they have experienced a loss of several staff members, increasing the processing time for reimbursement.

PROPOSAL FROM FCA TO WORK WITH THE DISTRICT ON A MODERNIZATION STRATEGY SCOPE OF WORK

Assistant Manager Burns stated that FCA has requested to increase our original \$80,500 contract for project phasing to \$198,000. This would allow us to work towards phasing out the remaining projects associated with the \$5,000,000 EPA grant. During the Rogue Basin Vision meeting it was discussed that although the EPA funds of 5,000,000 are earmarked for Talent Irrigation District, they could be taken away if not assigned to specific projects.

To secure the full 5,000,000 funds staff asked the Board for a motion to accept the contract modification with the understanding that all additional contract costs will be paid through the EPA grant.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Director Bohn and seconded by President Winters to accept the contract modification noting that all additional contract costs will be paid through the EPA \$5,000,000 grant. President Winters and Director Bohn each voted in favor of the motion.

FCA CONTRACT

Assistant Manager Burns stated that the Board has expressed a desire to move forward with finding grants and funding to create a Talent Irrigation Watershed Plan. With that in mind, we are asking the Board to consider accepting a contract with FCA to assist in locating additional grant dollars for a Watershed Plan. The contract amount would be \$43,000. A copy of the contract was supplied to the Board for their review. This money would not be coming from the EPA grant or the OWRD grant. When funding projects are identified, if awarded, we should be able to recover the full contract amount.

Following a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Director Bohn and seconded by President Winters to authorize Manager Derry to sign a new contract with FCA on behalf of the District, not to exceed \$43,000. President Winters and Director Bohn each voted in favor of the motion.

EMIGRANT LOW FLOW BYPASS PIPE

Manager Derry stated that she and Assistant Manager Burns participated in a 20-minute Teams call with Jarrett Redman and Dave Weidinger of Reclamation on Monday, April 21st. Jarrett is the program manager for this project, and he apologized for not contacting the District since October of last year. Jarrett let us know that the project has been moving slowly since Tom Heintzman left the Bend Field Office.

Manager Derry stated, as a reminder, this project began in 2012 and in 3 to 4 weeks Reclamation should have the 60% design completed and the 90% design should be completed by September 2025. They plan on awarding the contract in September 2026 with construction completed in 2027.

Manager Derry stated that Jarrett let us know that the Bureau agreed with Dam Operator Bergren's concern about the pipe discharging into the spillway and damaging the concrete. They have now decided to run the pipe in the area between the spillway and the East Canal outlet and run it into Emigrant Creek.

EYASCO WATER MEASUREMENT PROJECT UPDATE AND QUOTE TO ADD ONE MORE SITE ON THE EAST CANAL AT MUD CREEK

Assistant Manager Burns stated the Eyasco crew came in the week of April 7th and completed the installation of all 6 water measurement sites and the computer programming in the office. President Winters and Assistant Manager Burns asked Eyasco to give us an estimate of the cost to install one more site at Mud Creek which is at the very end of the East Canal. The reason this site was not included in the original contract was because they did not know if they could get a signal out to the site. Since they installed a repeater at the rock quarry on Roxy Ann, a signal is now available to successfully connect. The quote for putting in the Mud Creek Station was provided to the Board for their review at a total cost of \$15,641.30. Assistant Manager Burns stated that the cost of this contract should be billable to the EPA grant funds under Phase 1 of our current Scada project.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Director Bohn and seconded by President Winters to authorize Manager Derry to sign the new contract with Eyasco on behalf of the District, not to exceed \$15,641.30. President Winters and Director Bohn each voted in favor of the motion.

INFORMATIONAL

New Employee Handbook

The revised version of the new TID employee handbook was submitted to our attorney on March 12, 2025. Per follow up email on April 24, 2025, it had not been reviewed. We were informed that this will be a priority project. It turns out the handbook review was completed, and the necessary changes were made. Copies were made yesterday and handed out to the Board at today's meeting for them to take home and review. The Board is anxious to get the handbook adopted.

