

**REGULAR/PUBLIC MEETING**  
Of The  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Of  
**DESCHUTES VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

March 9, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Deschutes Valley Water District was called to order by Chairman Kathy Marston (KM) at 7:00 P.M. Other commissioners present were Tom Jaca (TJ), Jo Guiney (JoG) and Dana Oppenlander (DO). Guest present was Scott Surgeon.

KM asked for public comment. None at this time.

JoG moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept as presented. Seconded by TJ. Motion carried.

JoG moved to approve the Resolution Transferring Appropriations for Biennial Budget 2024-2026, Resolution No: 2026-03-09. Seconded by DO. Motion carried.

Joel Gehrett (JG) brought up 2 budget committee members, Mike Cloud and Jim Hutchins, terms have expired. JoG asked that JG reach out to the 2 members to see if they would be interested in being on the budget committee again. JG said the budget committee meeting is May 11, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

JG informed the board that the employee handbook has been completed using the template provided by SDAO. TJ had a couple of questions regarding the language for veterans' preference points. JG is looking into the language. The handbook has been sent to the union.

JG asked that since the District only spent \$20,000 on the SCADA system, when \$200,000 had been budgeted, would the board approve purchase a new crew pickup. He received quotes from 3 different dealerships in Central Oregon with Kendall Ford in Bend being the lowest at \$73,525. KM would like to stay local, asked if JG could talk with TS&S Madras to see if they could beat the low bid. TJ moved to allow purchase of a 550 crew pickup not to exceed \$73,525. Seconded by DO. Motion carried.

JG gave the following updates:

- Employees are starting to work the summer schedule of 9 hour days with every other Friday being off and Fridays closing at 3:00.
- The district received a positive bacteria test, however due to the resample and a written explanation, the positive test was invalidated so it won't be a positive hit against the district. If the District has 3 positive tests within a 2-year span we would have to chlorinate the water, we have 1 positive test from October 2025.
- Received an email from Mike Barry. There is a bearing in the big generator at Opal Springs that is vibrating. They are monitoring the bearing.
- Tomorrow, March 10<sup>th</sup> is the first union negotiation meeting.

Executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations was called to order at 7:43 P.M.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:00 P.M.

JoG moved to accept the financial statements, pay the Hydro and General Fund bills as presented and approve next month's payroll obligations. Seconded by TJ. Motion carried.

JoG asked JG, when he is not in the office, who can make decisions if something happens. Gary Dinkel used to be the board member employees could go to. She would like JG to think of who employees would go to now.

JoG asked Joan Moe (JM) when she's thinking about retiring. JM informed the board she let JG know her last day is March 31, 2027. Discussion followed. The board would like to sit in on interviews for the new finance officer and TJ asked about the job description.

JoG informed the board that their home sold, so her last board meeting will be the April meeting, however she might extend it until May.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

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Secretary, Dana Oppenlander