

REGULAR/PUBLIC MEETING
Of The
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Of
DESCHUTES VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
September 14, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Deschutes Valley Water District was called to order by Chairman Kathy Marston (KM) at 7:02 P.M. Other commissioners present were Dana Oppenlander (DO), Tom Jaca (TJ) and Scott Surgeon (SS). Public present none.

KM asked for public comment. None at this time.

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

Joes Gehrett (JG) had Scott Surgeon (SS) sign the Oath of Office and had the board members update the signature card from First Interstate Bank. JG informed the board this year's audit is taking a little longer due to the audit being virtual instead of in person. We received a positive note from a customer who was grateful for our help in locating their meter box. Unfortunately, our google reviews don't reflect these positive notes, most are negative due to payments.

The ODOT project originally planned for the district to relocate a 20" main had a redesign that allowed the 20" main to stay in place.

JG and Brandy Stewart (BS) attended a Special District Association of Oregon (SDAO) training learning that the board members are required to have training on public meeting law every two years, board members are mandatory reporters. Brandy Stewart (BS) brought up that we should be reviewing our resolutions every year. JG is going to look more into it. JG handed out SDAO board handbooks.

Nathan, who has been with the district for 1.5 years, resigned. Nathan got a job with the City of Bend with increased pay. We are sad to see Nathan go; he was a good employee. Jacob Carpenter passed the journeyman electrical test and is now a licensed electrician; Jacob replaced Bonn who has retired.

JG is working with Matt and Bow for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicense. They have met with Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFW), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), National Marine Fisheries Services (NOAA) to inform them the district is moving forward with the Traditional Licensing Process. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out to contract a relicensing partner and is due October 1, 2026. The relicensing process takes 5 years to complete.

JG informed the board that the City of Madras is talking about charging a franchise fee for any utilities in their right of way.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Secretary, Dana Oppenlander