

**Sutherlin Water Control District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
District Office – 7 pm**

Flag Salute:

President's Statement: President Patoine asked for conflicts of interest w/agenda items. (None Presented).

Roll Call: Present: Directors Robin Braun, Tom Patoine, Jess Terrel, Jim Allen, Carol Swesso, Arika Tenbrook, Frank Egbert, Adam Sarnoski, and Richard Vander Velden.

Staff: Manager Robert Rippey and Recording Secretary Laci Smith.

Audience: None.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Director Egbert, second by Director Swesso to approve the minutes of January 28, 2026, Board Meeting as submitted.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Directors Braun, Terrel, Allen, Swesso, Tenbrook, Egbert, Sarnoski, and Vander Velden.

Opposed: None

Abstain: Director Patoine.

Motion carried.

Business From Manager:

Labor Committee Meeting: The Labor committee met prior to the board meeting. All feedback was positive on the employee evaluations.

MOTION by Director Terrel to adjust Finance Officer to a 4% raise. No second. Motion failed.

MOTION by Director Swesso, second by Director Vander Velden to approve the Labor Committee recommendations of a 3% raise for each employee. In addition, Manager will continue to receive health insurance and cell phone reimbursement, and Caretaker will continue to receive housing and utilities.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Directors Braun, Patoine, Allen, Swesso, Tenbrook, Egbert, Sarnoski, and Vander Velden.

Opposed: Director Terrel.

Abstain: None

Motion carried.

Plat I: The gate has been fixed. The gate has been closed, and the reservoir is filling for the upcoming irrigation season. The new fish screen has been installed with new hardware. Our balance due after our cost share with ODFW of \$1777.84 on hardware and hoses, is \$329.03.

Worker's Compensation: We have still heard nothing back on Caretaker's Workers' Compensation case.

Cooper Creek Update: The reservoir is full and spilling over. The reservoir is going to be flushed, so that the spillway can be repaired before the dam inspection next month.

Dinner Meeting: We will have our annual dinner meeting in March. It will be at the GPS Grill this year.

Trainings: Manager will be attending the OWRC District Manager's workshop virtually, in March. Finance Officer will be attending a budget meeting virtually, next week.

Financial Statement: Financial Statement: The Financial Statement ending December 31, 2025, was reviewed.

MOTION by Director Terrel, second by Director Swesso to accept the Financial Statement ending December 31, 2025, as presented.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Directors Braun, Patoine, Terrel, Allen, Swesso, Tenbrook, Egbert, Sarnoski, and Vander Velden.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Committee: We need to re-appoint three committee members. Brett Baker, Bertha Egbert, and Robert Held, terms have expired.

MOTION by Director Vander Velden, second by Director Sarnoski to re-appoint Brett Baker, Bertha Egbert, and Robert Held to the Budget Committee.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Directors Braun, Patoine, Terrel, Allen, Swesso, Tenbrook, Egbert, Sarnoski, and Vander Velden.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

County Work Crew: We need to renew our IGA with the County for the County Work Crew.

MOTION by Director Vander Velden, second by Director Swesso to renew our IGA with the County Work Crew.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Directors Braun, Patoine, Terrel, Allen, Swesso, Tenbrook, Egbert, Sarnoski, and Vander Velden.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions:

Resolution #2026-001: Resolution for Qualified Immunity was read to the Board in full.

MOTION by Director Egbert, second by Director Vander Velden to adopt Resolution #2026-001 as presented.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Directors Braun, Patoine, Terrel, Allen, Swesso, Tenbrook, Egbert, Sarnoski, and Vander Velden.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution #2026-002: Resolution Authorizing 2026 Irrigation Contracts was read to the Board in full. **MOTION** by Director Terrel, second by Director Vander Velden to adopt Resolution #2026-002 as presented.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Directors Braun, Patoine, Terrel, Allen, Swesso, Tenbrook, Egbert, Sarnoksi, and Vander Velden.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Business from Audience: None.

Next Meeting:

Board Meeting – March 25, 2026 – 7PM

Business from Directors: Director Patoine asked about raising taxes. Manager is getting his information and questions lined up before speaking with our attorney. Director Vander Velden asked about CD's. Rates were very low the last time we checked. We will continue to monitor the rates. Director Sarnoksi asked about moving the jet ski races to Cooper Creek or to a different weekend at Plat I. He will have more information for us at the next meeting. Director Swesso attended the SDAO Annual Conference, and her attendance can help with the district's insurance discount. Director Terrel asked about Douglas Electric clearing brush on Plat K and Red Rd. Manager will look into it. Director Tenbrook is concerned about the Caretaker's facilities at Plat I. It is messy and the entrance looks hazardous.

Adjournment: There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Approved:

Robert Rippy, District Manager

Tom Patoine, Board President

Respectfully submitted,

Laci Smith, Recording Secretary