

**Sutherlin Water Control District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 27, 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 (via Zoom), Carol Swesso, Arika Tenbrook, Frank Egbert, Adam Sarnoksi, and Richard Vander Velden.

Staff: Manager Robert Rippy and Recording Secretary Laci Smith.

Audience: None.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Director Vander Velden, second by Director Braun to approve the minutes of March 25, 2026, Board Meeting as submitted.

Discussion: None

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Business From Manager:

Plat I: The irrigation was turned on today. We are working on a grant for VFD's to be installed on our pumps at Plat I.

User Fees: The events at Plat I have been paying \$75 for user fees, per weekend event. This helps cover the costs of toilet paper and restroom use during the events. Rates will continue to stay the same for now.

Water Rates: We cannot change our tax rate for the property within the District, but it does go up approximately 1% annually. Our only other options are bonds. A professional is required to do a bond. However, we can change our irrigation rates and are in the process of assessing and researching more on it.

Cooper Creek Update: We have been notified by ODFW that there is Carp in Cooper Creek. This is a serious issue. ODFW has taken samples of the reservoir. Their solution for now, is a fish screen on the intake. Meetings have taken place between our engineers, the watermaster, ODFW, and the District. This is an issue that could potentially lead to getting our attorney

involved. ODFW has said that it would take millions of dollars to poison the reservoir. The County got the grant for re-paving the parking lot. It has already been sent out to bid, and it looks like they will be changing the elevation of the parking lot and completely redoing it. It is supposed to start in June or July and be completed by Labor Day. They never mentioned any of this to the District. The elevation cannot be changed very much, or it will affect the dam rehab project. Our engineers and NRCS have been notified, and we have reached out to the County.

Cooper Creek Trees: We have been notified by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) that all of our harvested lots have passed, except for one, the lot above the parking lot. Mason, Bruce, and Girard were notified before ODF contacted our office, and they have yet to reach out to the District. ODF wants the grasses sprayed, a stocking survey, and possibly replanting. ODF will come out and survey the lot with us, and decide how to proceed. Pine will be planted instead of fir.

Dam Inspections: The state dam inspection report was good. The caulking on the spillway needs to be redone. The material has already been purchased. We are just waiting for it to dry out.

NRCS: We have been approved for funding, so the dam project will continue.

Financial Statement: The Financial Statement ending March 31, 2026, was reviewed.

MOTION by Director Terrel, second by Director Vander Velden to accept the Financial Statement ending March 31, 2026, 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.

Resolutions:

Resolution #2026-003 Resolution Calling for a Budget Hearing was read to the Board in Full.

MOTION by Director Swesso, second by Director Egbert to adopt resolution #2026-003 as presented.

Discussion: None

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Business from Audience: None.

Next Meeting:

Board Meeting – June 24, 2026 – 7PM

Business from Directors: Director Terrel is concerned about the scotch broom and brush around Cooper Creek being a fire hazard.

Adjournment: There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Approved:

Robert Rippy, District Manager

Tom Patoine, Board

President

Respectfully submitted,

Laci Smith, Recording Secretary