



• 1985 Country Club Road, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone (541)-387-5261 www.fidhr.org •

FARMERS IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026

The Farmers Irrigation District Board of Directors met on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at the district office and via Zoom to conduct its regular monthly business. Those in attendance were Directors Pete Siragusa, Don Chandler, Bernard Yoo, Erick von Lubken, and Dani Annala; District Manager Alexis Vaivoda; Watershed Project Manager Megan Saunders; and Office Manager Erika Guth.

Chairman Pete Siragusa called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

Bob Wood, Watermaster, Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD):

Bob Wood, OWRD Region 3 Watermaster was invited to the FID Board Meeting to talk about Oregon water law. Bob described the distinction between water ownership, water right certificates that Farmers Irrigation District holds for its patrons, and individual property owner's water rights that are tied to a "place of use" from OWRD's perspective. Board members asked a variety of follow-up questions.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Andy Green asked about the meaning and significance of the term "junior" water rights that are mentioned on the website regarding the drought plan. It was explained that when water delivery is curtailed due to shortage, junior water right holders get curtailed before senior water right holders based on the date of their water right.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The Water Rights section of the March 18 meeting minutes was amended at the April 15 meeting, with further amendments at the May 20 meeting. The latest revision was presented. Erick von Lubken moved to approve this revision. Don Chandler seconded the motion. Pete Siragusa, Bernard Yoo, Erick von Lubken, Dani Annala, and Don Chandler voted in favor. The motion passed.

June 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Dani Annala moved to approve the June minutes as presented. Erick von Lubken seconded the motion. Pete Siragusa, Bernard Yoo, Erick von Lubken, Dani Annala, and Don Chandler voted in favor. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE:

The O&M bills for the month of July were presented and discussed. It was moved by Erick von Lubken and seconded by Dani Annala to approve the bills in the amount of \$153,090.87. Pete Siragusa, Bernard Yoo, Erick von Lubken, Dani Annala, and Don Chandler voted in favor. The motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Bernie Yoo previously presented a suggestion for improving the meeting minute amendment process, to avoid the confusion that followed the March 18 Water Rights section amendments (June 9, "Suggestions to Improve Meeting Minutes Amendment Process"). The suggested practice was generally accepted by Board and Staff, without a formal motion or vote.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION:

Financial Status Report

Accounts Receivable Report – Alexis reported that the District has received \$2,324,555 to date, representing 96% of the assessments charged, versus 94% last year at this time. As of July 9th, the balance, including reserves, was \$1,819,485.

Hydropower Production – June production was projected at 1,100,000 kWh. Actual production was 1,106,634 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue was projected to be \$53,768. Actual revenue was \$54,095. Year-to-date production is trending at 101%. This is anticipated to drop in the coming months due to the hydroelectric plants being offline (see further discussion below).

Irrigation/Hydro Status Report

Megan Saunders discussed current water supplies compared to the 2015 drought, as well as current reservoir usage. Upper and Middle section patrons are on 75% of their water right to maintain reservoir supplies through the season. Patron response has gone well so far, and on-call staff are working hard to run lean. Megan is hopeful that further restrictions won't be needed, but it is still too early in the season to know with any confidence. Megan is continuing discussions with Basin partners about a potential county-wide drought declaration.

System Maintenance –

- A power surge at the pump station damaged a variable frequency drive (VFD), and a motor. The VFD has been repaired and the motor is being rebuilt.
- Hood River County is planning some salvage logging on Lowline later this summer. Alexis has been coordinating with Doug Thiesies about location of the Lowline and best practices for logging operations close to the pipeline.
- Hood River County is planning to build an equestrian staging area near Binns Hill Road. Alexis has been working with Doug and the Parkertown patrons about the location of the pipeline in that area.

Hydro Status – The hydroelectric plants are offline due to low flows. It is expected that the hydroelectric plants will remain offline until October 1.

Projects

Cabin Creek Fish Screen update - The District will be able to re-purpose some screen material, which will keep project costs down. Alexis is anticipating project completion by end of July.

Gate Creek Fish Screen update - The Division of State Lands will require a functional wetlands assessment, which will be completed by Schott and Associates. Alexis and Megan have a pre-application meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers scheduled, as they prepare the Joint Permit Application.

Farmers Canal Piping Project update - Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding is being authorized. Two additional approvals are needed from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The other PL-566 funds for the piping project have been waitlisted to FY 26-27.

Water Rights

Ordway Rd partition - The Board reviewed and tabled a decision on the proposed development in 2024. The developer is moving forward, and Megan needs a decision on whether the Board would like to serve the open space after subdivision. It was clarified that the application process is through the County, with no separate application for irrigation water rights. The open space would be 0.25 acres (1.4 gallons per minute) after development. The property is on a shared private system, with FID's point of delivery on 30th. Board members determined the property would be served by City water. Erick von Lubken moved to not serve the property/open space after subdivision, and Don Chandler seconded. Pete Siragusa, Erick von Lubken, Dani Annala, and Don Chandler voted in favor. Bernard Yoo abstained. The motion passed.

Miscellaneous

OWRD Dam Inspection – An OWRD Dam Engineer recently inspected the Upper and Lower Green Point dams. The dams passed the inspection, with next inspection to occur in three years. There will be some vegetation removal needed on the Lower Dam, an old toe drain will need to be located on the Lower Dam, and the face of the Upper Dam will need some reseeding.

General Manager performance and compensation review process/procedure - The discussion of General Manager performance and compensation review process/procedure was deferred, with Chair Pete Siragusa indicating Alexis Vaivoda would follow up on the topic.

LEGAL: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm.

Signed: _____ Pete Siragusa

Attest: _____ Bernard Yoo