

**South County Health District
Regular Meeting December 27, 2025
340 Hwy 203, Union OR**

Call to order 11:03 AM by President Susie Wirkkala

Roll Call: Present –Debbie Clark, Beth Callison, Chris Power, Susie Wirkkala, Gerry Zastrow and District Manager Adina Ferguson. Not Present: Tyler Griffiths

Approval of November 29, 2025 Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. Motion made by Chris Power and seconded by Beth Callison to approve the minutes with corrections. Board passed unanimously with Clark, Callison, Power, Wirkkala, and Zastrow voting yes.

November Financials: District Manager noted that she did not get the financial report done with the office shut down this week but will get a copy to all board members.

Conflict of Interest Statements: Per the new SCHD Ethics guidelines the following statements were made:

Debbie Clark: I have a conflict of interest in that our District Manager, Adina Ferguson is my daughter. I also have a potential conflict of interest in holding the purchase contract for our new clinic property.

Adina Ferguson: I have a conflict of interest because board member Debbie Clark is my mother.

Business Oregon Loan: Adina noted that she had not received any communication from Business Oregon, but they do seem to take longer than expected in their processing.

Grant and Fundraising Planning: Debbie shared that she was able to submit the survey for the Oregon Transformation Grant on schedule. The submission for SCHD focused on medical-dental integration and with building an innovative dental health preventative program using technology. She submitted a second survey for the dental internship program. She will be working on the Oregon Rural Health grant that is due January 23rd. This grant is program related and she will be focusing on funding for SCHD to research and develop a tele-dentistry program. This is a key goal for federal and state sponsored grants in 2026. The virtual technology has been proven to expand access for patients in rural areas where the number of professionals is limited. The program development will focus on reimbursement for telehealth services, impact on staff and likely compliance from patients. Dr. Donick's input and approval will be addressed before anything is submitted.

Gerry Zastrow asked about the timing to apply for capital purchase grants. Debbie noted that Cherie Kausler is working on several sources she is familiar with in her work for the Community Center. Right now the first quarter grants are largely focused on programs and are not allowing capital purchases unless they directly impact a program that is new. SCHD already has support from Roundhouse but confirmation of the loan will be needed before we will be successful with further commitments from other grantors. Debbie noted that once the loan is secured the board needs to contact the local newspaper to roll out an information campaign to seek support and donations for the project. The board discussed a multi-pronged campaign with Dr. Donick meeting with local influencers, groups and organizations to discuss the future of the dental clinic. It was agreed that we will need a very active

approach with social media, ads and interactions with other organizations to raise awareness of our mission and the benefit to the communities of Union, Cove and North Powder.

SCHD Tax Base study: Beth Callison noted that December has not been a good month for getting people together to work on volunteer projects, but her group is planning to get things done in January to ensure that SCHD can have permanent operational funding.

Board Roundtable: Gerry noted that the staff lunch went very well. She, Chris, Debbie and Susie brought food and made a burger lunch for Dr. Donick and his staff at the Community Center. She also noted that SCHD had sponsored the December community meal in Union and wanted to verify that such a donation was in line with our non-profit purpose. Debbie explained that food insecurity is an important health issue, so part of our mission as a health district. Gerry asked why SCHD is not donating to Cove meals or to North Powder. It was noted that Catherine Creek Community Center contacted our District Manager and asked for us to donate \$100 for the December meal in 2024 and 2025 and it was brought to the board for approval. SCHD has been working with Cove and North Powder but neither has asked for financial help. Such a request would be given the same consideration. Gerry will talk to the Cove group and Susie will check with North Powder as she is no longer in charge of the meal program.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35PM

Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 31 at 11:00AM

Approval of Document by Board of Directors

Approved _____ 2025

Vote: Debbie Clark _____
Susie Wirkkala _____
Gerry Zamzow _____
Vacant _____
Tyler Griffiths _____
Beth Callison _____
Chris Powers _____

Signed: _____ President