

South County Health District
Regular Meeting February 28, 2026
340 Hwy 203, Union OR

Call to order 11:11 AM by Chris Power

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

Approval of January 27, 2026 Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. Motion made by Chris Power to accept the minutes with noted date correction and seconded by Beth Callison. Board passed unanimously with Clark, Callison, Power, and Zastrow voting yes.

January Financials: Board reviewed the December financials and had no questions.

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.

Meeting with CUP and GRH: Beth shared that she had sent a list of subjects to Nod Palmer at CUP that SCHD needed to have addressed, including the written acknowledgement that the dental chairs and compressor were the property of SCHD, a revision in the lease of our actual rental space and a plan to revise the process of utility bill payment to include the addition of the pharmacy machine that will be operated by Red Cross Drug. GRH and SCHD request that utilities be managed by CUP and reimbursed per an agreed upon percentage based on usage by Grande Ronde Hospital, SCHD and Red Cross Drug.

Tax Base: District Manager, Adina Ferguson, contacted the Tax Assessor about the proposed tax base for the district. He sent her some information on how to get the process started. Any tax base we get passed by the voters will result in an increase for homeowners and is not absorbed by compression as suggested earlier. Due to the large area that will be impacted by our tax base (Union, Cove and North Powder school districts), SCHD can start with a very modest tax base. The board discussed and suggested a .25 per mil base. This would cover our Business Oregon loan repayment on the new clinic and still allow for operating money. Beth will continue to work with the Elgin Health District to get the project started.

Business Oregon Loan: Adina shared that she spoke to our contact from Business Oregon. They are still processing the request and expect it to be approved.

Grant and Fundraising Planning: Debbie shared that SCHD has been awarded one of 8 Incubator Grants by Oregon Rural Health for our Oral Health Prevention project. She noted that this will involve working with the other recipients in a cohort group to share information and provide support. This puts SCHD in the forefront of a large government and health industry-wide effort to reform healthcare to make it more affordable and to change the focus away from managing chronic conditions to preventing them. SCHD will be the only dental clinic using tele-dentistry to expand access to care and patient education. The grant funds will arrive by April 15th and the project will start right away

Communications: Debbie shared a letter from New Directions in Pendleton. It is not signed. It was shared with the board to comply with state law.

Legal Purpose of SCHD: Debbie Clark provided the board with an outline of the authority given to a health district per Oregon law. SCHD was formed by a vote of the residents in Cove, Union and North Powder under ORS 440.230. It

authorizes SCHED to provide medical services, be a resource for medical providers and to promote the physical and mental health and well-being of district residents. It can be funded by a tax base approved by voters or by the fees for service it charges. It may solicit grants or raise funds for specified purposes.

The process to become a health district is very different than that to obtain a 501C3 tax exempt status. A 501C3 does not require approval of the residents they serve to exist. A health district is accountable to the public and to state law. They are subject to oversight, such as annual audits. A 501C3 files a form with the IRS annually but is not audited. A district has a board of directors that are elected by the residents they serve. A 501C3 appoints individuals to their board. A district is subject to public meeting laws, records retention and other statutes that regulate their activities – a 501C3 is not.

The board noted that it is important to educate the public about our status as we start the process of seeking a tax base and building the new clinic that could potentially house medical providers other than our dental staff.

Meeting date and time change: Beth noted that we will be moving into spring by the next meeting and would like to go back to our last Tuesday of the month at 4:00PM. The board has struggled over the winter to get a quorum with the Saturday meetings. It will be light until well after 5PM by the end of March. Everyone agreed. Gerry made a motion to move back to the last Tuesday of the month for our regular meetings, Beth seconded the motion. Board voted and passed unanimously with Beth, Gerry, Debbie and Chris voting yes.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31 at 4:00PM

Approval of Document by Board of Directors

Approved _____ 2025 Signed: _____ President

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