

**FAIRVIEW WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

Regular Session | July 30, 2026 | 5:00 PM
Tillamook Swiss Hall, 4605 Brookfield Avenue, Tillamook, Oregon

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair John Casteel called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

- a) Board Members Present: John Casteel, Gary Bond, James Huffman
- b) Board Members Absent: Boyd Rulifson
- c) Staff Present: General Manager Michael Ostensen, Office Manager Melissa Rondeau
- d) Visitors Present: Mark Sybouts, Doug Barker, Jacob Lafferty, Larry Anderson, Don Aufdermauer, Rick Steel, Matt Mumford, Ryan Kilgore, Michael Tohl, Jerry Dove, Richard Obrist, Dan Leuthold, Michael Lummus, Denis Schmitz, Luke Oldenkamp

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Huffman expressed concern that the June 25, 2026 regular Board meeting minutes did not include the complete statement read aloud by Josh Henderson during Public Comment. Huffman requested that the statement be included verbatim.

During the discussion, Commissioner Huffman requested that legal counsel be present during the planned executive session and that the executive session be postponed to a future meeting if Counsel is unable to attend.

Motion by Gary Bond and seconded by John Casteel to approve the June 25, 2026 regular Board meeting minutes as presented.

Vote: Aye: Casteel, Bond

Nay: Huffman

Abstain: None

Absent: Rulifson

Motion failed 2-1

4. BOARD VACANCY - BOARD POSITION 2

The Board considered applications to fill the vacant Board position. Applicants Doug Barker and Mark Sybouts were present at the beginning of the discussion. Adam Nielsen arrived at approximately 5:20 PM.

Chair Casteel reviewed the responsibilities of a Board member, applicable laws, and available training opportunities. Richard Obrist asked about reimbursement for attendance at out-of-town training, and Casteel explained the reimbursement process.

Commissioner Huffman stated that the District had previously provided Board members with a \$50 monthly stipend, which the Board discontinued in 2023 over ethics concerns. Commissioner Huffman stated that Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) allows such stipends and expressed interest in exploring whether an exception might apply.

The applicants were invited to address the Board.

Mark Sybouts shared that he had lived in the community for many years, is a retired CPA, has a background in finance, has served on budget committees at the District and elsewhere, and previously worked as a school district business manager.

Doug Barker spoke about his family's experience running the former Wilson River Water District, that he serves on the board of the Tillamook County Creamery Association, and that he is a dairy farmer. Barker stated that agricultural customers represent a substantial portion of District water use and that he wanted agricultural interests represented on the Board.

Adam Nielsen stated that he is a licensed professional engineer in Oregon with approximately ten years of experience in water resources and currently works for the City of Tillamook. Nielsen discussed his experience with grant funding and expressed his interest in helping the District find outside funding and plan for long-term future needs.

Members of the public also communicated with the applicants and had several comments. Jerry Dove stated that agricultural customers are among the District's largest water users and expressed support for agricultural representation on the Board. Richard Obrist mentioned that he had worked with Barker through the dairy industry and expressed concern about a possible conflict of interest due to Nielsen's employment with the City of Tillamook.

Additional discussion included District spending, the recent rate study, grant opportunities, infrastructure needs, proposed rate increases, and whether the applicants planned to continue serving beyond the remainder of the current term.

Motion by James Huffman to appoint Doug Barker to Board Position 2.

There was no second, and the motion died for lack thereof.

Motion by Gary Bond and seconded by John Casteel to appoint Mark Sybouts to Board Position 2.

Vote: Aye: Casteel, Bond

Nay: Huffman

Abstain: None

Absent: Rulifson

The Board treated the motion as approved, and Mark Sybouts subsequently participated in the meeting as a member of the Board. The appointment was later determined not to have been valid.

Commissioner Huffman stated that he was considering leaving the meeting.

Chair Casteel administered an oath of office to Mark Sybouts at approximately 5:45 PM.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (on Non-Agenda Items)

- a) Matt Mumford addressed the Board regarding the proposed water rate increase and expressed concern about the financial impact on District customers, particularly agricultural users.
- b) Jerry Dove thanked General Manager Ostensen for repairing a leak and raised concern about a pipe protruding from the ground near an area marked by traffic cones. Ostensen discussed the condition of the pipe and the need for repair.

Commissioner Huffman left the meeting at approximately 5:50 PM, resulting in the loss of a quorum. With no quorum present, the Board could conduct no further business, and the official minutes conclude at this point.

No formal adjournment occurred.