



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

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026**

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at the district office and via Zoom for the purpose of conducting its regular monthly business. Those in attendance were Directors Dani Annala, Bernard Yoo, Pete Siragusa and Erick von Lubken; District Manager Alexis Vaivoda; Watershed Project Manager Megan Saunders; and Office Manager Erika Guth. Director Don Chandler was absent.

Chairman Pete Siragusa called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Pete Siragusa welcomed one audience member in person and two via Zoom. The floor was open for comments; however, no business was presented.

MONTHLY BUSINESS: The minutes of the February 18, 2026 board meeting were presented and discussed. It was moved by Erick von Lubken and seconded by Bernard Yoo to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

The updated O&M bills for the month of March were presented and discussed. It was moved by Erick von Lubken and seconded by Dani Annala to approve the updated bills in the amount of \$489,788.62. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION:

- a. **A/R Report** – Alexis reported that the District has received \$1,574,693 to date, representing 65% of the 2026 assessments charged, which is consistent with the same time last year. The EOM balance, including reserves, as of March 9, 2026 was \$1,726,438.

- b. **Hydro Production** – February production was projected at 2,700,000 kWh. Actual production was 2,734,313 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue for February was projected at \$131,976. Actual revenue was \$133,093. Year-to-date production is trending at 104.4% of projections.

- c. **Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)** – The December 2025 REC payout was received at a rate of \$6.50 per REC. The 2026 contract remains at \$6.50 per REC, and 2027 will decrease slightly to \$6.25 per REC. Future REC pricing is forecasted to be lower and more volatile. Alexis is accounting for this decrease in future budgets.

d. **Accelerated Debt Repayment** – March accounts payable will pay off loan #R32242 five years ahead of schedule, resulting in an estimated savings of over \$120,000 in interest and fees.

IRRIGATION & HYDRO STATUS REPORT:

Hydro status: February was a steady month for the hydro plants, which functioned well and generated slightly above projections.

Reservoir & Irrigation Status: The crew continues preparing for irrigation season, and spray water delivery is underway. The Lower Kingsley reservoir is gradually being filled as precipitation allows, while the Upper Kingsley reservoir remains steady.

System Maintenance:

- a. The headgate and tunnel experienced rock and sediment accumulation in the last high flow event, which the crew is working to clear.
- b. Plant 2 is operating at reduced levels during clearing but is anticipated to reach full flows once that blockages have been addressed.
- c. Zach has been working to clean up and reinstall the small pump at the pump station.

Drought Plan: Based on current projections, drought conditions are likely for the 2026 irrigation season. A drought plan, similar to the 2015 plan, is being drafted. Megan requested Board feedback regarding plan options, inquiring about the effectiveness of the 2015 plan and best practices for communications and implementation.

PROJECTS:

Bilson Pump Variable Frequency Drive (VFD): The Bilson pump is moving forward with a solution to utilize a VFD. The project is scheduled to be completed prior to irrigation season.

Hays Drive Clean-Up: The crew plans to upsize two drains, install an additional drain, and pave approximately 60 feet of the driveway that the contractor used to access the overflow pipes in December.

City of Hood River Hydro Update: The City of Hood River’s hydro plant project is in the commissioning phase. Zach has periodically provided onsite assistance.

Cooling Water Pipe Repair: A small leak at Plant 3 was identified and repaired.

WATER RIGHTS: Megan updated the Board on the proposed Frankton Road subdivision. Erick von Lubken moved to supply water to the subdivision’s open space, including allowing a transfer to Tax Lot 603, under a single service account. Dani Annala seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Water service will not be provided to the residential lots under ORS 545.101.

MISCELLANEOUS:

2025 Audit: The 2025 audit was completed on March 10th and Accuity is expected to present their report at the April or May board meeting.

SDAO Board Training: The Oregon Government Ethics Committee requires public meeting law training for all board members. Alexis is exploring options, including hosting a virtual training following the April board meeting.

New Website: The newly updated FID website is now live.

LEGAL: Alexis presented the finalized Resolution for Recreational Immunity (Resolution 05-26). Dani Annala moved to adopt Resolution 05-26. Bernard Yoo seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Chairman Pete Siragusa signed resolution.

OTHER BUSINESS: Alexis informed the Board that a patron on Hays Drive offered property adjacent to the emergency overflow pipes for potential sale to the District.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Signed: _____ Pete Siragusa

Attest: _____ Bernard Yoo