

Jackson County Fire District 1

Minutes – Board of Directors Regular Session
Meeting of April 8, 2026 at 7:30am



CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Vice President, Randy Cort.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGEANCE

ROLL CALL:

Craig Berry, Jim Stearns, John Ellis, Randy Cort and John Foster, present.

Also in attendance: Mike Hammond, Jenna Kurzyniec, Jeni Darr and guests Tom Zimmer, Kenny Herinckx, Dale Porter, Gary, Grace Howell and a few more members of the community.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Public comment centered on the solar grant project and resilience. A guest with long experience in energy storage/off-grid solar emphasized solar reliability and preparedness for unplanned events; mentioned attempting to get Pacific Power to attend, but they declined (Portland-based staff wouldn't come). Solar contractor/installer input: inverter interference with communications is possible if improperly installed; proper grounding, shielding, and use of metal conduit should mitigate. Public emphasized Oregon's resilience priorities as the rationale for grant funding; brief discussion about where grant funding originates.

MINUTES:

-*Safety Committee Minutes of March 10, 2026* – Craig Berry made a motion to accept the minutes, John Foster 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

-*Regular BOD session of March 11, 2026* – John Ellis made a motion to accept the minutes, Craig Berry 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

-*BOD Workshop of March 26, 2026* – John Ellis made a motion to accept the minutes, John Fosternd. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCE:

Financial report reviewed. Chief Hammond highlighted increased overtime, shower repair and upcoming breathing air compressor overhaul roughly \$3,500.

John Foster made a motion to accept the finance report of March 11, 2026, John Ellis 2nd. Roll call vote: John Craig Berry-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, John Ellis- yes, Randy Cort-yes, John Foster-yes. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Solar Grant-** Board discussed status of Oregon Department of Energy solar grant documents; prior intent to host a workshop and to have PP&L/Pacific Power attend did not occur. Key clarification: approving the performance agreement allows the district to proceed to RFP/bidding; the board will decide later whether to award/accept a bid. Urgency noted: performance agreement needed within 30 days or grant funds could be reallocated; the district was 1 of 24 awards out of 76 applicants. Location/engineering concerns discussed (slope/bank and irrigation ditch); engineering review was stated as completed; roof install avoided due to leak history/possible roof damage. Craig Berry made a motion to approve the ODOE performance agreement (Agency Agreement 26-014, Round 4 CREP/Construction Resilience) and instruct the chief to create and post an RFP, John Ellis 2nd. Roll call vote: Craig Berry-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, John Ellis- yes, Randy Cort-yes, John Foster-yes. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting Times** – Group discussed a possible change in meeting times. Proposal raised to move meetings to afternoon/evening to improve working-public participation. Concerns raised about staff overtime and that changing a long-standing 7:30 AM meeting time might not increase attendance. John Ellis made a motion to reach out to the public via Facebook to create a poll for preferred meeting times. Roll call vote: Craig Berry-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, John Ellis- yes, Randy Cort-no, John Foster-no. Motion passed.
- **Board Meeting Conflict** – Chief Hammond to attend Oregon Fire Chiefs Association Conference; Board agrees to move the May 2026 regular board meeting to May 20, 2026 at 7:30a.m.
- **Vector Solutions**- Chief Hammond explains training platform costs roughly \$140 per employee; board members' accounts cost around \$500–\$600 annually. Recommendation accepted to drop board member accounts and maintain board training documentation via paper files.
- **CWRR Grant Update**- Chief Hammond met with Niki Murphy; grant nearing end of cycle. \$7,023 remaining for contractors (spraying) and supplies; intent to spend before June 30 to avoid carrying into next budget cycle. Project management fees largely went to Wards Creek Restoration Initiative; \$5,000 grant writing costs reimbursed. Board suggested sending Nikki Murphy a letter of appreciation for volunteer coordination, planting work, and defensible space outreach.
- **Capacity Grant Update**: Estimated amount of \$115,000 unspent due to staffing mix and turnover/paid leave. Email indicates unexpended funds must be returned by Jan 31, 2027 (after extension to December 31,2026); chief has asked about exceptions and believes repayment may still be avoided, but district is budgeting to repay if required.

CHIEF COMMENTS:

Chief Hammond presented his monthly report to the board. District Name change update. Vendor notifications underway; Oregon Secretary of State and Oregon State Fire Marshal updates completed. Financial changeovers (bank accounts, ambulance billing with Systems Design and Oregon Health Authority) pending IRS response; current bank accounts remain under Rogue River Rural name until IRS letter arrives. Seasonal firefighters; two potential candidates hired elsewhere/late-stage elsewhere; chief exploring other options; currently three students noted. Craig Berry made a motion to approve Chief comments, John Foster 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Monthly captain's reports were reviewed. Community risk reduction: smoke detectors being installed; units received via Oregon State Fire Marshal; Red Cross contact may provide additional detectors. John Ellis made a motion to approve the monthly reports as presented, Jim Stearns 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Several members of the public spoke in support of the project. Public feedback encouraged better public outreach (e.g., newsletter) and reducing unproductive back-and-forth during meetings.

ITEMS THAT CAME UP AFTER AGENDA POSTED: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

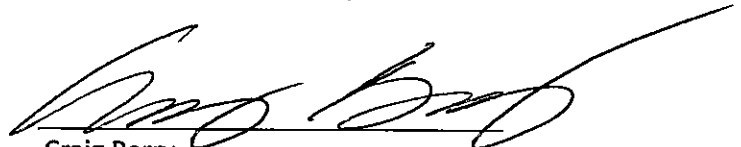
Regular session closed at 8:30 a.m. for Executive Session
Regular session reopened at 8:36 a.m.

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Board meeting times

ADJORNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 8:37 a.m. by Craig Berry, 2nd by John Ellis. Motion passed.



Jenna Kurzyniec
Clerk to the Board



Craig Berry
Secretary/Treasurer - Board of Directors