

Rogue River Rural Fire Protection District 1

Minutes – Board of Directors Regular Session
Meeting of November 12, 2025 at 7:30am



CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by President, John Ellis.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

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

Also in attendance: Mike Hammond, Jenna Kurzyniec, Jeni Darr, Mike Gavlik, Cameron Deupree, Kaci Carder, Mark Astry and guest Niki Murphy.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: John Foster expressed appreciation for a well-handled town hall meeting, especially regarding fiscal education and clarification against rumors of surplus funds.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION (CWRR) GRANT UPDATE: Guest Niki Murphy (Wards Creek Restoration Initiative) presented drone footage of completion of blackberry removal. reported successful completion of a 4.3-acre blackberry cut, with strong landowner and stakeholder participation. Brookside HOA presentation planned. OSFM grant includes two years of herbicide spray for maintenance; city support and additional grant cycles being pursued to expand and sustain the effort. Long-term plan includes addressing upper story fuels and increasing landowner/city participation; full project may require 5-7 years to cycle through the district. Not awarded CWDG Round 3 grant; plan to revise and resubmit for Round 4.

MINUTES:

-**Safety Committee Minutes of October 14, 2025** – Jim Stearns made a motion to accept the minutes, Randy Cort 2nd. All in favor, except Craig Berry stating no, due to bullying by Mike Hammond. Motion passed.

-**Regular BOD session of October 8, 2025** – Randy Cort made a motion to accept the minutes, John Foster 2nd. All in favor, except John Ellis abstained due to not being present. Motion passed.

-**Town Hall Meeting minutes of October 23, 2025** – Jim Stearns made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, John Ellis 2nd. All in favor, except Craig Berry abstained due to not being present. Motion passed.

-**Regular BOD session of September 10, 2025** – Randy Cort made a motion to accept, Jim Stearns 2nd. All in favor, except Craig Berry with no reason given. Motion passed.

FINANCE:

Financial report reviewed. Chief Hammond stated major expense for the month was hose and ladder testing, also informed board of GEMT funds received. District operated within budget and no unanticipated expenses. Discussion of revenue carry forward and upcoming tax revenue to be received in November. Randy Cort made a motion to accept the finance report of October 2025, John Foster 2nd. Roll call vote: John Foster-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, John Ellis- yes, Randy Cort-yes, Craig Berry-yes. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters of concern

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Organizational Review Workshop of 3/7/2024** – Board members reviewed task list from 2024. Items that are still in progress; Review of Volunteer program, staff retention, policy review and five-year plan (program based). Chief Hammond to bring progress report on master policy list and five-year plan to the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Local Option Levy Outcome** - Local levy option passed with 54.26% approval after significant outreach efforts, including mass mailings, town hall, and union involvement. Election costs estimated at ~\$10,500
- **Board Conduct** – Board conduct concerns addressed following letters from an anonymous citizen and the union; president emphasized professionalism, civil disagreement, and appropriate channels for personal disputes. Members voiced frustration over board dysfunction and called for improved decorum; board members agree to allow president Ellis to meet with union president and Chief Hammond regarding concerns.

- **Fire District Name-** Confusion exists around the district's official name: legally "Rogue River Rural Fire Protection District," with apparatus labeled "Jackson County Fire District 1." Staff and most board members support legalizing the name as "Jackson County Fire District 1" for broader representation; one member dissented in favor of maintaining Rogue River identity. Board voted to move forward with formal legal name change, to include a public hearing and resolution as per legal counsel. Consensus to incorporate "Rogue River" in branding where feasible to retain local identity. Jim Stearns made a motion to legally change districts name to Jackson County Fire District 1, John Foster 2nd. Roll call vote: John Foster-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, John Ellis- yes, Randy Cort-yes, Craig Berry-no. Motion passed.
- **Annual Banquet Save the Date – February 27th 2026**

CHIEF COMMENTS:

Chief Hammond presented his monthly report to the board. Awards banquet scheduled for February 27th in Grants Pass. Call volume increased 5.8% year-over-year, exceeding the typical 3% annual growth, administrative staff attended fire service office and risk management trainings, ongoing firefighter recruitment; concern over low paramedic applicant numbers, with testing scheduled for December. Blue Card incident management system explained as regional standard for multi-agency communication. new ambulance acquired and pending service, with modifications and decal updates; older ambulance remains in good shape.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

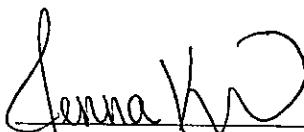
Monthly captain's reports were reviewed. Jim Stearns made a motion to approve the monthly reports as presented, Randy Cort 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ITEMS THAT CAME UP AFTER AGENDA POSTED: Jim Stearns asked for update on Alliance Meetings.

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Ending fund balance policy, organization review (master policy list and five-year plan). Fire District name changes hearing/resolution and equipment replacement fund.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 9:00 a.m. by Randy Cort, 2nd by Jim Stearns. Motion passed.



Jenna Kurzyniec
Clerk to the Board



Craig Berry
Secretary/Treasurer - Board of Directors