

June 2026 Patron Newsletter

Two Board Meetings in June:

3 June:

It was a Board Meeting open to the public because there was a quorum (3 out of 5) board members. This was called a Work Session, in actuality a training conducted by representative Mark Knudson from SDAO (Small District Association of Oregon) of which we are a member.

Board Members present: Div 1-Yves Teirlynckk; Div 2-Dave Hamilton; Div 3-Jack Billings; Div 4-Jeff Stuermer. The Div 5 board member, Martin Warbinton did not attend.

Patrons present: Susie Hart, Div 1.

Training Topic: **BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

4 main takeaways that seemed relevant because of our recent history with the previous board. Shown here from slides shown during the training.

1. Patrons should expect Board to constantly update ByLaws and Policies & Procedures to reflect current laws and Best Practices.



2. It is Patrons responsibility to hold the Board accountable. It is Boards responsibility to be accountable to the Patrons.

Thus it is **important that Patrons stay engaged** and that Board decisions and actions reflect what is important to Patrons.



3. Patrons, as owners of the District should expect to do a review of the Board annually. Here are just 2 examples from SDAO.

Board of Directors Responsibilities
Better and Best Practices
"To be completed by the Board of Directors"
Section 1 of 3
District Name: _____

Size counts indicate
whether applies to:

All	Very Small, Small, Medium & Large Districts
Small+	Small, Medium & Large Districts
Med+	Medium & Large Districts
Large	Large Districts Only

Board Practice/Responsibilities	Yes	No	N/A	Score	Points
1. Written board duties and responsibilities of officers.				All	2
2. Provide each board member with a copy of ORS 98 and the statute that requires the type of district you represent.				All	5
3. Distribute copy of Oregon Government Ethics Act to each board member.				All	5
4. Adopt policy to utilize SDAO pre-loss legal program unless qualified legal advice is not available. (For districts not covered by SDAO, adopt policy to utilize SDAO pre-loss legal program unless qualified legal advice is not available.)				All	6
5. Annual self-insurance of officers board member with acknowledgment of policy and training held on file.				All	3
6. Timeliness of board meeting minutes with the Oregon statute requires your type of district.				All	2
7. Procedure for election of board officers.				All	2
8. Follow ORS 98 or other authorizing statute for filling board vacancies.				All	3
9. Board has met the notice of resignation given with the Oregon Secretary of State Employer Division and annually reviews the submitted notice to ensure that information is current.				All	2
Board Adoption of Annual Budget Process					
10. Annual budget is made for board meeting.				All	5
11. Establish Budget Committee. (For districts not governed by Oregon Budget Law, hold at least one budget work session.)				All	5
12. Adopt or distribute adopted budget to district patrons. (For districts not governed by Oregon Budget Law, make the budget available to patrons.)				All	3
13. Approve annual budget.				All	3
14. Set meeting notice or expenditures to approved budget.				All	2
15. Annually identify maintenance issues or other potential hazards within the district. Develop a plan, based on monetary considerations, for addressing the issues. If prioritized list or progress is made and approved, if no funding is available for assessment being the subject with "no available funds" is acceptable.				All	3
Annually review board-approved personnel policies including:					
16. Staff administration				Small+	5
17. Job descriptions				Small+	4
18. Sexual harassment				Small+	5
19. Employee benefits				Small+	3
20. Violence in the workplace				Small+	5
21. Employee evaluation procedures				Small+	5
22. Grievance procedures				Small+	5
23. Drug use				Small+	5

Best Practices SDAO Board Practices Assessment

- Self-evaluation of board & district performance – facilitated by SDAO
- Focus on Key Performance Areas
 - Organizational Stewardship
 - Good Governance
 - Fiduciary Responsibility
 - Customer Service
 - Personnel Administration
 - Policies & Procedures
- SDAO consultant compiles results with feedback and recommendations to board

SDAO CONSULTING SERVICES

OFFICIAL BOARD PRACTICES ASSESSMENT

Board of Directors

Meeting Date: _____

Comments: (Using orange box color, highlight, bold text, etc. to indicate areas of concern or success)

KEY PERFORMANCE AREA	KPI SCORE			COMMENTS
	Good	Concern	Needs	
Board Ethics and Responsibilities				
Adherence to outside subject meeting				
Documentation of good governance meeting				
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Documentation of good governance meeting				
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Adherence to outside subject meeting				
Documentation of good governance meeting				

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It is our responsibility as Patron/Owners of TID to stay engaged and evaluate as well as encourage the Board. Only by doing so can we avoid the downward spiral such as happened with the last Board who maintained "We've always done it this way." And thus TID became less and less Patron centric, laws were not kept up with, and optimizing our financial situation was ignored among other things.

June 9 Regular Board Meeting

Most of what was covered is in the minutes that are posted on the TID.org website.

It was great to see the Board, with 4 out of 5 members being new, addressing real issues and looking deeply at the workings of TID. They see that much work needs to be done to bring TID Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, Employee Handbook etc up to be compliant with current law and best practices. This won't happen overnight but they are all very aware of the needs and are committed to making appropriate changes.

Please come to board meetings the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1030 to stay current, evaluate the board, encourage them and share your concerns.

Thank You,

Susie Hart, Patron
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