

5 September 2026

Susie Hart
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Board of Directors
Tumalo Irrigation District
64697 Cook Ave.
Bend, OR 97703

RE: request for Board review of District Manager's, August 2026 travel to Boise, Idaho

Dear members of the Board,

I am writing as a patron of Tumalo Irrigation District to raise questions about statements District Manager Chris Schull made to the Board at the August 11, 2026 Board meeting regarding his travel to Boise, Idaho. And to ask that the board formally look into the inconsistencies described below..

1. What Mr. Schull told the Board does not match the event he attended.

Mr. Schull told the Board he had traveled "to Boise for the NRCS", that he met with "the Bureau of Reclamation", and that this resulted in "Section 6 funding".

A review of the publicly available agenda for the attend he actually attended—the NWRA (National Water Resources Association) 2026 Western water seminar, held August 3—6, 2026 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise —shows no program content matching the description. This seminar was a policy conference hosted by a private Idaho membership association, not an NRCS or Bureau of Reclamation event.

I would ask the board to request that Mr. Schull reconcile his account with the actual seminar agenda.

2. Mr. Schull's conference registration and hotel costs raise questions that the district's own records do not answer.

I made a Public Records request and received only a receipt for Mr. Schull's hotel expense during this conference but no receipt or charge for the registration fee. I submitted a written inquiry to NWRA asking whether Mr. Schull was a registered attendee of this seminar and whether his registration fee.—-\$775 for members, \$1075 for non-members, was paid. I received a written response, confirming that Mr. Schull was registered and that his registration fee was paid. Yet there is no TID charge or receipt turned in for this registration fee. Since there is no evidence that this fee was paid by TID, I would ask the board to determine who did pay and why that party considered it important for Mr. Schull to represent them at this event.

3. If another party paid for Mr. Schull's registration, is there a possibility that Mr. Schull has committed an Oregon ethics violation by accepting a donation or gift that exceeds \$50?

I would ask the board to clarify and determine whether an ethics violation has occurred.

4. Mr. Schull told the board he attended with DBBC. This should be verified.

Mr. Schull also told the board: "myself and the DBBC went, we found some section 8 funding". I have not been able to find any indication that anyone from DBBC.—which represents eight central Oregon irrigation districts—sent a representative to the seminar or authorized Mr. Schull to represent them. I have not yet have the opportunity to confirm this directly with DBBC. I would ask the board to do so and to clarify the record on whether Mr. Schull's trip was made in any official capacity on DBBC's behalf, or whether any other person from DBBC attended. The question remaining: was Mr. Schulz trip to the seminar, an individual undertaking?

5. The NWRA (National Water Resources Association) membership consists primarily of state associations that include Idaho (Idaho Water Users Association) and Oregon OWRC (Oregon Water Resources Association). Mr. Schull holds three positions at the OWRC: 1) At large director of the Executive Committee Board of Directors. 2) Director, Region 4, and Chair of Federal Affairs Committee.

I ask the Board to investigate whether OWRC paid for Mr. Schull's registration fee for a seminar by an organization of which OWRC is a member. And whether Mr. Schull went to this seminar as a representative of OWRC. It would seem appropriate to ask Mr Schull to clarify, in writing, the source of his funding for the registration for the NWRA seminar in Boise that he attended.

6. This trip does not appear to have been authorized or disclosed to the board in advance.

I am not aware of this travel having been brought to the board for approval, including at the July 14, 2026 meeting proceeding the trip. If that is correct, I would ask the board to determine and disclose what specific benefit TID—as distinct from DBBC or OWRC—received from this trip, and under what authority it was undertaken.

7. The TID owned truck was driven to the Boise, Idaho seminar...

What liability does TID have for TID owned vehicles to be driven be driven out of the district, much less out of state, without prior Board approval and possibly not on TID business?

8. Was this an appropriate use of district time and resources?

Beyond the questions above, this trip represents a full week of Mr. Schull's compensated time plus use of a district vehicle with associated fuel and wear. Given the number of pressing operational and governance matters currently facing the district, I would ask the board to explain why this was considered the best use of the District Manager's time that week, and what concrete return TID received in exchange for that cost.

REQUESTED ACTION

I respectfully ask that the board place this matter on a public meeting agenda, direct Mr. Schull to respond, in writing, to the questions above without calling TID's legal counsel for advise as he is often apt to do as evidenced by the invoices from BLJ. Also please verify Mr. Schull's account with DBBC directly, and report the results of its review back to patrons.

I am glad to provide the accompanying documents referenced above:

- The August 11, 2026 meeting transcript
- The NWRA seminar agenda & Membership
- My email correspondence with NWRA
- OWRC list of staff, directors and committees
- Hotel bill
- Fuel bill

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Susie Hart