Urgent Patron News 10/9/2026

Dear Patrons of Division 5

This year we began to get big improvements at TID. What was needed to pull up the sinking ship that TID had become and to get it repaired, was to get new Board members with true business and leadership skills. Thus Yves Teirlynck and Jack Billings were elected to Board in Divisions 1 & 3 respectively and took their positions on the Board January 2026. But the 3 remaining old timers , as much as 25 years on the Board, still could be the quorum needed and thus outvote the 2 new members.

One of them, Ron Cochran from Division 4, who had frequently violated state law as well as TID Bylaws & Policies and Procedures as well as other egregious behavior and had 2 years left in his term was thus faced with a Recall by Patrons in his Division 4. As a result he resigned and got Director Ed Galazzo, Division 2, to resign along with him in April. Thus the board had to appoint replacements: Jeff Stuermer for division 4 and David Hampton for division 2.

That just left one of the "good old boys "on the board, Martin Warbington. Martin has actually been a better board member since the other four have been gone. But he still continues to support egregious behavior by the district manager.

And now **Ron Cochran has submitted his nominating petition to regain his directorship in division 4**. He will be running against Jeff Stuermer. If he wins by law he cannot be recalled again or at least six months. (b The reasons for the recall of Ron still stand. His legacy of complete lack of fiduciary responsibility resulting in a loss of $426,000 of interest over a four year period as well as unilaterally, without a board vote, repeatedly gave our district manager $10,000 bonuses or raises two years in a row, as well as allowing the district manager to spend five sightseeing days in Washington DC while patrons paid for hotels and meals. Additionally, he violated our bylaws by unilaterally, without a board vote, approving the district manager to buy a luxury truck which he uses 50% of the time or more for personal use. He has also supported the district manager's poor treatment of field crew that has resulted in constant turnover, which then results in poor patron service as the field crew are new and in training.

On the other hand, the new board members have been working hard to pull the sinking ship out of the water and repair it. They are catching errors rather than just approving what is shoved under their noses. They are requiring that the district manager be accountable. They are looking deeply at the financial situation and taking steps towards finally having an asset management plan for all of the districts assets. This is something that was never done, even though repeatedly requested by patrons in the 25+ years that Ron Cochran was a board member and for much of that time, the chairman of the board. The new Board is updating our shabby employee handbook and beginning to update our out of touch and outdated or completely absent policies. The Policy Manual was last updated in 2014. So Cochran did nothing for 12 years to keep it up to date.

**If you are not registered to vote specifically in TID elections, or are not sure if you are, please contact April at the TID office and get registered. You must be registered no later than October 18 in order to vote in the November 10 election.**

**This will be a mail in vote and the ballots will go out in the mail to you on October 20th. Either vote and put back in mail immediately so that they get to the office no later than 10 November (mail takes at least a week to be delivered). Or even better, take it directly to the TID office and give it to April only.**

## Please do not let our board revert to the past.
## PLEASE keep the positive changes coming. VOTE for JEFF STUERMER.

**Patrons are the owners of Tumalo irrigation district. It is our responsibility to hold the board accountable and to make sure that they hold the district manager accountable. We can only do this if we exercise our voting privileges, attend as many board meetings as possible and share our thoughts.**

Susie Hart 541-480-2224 I can show you documentation to support any claim I have made.