

Blue River Water Board Regular Meeting

05 August 2026 / 6:00 PM / O'Brien Memorial Library Conference Room

Board Members

Dave Hunter (taking minutes), James Parks, Chair, Kate Donaho, Treasurer

Absent: Shanon Goodpasture-Lehr, Secretary - pre-arranged, Sunny Willis

Public

Cliff Richardson, Joel Zeni, representing the Three Sisters Meadow Partners, Judy Herera, Sam Sweatland, Will Lighy

Call to Order

Chair James Parks called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

Public Comments

Will Lighy representing Brinks Land Improvement

- Will mentioned confusion posted on the Facebook Blue River Bulletin about recent water bills. Will explained that Brinks has been flushing pipes installed as Brinks works on the re-piping of water distribution infrastructure, but that ALL of that occurs on the water district side of customer meters and does not affect customer bills. James Parks pointed out that a letter explaining that the meters could not be read for June due to the ongoing construction, but some customers are confused by the larger, two month use bill for July anyway.
- Will stated that Gerry Betts, though whose property the water district currently accesses the district wells and pumps, wants the water district to pave her driveway. Will suggested that since Brinks would be installing new piping to the wells, they could probably include a new driveway through the district property so there would be no further impact to the Betts property. Further general discussion of fencing the water district well property with a dedicated gate on water district property would improve security at the wellhead.
- Per Will, Brinks has settled a dispute with Cris Lavoie regarding a commercial water meter on his property and will be connecting that meter shortly.
- Discussion of a water district customer who signed an access agreement with Brinks, but failed to get the agreement notarized. Dave Hunter agreed that once Brinks gives him the full agreement and what's required, Dave will talk with the customer and help get the agreement signed and notarized.

General discussion of the new fire hydrants. Joel Zeni stated that his understanding is that the hydrants are water district property and that the district is responsible for maintenance of the hydrants. Joel offered Fire District assistance in maintaining the hydrants and agreed to bring a draft Intergovernmental Agreement to the next regular water board meeting.

Amendments to the Agenda

- Dave Hunter proposed adding an item to discuss agreements as follows
 - Contract with Water District Supervisor
 - Contract with Rainbow Water District
 - Memorandum of Understanding with the Three Sisters Meadow Partners
- James Parks proposed adding a discussion about access the district wells property (currently through Gerry Betts property)
- Dave Hunter proposed adding Joel Zeni to present a proposal from the Three Sisters Meadow Partners for water Board consideration.

All three agenda items added by unanimous vote of board members present.

Joel Zeni with Three Sisters Meadow proposal (see attached proposal)

Discussion of where the proposed homes would be located, who was expected to purchase the proposed homes, if the water district had the capacity to serve the new homes.

Dave Hunter proposed a motion to: Support advancing a final plan for up to eight homes at Three Sisters Meadow, including an expandable wastewater strategy and coordinated water, electric and road improvements, with the completed site plan, budget and agreements returning to the 3SM Committee before construction approval.

Kate Donoho seconded the motion

Motion passed with a unanimous vote of board members present

Kate Donoho proposed a motion to: Approve the amended contract with the O'Brien Memorial Library in the amount of \$300, to rent the conference room for regular board meetings for the coming year.

James Parks seconded the motion

Motion passed with a unanimous vote of board members present

Kate Donoho proposed a motion that: The Treasurer be authorized to pay \$300 for the rental as specified in the contract with the O'Brien Memorial Library as soon as Kate receives a copy, signed by duly authorized officer of the library.

James Parks seconded the motion

Motion passed with a unanimous vote of board members present

The board and public present discussed pricing for bulk water sales to fill six 12,000 gallon tanks in the McKenzie Valley for fire protection.

Dave Hunter proposed a motion to: Set the price of bulk water sales to the fire fighting tank project at: initial set-up fee of \$1200 with water fee of \$10 per 1000 gallons. James Parks authorized to purchase a back-flow prevention valve to be used for bulk water sales at a cost not to exceed \$1000

James Parks seconded the motion

Motion passed with a unanimous vote of board members present

General discussion regarding information that recent electric bill has close to doubled because the pump is running longer during the latest phase of the distribution system rebuild. Will Lighy estimated that Brinks will be finished with this phase in about three weeks. The amount of pumping is then expected to be reduced.

Dave Hunter proposed a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kate Donoho seconded the motion

Motion passed with a unanimous vote of board members present

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM