

Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: March 19, 2026

Location: 125 NW Alsea Hwy.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue District Board of Directors was called to order by President MacCulloch at 4:25 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026. The meeting was delayed and not live-streamed due to a callout for an accident.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. MacCulloch led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Directors present were Greg Dunn, Jon MacCulloch, and Reda Eckerman; Judy Thimakis was excused and Rick Booth was delayed due to responding to the accident. A quorum was present.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mrs. Eckerman, to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of February 19, 2026 as presented; motion carried.

5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None.

6. REPORTS

Office Administrator Wendy Rush said that Captain Knudson's report would have to wait until next month, as he and Chief Mason had responded to the accident. She reported that we have picked up another volunteer. The budget schedule in last month's minutes was not correct as the committee isn't appointed until next month, and she thinks she has the vacancy filled. Chief Mason will be closing out the Ford Family Foundation Grant which funded the Academy, and closing out the Siletz Tribal Grant as soon as a few more items have been

purchased. Mr. MacCulloch commented that the paperwork has been submitted by Chief Mason to Rep. Hoyle's office for a Type 1 Urban Interface grant for the next funding round. Ms. Rush said they are finishing up the paperwork for the USDA Grant we got through Rep. Hoyle; Captain Knudson is working on laying out separate projects for the work to be done. The funding is administered by USDA; all invoices are submitted to them for payment.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. MacCulloch reported that they are on indefinite hold for any kind of discussions on consolidation/merger with Yachats. On the District side of Union negotiations they are trying to clear up some budget issues before completion, and there was discussion of possibly cutting some overtime costs. They are planning on another meeting with the Union next week and hope to have something to present in April.

8. FINANCE REPORT

Office Administrator Rush presented the financial report. We are still receiving previous years' taxes; most of the expenses were for payroll and structure. She is looking at an anticipated increase in Workers Comp insurance of 11% for firefighters and 18% for volunteers, and an increase in medical insurance of 10%. The final payment on the engine was made in February. Moved by Mrs. Eckerman, seconded by Mr. Dunn, to accept the financial report as presented and pay the bills; motion carried.

9. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. REPORTS – Staff Report

Maintenance Office Knudson had returned and reported that the generator at Five Rivers is dead. He presented a proposal for a solar power project at Five Rivers which would provide electrical power to handle the generator, security cameras, and internet. The cost is expected to be under \$5,000 and would come out of the Equipment Reserve so it wouldn't affect the general budget. Discussion. Moved by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mrs. Eckerman, to fund the Five Rivers solar power project at under \$5,000, to come from the Equipment Reserve; motion carried. Captain Knudson then presented the new system he has set up with an inhouse server which tracks the cost and service record for each rig, the SeaDoos, and some of the equipment. He has also included the building, and will be tracking all of the projects involved in the renovation work.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Chief Mason has become aware of a potential liability issue and requested direction from the Board. Discussion. Moved by Mrs. Eckerman, seconded by Mr. Dunn, that Chief Mason contact legal (SDAO) and get an opinion on the situation; motion carried.

11. CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Mason reported that if FEMA grants open up he will apply, but so far there has been nothing. He is working on the paperwork for Rep. Hoyle's grant and work may start later in the summer. We don't get the money; as projects are done the invoices are submitted to USDA and they will pay. The Ford Foundation grant is closed as the Academy is done; he is still waiting for the fan to come from Leary; we still need more PPE to close out the Siletz grant. The Wildland Staffing Grant opened up on March 11 at 8:00 a.m., his request was filed at 8:15 a.m.; we should get the \$35,000. He will be applying to ODF for funding for wildland gear. We did get the grant through Rep. Gomberg, but we probably won't see it until September. There is no surplus. The training calendar is up and running and he has turned it over to the crew to handle. He will be ramping up wildland training; fires are already going. The budget draft will be more detailed this year. After the budget is done, he would like to check on the status of the land that the Five Rivers station is on and see if it could be relinquished to the District, so any improvements would be ours

12. GOOD OF THE ORDER/ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Rush gave an update on the audit; she is still working to get the information they need to finish. Mr. MacCulloch asked if the next time yard work was done they could clean up the sign area. Mr. Booth arrived back from the accident at 5:45 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan K. Hansen, Recording Secretary

Approved:

Board Chair