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NEWS & RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW

WINTER 2022

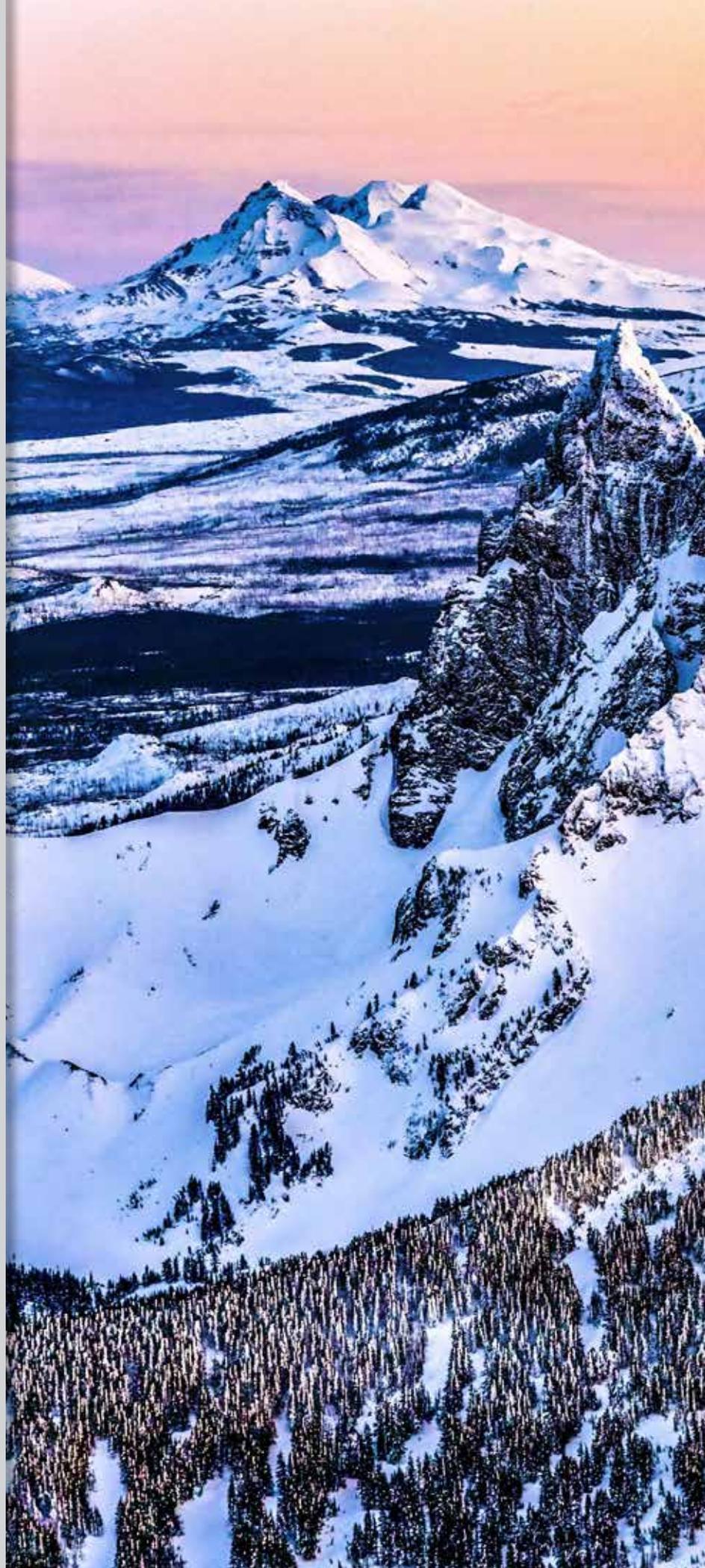
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— SDAO Board of Directors —

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Kathy Kleczek, Sunset Empire Transportation District

Scott Stanton, Umatilla County Fire District #1

Brent Stevenson, Santiam Water Control District

— Next Board of Directors Meetings —

Feb. 9 | 1 p.m. | The Graduate Eugene

Apr. 6-7 | Time & Location TBD

(Joint Work Session Meeting with Board of Trustees)

— Executive Director —

Frank Stratton

— Services —

Awards, Education and Training, Internship Grant, Legislative, Research and Technical Assistance, Scholarship and Grant Fund. and SDAO Advisory Services, LLC

— Contact —

Main Office

PO Box 12613 | Salem OR 97309-0613

Toll-Free: 800-285-5461

Phone: 503-371-8667

Email: sdao@sdao.com | Web: www.sdao.com

Claims Office

PO Box 23879 | Tigard OR 97281-3879

Toll-Free: 800-305-1736 | Phone: 503-670-7066

Registration Now Open!

2022 SDAO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A HYBRID EVENT EXPERIENCE

February 10-13, 2022 | The Graduate Eugene



By Frank Stratton, Executive Director

The 2022 SDAO Annual Conference is right around the corner, and we are looking forward to the event. It has been a difficult two years (almost) trying to navigate the pandemic and the ever-changing landscape of various mandates.

Although we are fully anticipating getting to be able to hold our conference both in person and virtually, we are monitoring the status of the current spread of the Omicron variant. Like everything we have experienced, we must be flexible and it is possible that we will need to make adjustments to the in-person portion of our conference. We will fully communicate any changes to the event to all members as soon as possible. If we are unable to hold the in-person portion of our meeting, the virtual event will still take place.

We have planned for this year's hybrid event to offer the opportunity to attend either in person or virtually, with all sessions recorded and made available to all attendees after the event. If you miss a session or want to rewatch a session, we've got you covered! All recordings will be available on the virtual platform and conference app.

The conference will take place in Eugene at the Graduate Hotel or virtually in the comfort of your own space. With 20 educational sessions and multiple opportunities for interacting with colleagues through business meetings, caucus

meetings, networking receptions and more, you will want to be sure to join us.

If you would like to join us in person, due to current state-mandated COVID-19 restrictions, masks, face coverings, or face shields will be required at the conference. If you are unwilling or unable to wear a mask, face covering, or face shield, we encourage you to participate as a virtual attendee.

We will be offering several opportunities to receive credit for the SDAO Academy, Board Leadership Academy, and Fire District Directors Academy. To get a preview of which sessions will offer credit, visit our website at www.sdao.com/annual-conference and download the conference brochure.

[Register now at cvent.me/M7d58o](https://cvent.me/M7d58o)

Again, we will be watching the latest COVID-19 developments very closely and will communicate any changes to our event.

If you have any questions, please contact our Member Services team at 800-285-5461 or memberservices@sdao.com. I hope to see you in Eugene!

2022 SDAO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Please visit <https://cvent.me/M7d58o> to register and for more information including session descriptions, speaker information, and more. Limited onsite spots are available so we encourage you to register soon.

Registration Rates for SDAO Members & SDIS Agents	
Onsite <i>(at The Graduate Eugene)</i>	Virtual <i>(on the CVENT AttendeeHub platform and app)*</i>
Pre-Conference Session (Full Day): \$85	Pre-Conference Session (Full Day): \$35
Pre-Conference Session (Half Day): \$50	Pre-Conference Session (Half Day): \$20
One Day Only Experience (Friday OR Saturday): \$140	Full Virtual Experience (Friday and Saturday): \$75
Full Onsite Experience (Includes Thursday evening to Sunday morning): \$230	

Registration costs will be an additional \$100 for non-member districts or non-SDIS agents.

**Disclaimer: Not all sessions may be available live. However, all sessions will be recorded and posted to the virtual platform and app at the conclusion of the conference.*

Hotel Information

The Graduate Eugene room blocks for our conference are currently full. We encourage attendees to continue to check back with the hotel or use the alternate room block at Even Hotels.

Even Hotels

2133 Centennial Plaza, Eugene, OR 97401

541-342-3836

Group Code: DAO

Booking link: <https://bit.ly/3JqAbUy>



Special Districts

Consulting Services Program

Happy New Year!

"Life does not come with instructions on how to live, but it does come with trees, sunsets, smiles and laughter, so enjoy your day." – Debbie Shapiro

As we move forward into another new year, it is time to start thinking about all the things we have all been so reluctantly putting off. Do you have a succession plan in place? Do you need to hire a new CEO but don't know where to start? Is your organization running as efficiently as possible? Do you have new board members? We provide services that can assist you with all of these matters. SDAO Consulting Services is continually working to add new services that benefit our members. Please visit [SDAO.com/consulting-services-program](https://sdao.com/consulting-services-program) and check out our new brochure at <https://bit.ly/32HaONm>.

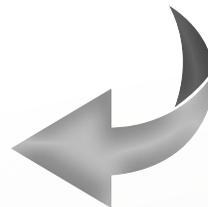
Enter to Win!

In the spirit of the giving season, email us at sdaoconsultingservices@sdao.com and let us know what you think of the new brochure. **Everyone who sends us an email with their feedback on the new brochure will be entered in a drawing to receive a \$25 Visa gift card. The drawing will take place on January 15, 2022.**

We hope to see you all at the 2022 SDAO Annual Conference in February! Make sure to set a reminder to join the consulting services team for a roundtable discussion with six of our experienced senior consultants to learn more about our services and answer any questions you may have.

Be sure to make us your first call for any consulting assistance your district may need. Member districts are eligible for up to eight hours of free consulting services annually by one of our skilled senior consultants. After this time is exhausted, members will have the option of continuing at a nominal hourly rate. We assist with management recruitments, organizational assessments, district manager transition planning, board trainings, Board Practices Assessments and much more. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

- Shanta Carter



Meet Jim Knight, Senior Consultant



How did you come to be a consultant for SDAO?

During my tenure as a port director, I had multiple opportunities to experience the depth of knowledge and experience of SDAO staff. I was impressed with how SDAO was so willing

to assist special district organizations. Over time, my desire to join SDAO and use my skills and experiences to assist other districts grew stronger. I had the opportunity to work with George Dunkel a few times over the past few years and was very impressed with his contributions to the organization. After a few months into my retirement, I reached out to George, and we discussed the possibility of me joining the consultant team. Today, I couldn't be happier with having opportunities to use my skills to help other districts with the challenges they face.

What excites you most about the work you do for SDAO?

I enjoy good challenges and because there is so much diversity in the work and services SDAO

member districts provide their communities, the variety of opportunities to provide help is a great privilege. As a senior consultant, I enjoy using my knowledge and skills to address the different needs of each district I encounter. When we, meaning the district and SDAO, are successful in meeting the needs of our members and helping them be better at what they do, the satisfaction of knowing you have helped is incredible.

Tell us about your life outside of your day job(s).

My wife and I live about 15 miles east of Astoria. Along with our 3 dogs, 5 chickens, 8 ducks and numerous fish, turtles, and indoor birds, we truly love the rural life. We enjoy our gardens and the abundance of wildlife that surrounds us. This natural bounty of nature provides me with great photographic opportunities which always soothes my soul.

For more information about the Consulting Services Program, please contact us at sdaoconsultingservices@sdao.com or call 800-305-1736.



DEQ Clean Diesel Act

HB 2007 (2019 Session)

By: Jeff Sanders, DMV Legislative Analyst

In 2019, the DEQ Clean Diesel Act (HB 2007) was passed. This bill affects districts with medium and/or heavy-duty diesel vehicles in Multnomah, Clackamas, or Washington County.

What the law does:

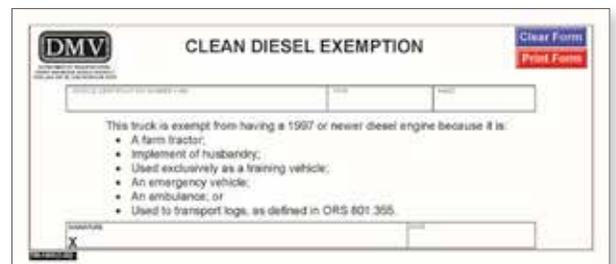
HB 2007 directs the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to set diesel emission standards for medium and heavy-duty trucks and set up a phased-in implementation of these standards. The EQC will set up an inspection and emission control label program to indicate which trucks are in compliance with federal emission standards.

The implementation of the bill will be completed in different phases. It only applies to certain vehicle types in Multnomah, Clackamas or Washington counties.

- On January 1, 2022, DMV will start allowing customers to provide an exemption from the bill requirements for medium-duty diesel vehicles by submitting the Clean Diesel Exemption, Form 1403 (see example to the right).
- On January 1, 2023, a medium-duty or heavy-duty truck powered by a 1996 or older diesel engine must provide an exemption form or proof of inspection from EQC.
- On January 1, 2025, DMV will not issue a certificate of title for a medium-duty truck powered by a model year 2009 or older diesel engine or a heavy-duty truck powered by a model year 2006 or older diesel engine.
- On January 1, 2029, DMV will not issue or renew registration for a medium-duty truck powered by a model year 2009 or older diesel engine, a heavy-

duty truck powered by a model year 2009 or older diesel engine owned by a public body or a heavy-duty truck powered by a model year 2006 or older diesel engine owned by a person other than a public body.

Example of Form 735-1403



In 2023, your truck will need an engine that was manufactured in 1997 or later unless it is exempt (see list in sample form above), equipped with approved diesel retrofit technology, or no longer registered in Multnomah, Clackamas or Washington County. If it is exempt, you can complete the exemption and submit it with this renewal.

To find out what the Department of Environmental Quality will accept as proof that the truck meets Clean Diesel requirements, visit the Retrofit Compliance website at <https://bit.ly/3mDSLJo>.

If you have questions or need more information regarding this program, visit the above referenced website in the form example above, email dieselretrofitcompliance@deq.state.or.us or call (503) 229-5066 in the Portland area or 877-476-0583 toll-free in Oregon.

SDAO Board Member Spotlight

Brent Stevenson

Santiam Water
Control District
Stayton, Oregon



SDAO Board of Directors **Position: Irrigation Representative**

June 11, 2020 - Present

What role do you serve at your special district and how long have you been with them?

I have served as general manager of SWCD for 11 years. It is the second Oregon special district I have managed.

How has SDAO helped you or your district?

SDAO is really there to serve. Managing smaller districts can be challenging and you can't be an expert at everything. SDAO has been there to fill the gap at every level. I really appreciate the example policies, human resource help, the thoughtful discussions that get you to think about risk reduction, all on top of just great insurance coverage.

Why did you seek to join the SDAO Board of Directors?

I have appreciated the services I have received from SDAO, and having the pleasure to serve as president of Oregon Water Resources Congress, a trade association of irrigation districts, I felt compelled to act as a conduit to further the partnership of both entities.

Tell us about your life outside of your day job(s).

My wife, Carolyn, and I enjoy gardening our acre of landscaped yard. We try and spend some free time boating, fishing, crabbing and the like. And some of our favorite time is spent with our 18-month-old grandson, Jared.

ENGAGING OUR STAKEHOLDERS

It's About Collaboration

By: Rob Mills & Adam Denlinger
Seal Rock Water District

Our Search Begins

The boardroom of the Seal Rock Water District (SRWD) was packed that December afternoon in 2014. Representatives from engineering and consulting firms, government agencies, and environmental groups were there to offer their expertise and voice concerns about the district's plan to develop a new primary water source. Following months of preliminary work, four potential sites had been identified and were now on the table for all to scrutinize. When the polite greetings and casual banter died down, the meeting got underway. But there was an edginess to it all.

For nearly fifty years, SRWD had relied solely on water purchased from nearby City of Toledo to serve its 5,500 customers. Water was delivered through an underground pipeline that wound seven miles through woods, hills, and marshes into the SRWD distribution system. The decades-old pipeline was notoriously susceptible to frequent slides and washouts and through the years had cost the district over \$1 million in repairs.

Earthquake and tsunami events posed an even greater threat. Residents of Seal Rock and surrounding communities had known for

years that their water supplies were particularly vulnerable to earthquakes associated with the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Regulatory agencies had warned of the risk, too. And most experts agreed that if a significant seismic event occurred it would likely wipe out the entire pipeline leaving residents stranded for weeks, even months, without safe, clean water.

Still, communities on the central coast balked at joining forces and working together on solutions. There were stories of failed attempts at partnerships, consortiums, or sustainable work agreements between districts and agencies that would serve the common good. The biggest obstacle was their unwillingness to reach out for help, to give up some of their jurisdictional control. Collaboration was in short supply.

This was the context in June 2014 when SRWD's Board of Commissioners directed their general manager to explore alternatives for a new water source for an eventual district-owned supply system. Board members had good reason to believe that with his collaborative, consensus-building management style, Adam Denlinger could bring together key stakeholders to determine a feasible water source site. Surely no small feat given the mix of passionate, special interests those stakeholders would represent but



whose buy-in would be vital – fish and wildlife preservation, regulatory permitting, water rights law, private property protection, engineering and financing mandates.

Stakeholders are Enlisted

Denlinger quickly engaged engineering and water rights experts – good team players he had worked with in the past – to help with an initial study of water source sites. They put on their boots and joined him in trekking the hills and slogging through area creek beds to check out potential sources he had spotted. Together, they came up with a short list of sites that seemed to be what they were looking for, but would need further study. Denlinger's instinctive collaborative approach was paying off and made a strong ally of Adam Sussman, a like-minded water resources consultant. Sussman viewed Denlinger as "a great client, smart, fun, thoughtful and he wanted to listen". As the project progressed, their close work relationship and similar leadership styles would earn them the label "Adam Squared".

With short list in hand, Denlinger engaged his Board of Commissioners in formalizing criteria for evaluating the four sites he and his consulting team had identified. SRWD's well-

informed board members made easy work of fine-tuning Denlinger's earlier draft and together they defined in meticulous detail seven criteria deemed essential in the final site selection. Good water quality and volume were at the top of their list along with requirements for minimal environmental impact, reasonable regulatory controls, and ease of construction.

Board members' early involvement in the process assured Denlinger that they were all in agreement about requirements for a "best" site and speaking with one voice about their eventual selection. Now he had a clear message to share with all stakeholders and the public about the district's resolve to develop a new water source. The message would be comprehensive and transparent for all to understand.

Our Message is Shared

"Adam Squared" identified thought leaders whom they expected would be particularly vocal about the site selection and therefore needed to be fully informed about the district's intentions. They made in-person visits to the local offices of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). "We tried to be as transparent as

possible by letting them know what we were thinking and asked for their input", said Sussman. Denlinger made sure they told a clear story about the vulnerability of the water supply from City of Toledo and always concluded by asking, "Who else should be included and offering input to this process?"

Both felt that these one-on-one conversations were some of the most productive meetings they had throughout the project because of the positive feedback they received and the trust and relationship building that resulted. Their contact at ODFW agreed. His explanation of what made working with Sussman and Denlinger easy – "their early and frequent contact with us, being well armed with good information, and their openness to our ideas and suggestions."

The Decision is Made

Then came a pivotal next step. During the February 2015 SRWD Board meeting, Denlinger presented the results of his consulting team's study of potential sites. The results included input gathered from his individual meetings with stakeholders and from those who packed the boardroom that day in December. Now it was decision time. Carefully considering all this information, board members methodically ranked the four sites by scoring each on how well it met their rigorous criteria. The clear winner and future water source site for the district's planned supply system? Beaver Creek, a scenic meandering stream in the heart of a protected wetlands revered by fishermen, kayakers, hikers, and nature lovers.

"Shocked" was Denlinger's reaction to the outcome. And for good reason. From the beginning, it seemed like a longshot that stakeholders would support selecting a site in this pristine area, a prized scenic and recreational treasure. After all, any talk of "development" in public areas along the central Oregon coast raises red flags for folks. And yet, the selection was based largely on input collected earlier from the stakeholders themselves – the in-person meetings and the crowd in the SRWD boardroom back in December. It was fitting testimony to the patient, diligent work done by Denlinger and Sussman reaching out to stakeholders with a consistent message, seeking and listening to their input, circling back and sharing with everyone what they were learning along the way.

Permitting Gets "Iffy"

In August 2015, SRWD submitted an application to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for municipal use of water from Beaver Creek. Denlinger had invested untold hours preparing for this step researching water rights in area wetlands and tributaries. "He understood you don't just show up at a regulatory agency to assert water rights without a whole lot of homework", said Sussman. Denlinger's preparation paid off. Within weeks, OWRD informed him that the district's request to divert water from Beaver Creek was allowable and published a preliminary public notice to that effect.

Then came a sequence of events that threatened the entire project. Soon after issuing their notice,



OWRD heard from Oregon WaterWatch (OWW), a non-profit watchdog group, that they had concerns about developing the Beaver Creek resource. That message was never relayed to Denlinger. It didn't become an issue until many months later when OWRD formally announced that it intended to approve SRWD's application, triggering a mandatory 45-day waiting period for public comment. The time passed uneventfully until, just nine days before the period expired, Denlinger was notified that OWW intended to file a formal protest.

Oregon WaterWatch is well known for its assertive efforts to protect water resources and, true to form, demanded that more restrictions be added to those already detailed in SRWD's permit application. By any measure, the demands were considered excessive. But still, a response was required before the public comment period expired. That left SRWD with just two options: (1) negotiate new conditions with OWW to satisfy their demands, or (2) wait for OWW's formal protest to drag through the state's opposition process and spend another year or more trying to resolve the matter.

At that point, according to consultant Sussman, Denlinger and his Board wisely opted for a timely, respectful response to OWW's demands. "I've seen good examples and bad examples in these kinds of projects", said Sussman. "They were willing to be patient, not like others I've seen whose attitude is, 'We just want to get our application approved and if it's not accepted, we'll see you in court'".

The meter was ticking with only three days left to respond. Denlinger and his consulting team hurried to craft a reasonable settlement with OWW. They added some self-imposed restrictions on SRWD's intended use of water from Beaver Creek and clarified other limitations outlined in the initial application. And they put to rest OWW's most pressing demand – that if allowed to divert water from Beaver Creek, the district must forego using water from the Siletz River, it's current source.

Two more days passed before word was received that the additional restrictions were acceptable to OWW, contingent on proof that they had been approved by the SRWD Board. Denlinger sent the Board's approval resolution with a signed settlement agreement to OWW and the following day was informed they were accepted. Finally, a big hurdle to selecting a water source was removed – OWW would not file a formal protest. SRWD could now move forward with developing a water intake on Beaver Creek and planning construction of the treatment and storage facilities that would eventually become the district's water supply system.

Looking back, the additional restrictions did not really change those already spelled out in SRWD's permit application. In Sussman's words, "It was more like tightening the bolts, then torquing them on the original self-imposed conditions." Then, in a statement that speaks volumes about collaboration, he added: "While other districts might have opted to tell OWW to take a hike, Denlinger and his Board were determined to work with them. That made the difference."





“Collaboration” Gets Tested . . . Again

Collaboration (literally, “co-labor” or “working with”) requires sensitivity. It calls for keen understanding of our stakeholders’ special interests – the agendas, issues, and needs they bring to the table. Understanding then opens a door to accommodating those interests. Denlinger and his team would be reminded of this as they turned now to planning the construction of facilities.

The selection of the Beaver Creek site meant that three property owners in the area were about to become stakeholders in the project. Hopefully, they would easily agree to the use of their properties for construction of small buildings, underground pipelines, and storage facilities needed for the system. At his first meeting with owners of one property, Denlinger showed a map to the husband and wife and carefully explained how the district’s plans would impact their property. They were blindsided, angered by the news, and abruptly walked out.

Recalling the incident months later the husband confirmed that, “At that time, I would have spent my last dime going after you folks.” A strong reaction perhaps, but a little context makes it more understandable. Here were husband-and-wife property owners who, by their account, “spent most of our life trying to find property

that would gain us more freedom, away from the press of humanity living in Los Angeles”. They found exactly what they were looking for when they bought their nearly one hundred acres in the Beaver Creek area, built their dream home and savored the quiet, forested sanctity of secluded living. Then SRWD came along to claim a site on their property for a water supply system.

But over the months a dialogue developed between Denlinger and the owner. They talked about alternative locations on his property for the district’s planned facilities. The owner pointed Denlinger and his team to one location he felt would be a better site – farther inland, more building area at a higher elevation, away from his home and out of range from lights and noise. Denlinger showed interest and walked the property with the owner to learn how this alternative would preserve his privacy as well as provide more natural protection for a district facility. Their talks gave the owner hope – “I’d much rather find a way to avoid a fight with the district”, he said.

He started attending the district’s Board meetings, at first with his attorney then later alone, to find out more about the planning and thinking behind the project. “Gradually I was beginning to trust them”, he recalled. He saw the difficulties the Board was facing in a project of this magnitude. “Being at your meetings, I began to realize you had your own hoops to jump through with this undertaking.” Sensitivity works both ways.

The turning point came during the fourth Board meeting the owner attended with his attorney. When invited to comment during the Board's discussion of the project, the attorney stood, introduced himself, and said simply: "My client is adamantly opposed to the use of his property for a building located where you have planned. But if the district agrees not to build the proposed water treatment plant on the bluff adjacent to his house, you have his permission." There was an awkward silence in the room as Board members sorted out what they just heard. But the message was clear to Denlinger. "All along we had invited the owner to step into the design process and now he was saying he was willing to work with us. That night was a green light for me."

The Project, and Our Learning, Continue

Now with construction well underway, SRWD customers and nearby communities are just months away from realizing the benefits of a new water supply system. Customers will be assured of a more protected supply of safe, clean water in the event of an earthquake or tsunami. Ratepayers will be spared the mounting costs of repairing the pipeline from City of Toledo following slides and washouts and the inconvenience of interrupted service. Other communities in the area will benefit from the emergency water supplies the new system will provide them. And the benefit to our stakeholder

whose property has been invaded by the project? He'll be connected to the new system and freed from having to coax water from an overworked well.

To be sure, there have been bumps in the road. Collaboration will not smooth over all the conflicting priorities and differences in perspective that inevitably go with a project of this kind. But overall, our stakeholders have responded to the well-recognized need for a reliable, long-term water supply for the central Oregon coast. They've been invited to share their expertise, they've been heard, and their input has been followed up with action. And we've all been reminded of the importance of setting aside preconceived notions while striving to truly understand and accommodate each other's interests. As one stakeholder put it, "It's bad practice in a collaborative effort to have a closed mind."

Rob Mills – President, SRWD Board of Commissioners

Adam Denlinger – General Manager, SRWD

Thanks to:

Adam Sussman – Consultant, GSI Water Solutions
Dr. David Young – Environmental Scientist (retired)
Derek Wilson – Biologist, ODFW





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By: Hasina E. Wittenberg, Government Relations Strategies for SDAO

November 2022 Statewide Ballot Measures

Two measures have been referred to the November ballot by the Oregon State Legislature. A handful of measures that may qualify for the November ballot via the initiative process have also been filed. Statutory petitions have until July 8, 2022 to submit 112,020 valid signatures to the Secretary of State's Office and constitutional petitions must submit 149,360 by the same date. At this point is unclear how difficult it will be to collect signatures in the COVID pandemic environment. Last election cycle, the pandemic significantly impacted petitioners' ability to collect signatures.

Referred by the Legislature and Will Appear on the Ballot

SJR 10 (2021) – Amends Constitution: Removes language allowing slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for crime – IP 402

This measure amends the constitution, which currently prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude but allows an exception that prohibition as a punishment of crime. SJR 10 removes language that allows slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime. Under measure, a court or probation or parole agency is allowed to order a person convicted of a crime to engage in education, counseling, treatment, community service, or other alternatives to incarceration, as part of sentencing for the crime. The ordered programs must be in line with programs that historically, or in the future, have been in place to provide for accountability, reformation, protection of society, or rehabilitation



SJR 12 (2021) – Amends Constitution: State must ensure affordable healthcare access, balanced against requirement to fund schools, other essential services —IP 401

Current state law outlines the general requirements for health insurance policies and provides health care for low income and disabled residents who meet eligibility requirements. SJR 12 amends the Oregon Constitution to establish health care as a fundamental right and obligates the state to provide Oregon residents “access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care”. Under that obligation, the state is required to balance the public interest in funding public schools and other essential public services. If the state is sued to enforce the amendment, the court may not order a remedy that interferes with the state’s requirement to balance healthcare funding against funding for public schools and other essential public services.

This resolution was also referred to as the HOPE amendment and was championed by former Rep. Mitch Greenlick (D-Portland) for several years before his passing in May of 2020.

Initiative Petitions that May Appear on the Ballot

Oregon People’s Rebate – Increases highest corporate minimum taxes; distributes revenue to eligible individuals; state replaces reduced federal benefits – IP 6

This measure would address the tax refund kicker by increasing the minimum tax on all corporations with Oregon sales exceeding \$25 million to 3% and eliminates the minimum tax cap. It then directs the Department of Revenue to distribute increased revenue equally to all individuals who have spent at least 200 days living in the state during the previous calendar year. The funding structure of IP 6 is similar to what was proposed in Ballot Measure 97 (2016), which was a 2.5% tax expected to raise \$3 billion annually. BM 97 failed after the most expensive

ballot initiate campaign in state history. If approved, the annual rebate would begin in 2024. *Initiative Petition 6 was approved to gather signatures in July 2021.*

Abuse, Neglect, and Assault Exemption Modification and Improvement Act – Criminalizes injuring/ killing animals, including killing for food, hunting, fishing; criminalizes most breeding practices – IP 13

Initiative petition 13 would criminalize many activities that kill or may injure animals including but not limited to: slaughtering livestock for food, hunting/fishing, scientific research and teaching, and pest control. It also criminalizes most animal breeding practices for the crime of “sexual assault of an animal”. There are exceptions for good veterinary practices and self-defense. The elimination of hunting/fishing licenses would remove funding used for wildlife conservation efforts from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. *This petition has been approved for circulation.*

Legislative Accountability – Punishing legislative walkouts – IP 14, IP 15, IP 26

In Oregon, two-thirds of a legislative chamber must be present to achieve quorum and conduct business. Over the past three legislative sessions, Republicans in the Oregon House and Senate have walked out in protest of several Democratic priority bills. A coalition formed by labor unions, conservation groups and progressive activists have launched a campaign backing several petitions this cycle. Their goal is to amend the state Constitution to impose fines and punishments upon those who walkout in hopes of making the practice less effective.

Initiative Petition 14 would add language to the Oregon Constitution identifying consequences for unexcused absences by legislators for floor sessions. Currently, absent legislators can be compelled to attend but it does not specify consequences for unexcused absences. This measure would specify “disorderly behavior” and identify a legislator’s failure to attend 10 or more floor sessions during a session without



permission or excuse as such. Additionally, a legislator who engages in “disorderly behavior” via unexcused absences would be disqualified from serving as a Senator or Representative for the term following the end of their current term. Initiative Petition 15 would withhold a legislator’s salary, reimbursement and per diem for every day they have an unexcused absence and would fine the lawmaker \$500 for each of those days. Under the measure, a legislator would be barred from using political contributions to pay for fines associated with an unexcused absence.

Initiative Petition 26, referred to as “Legislators Get to Work, Stay at Work,” applies similar fines and penalties as IP 14 and IP 15, and would additionally amend the Constitution to state that if two-thirds quorum fails for five cumulative days, then a simple majority constitutes a quorum for the remainder of session. The measure also asserts that if quorum cannot be reached by either legislative chamber, then that day would not count towards the Constitutionally mandated calendar day-limits of 160 days in odd years and 35 days in even years.

Republican lawmakers argue that quorum denial is a legitimate maneuver, particularly when the party is in the superminority and have limited control. Democrats have employed this tactic in the past as well, most notably around redistricting in 2001.

Reduction of Gun Violence Act – Requires permit to acquire firearms; police maintain permit/firearm database; criminally prohibits certain ammunition magazines – IP 17

In Oregon, you must be 18 and undergo a criminal background check before you can purchase a firearm. This measure proposes a statutory change that would require prospective gun purchasers to obtain a permit, good for five years and renewable, from local law enforcement before acquiring a firearm. The permitting process would require the person to pay a fee, pass a criminal background check, provide a photo ID and fingerprints as well as complete approved safety training. Law enforcement would be able to deny a permit if the person

was believed to be in danger to self or others. The measure would also prohibit sale and manufacturing of high-capacity (hold 10 rounds or more) magazines. There are exceptions for current owners, and on-duty use by law enforcement and military personnel. This petition has been approved for circulation.

Reduction of Harm from Weapons Act – Prohibits manufacturing/possessing/transferring many semiautomatic firearms; criminal penalties; limited exception if existing firearm registered – IP 18

Like IP 17, this initiative petition was also approved for circulation in mid-November. In addition to banning the manufacture and purchase of semiautomatic firearms, it would also prohibit the use and possession of these weapons including some handguns, rifles, and shotguns. Current owners would be required to register each owned firearm with the State Police within 180 days of the effective date. Registered firearms could be used on private property, for hunting, or in specified locations. Any illegal use would result in criminal penalties, starting with Class A Misdemeanor for the first offense, and potentially escalating for subsequent offenses.

This petition and IP 17 are closely related to three petitions filed by the same faith-based group during the 2020 election cycle in an attempt to substantially change gun ownership laws in the state. They also tried to get a measure on the ballot back in 2018 in response to the fatal shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida.

Customer Choice & Convenience Act of 2022 – Qualified grocery stores/wholesalers may obtain/sell distilled liquors; imposes taxes equaling state liquor markup – IP 35, IP 36, IP 37

Initiative Petitions 35, 36, and 37 are variations of the same proposal which would change the way liquor is sold in Oregon. IP 36 impacts sales and distribution of distilled liquor, low-proof spirit beverages and a licensee’s private label distilled liquor, as well as allows a retailer to import its own private label distilled liquor. IP 35 impacts



sales and distribution of distilled liquor and low-proof spirit beverages. IP 37 impacts sales and distribution of craft distilled liquor and low-proof spirit beverages. The Oregon Liquor Cannabis Commission currently regulates the sale of liquor through contracted stores. This is the third time in the past ten years that major grocers have sought the right to sell hard liquor, failing to make the ballot the last two attempts.

An Act to Elect Certain Offices by Ranked Choice Voting – IP 40

Ranked choice voting is a method in which voters rank the candidates according to their preferences, and the candidate who receives greater than 50% of first preference votes wins. If there is not a majority winner, the first preference votes for the failed candidate are eliminated which raises the second preference choices and the tally is recalculated. The process repeats until there a candidate wins by majority. IP 40 would establish ranked choice voting in campaigns with three or

more candidates for governor, state legislative seats and Congressional seats.

Sex Worker Rights Act – IP 42

This act sets to repeal prostitution laws and decriminalize sex work in the state. IP 42 would designate sex workers as employees under Oregon law, provide protection from discrimination and retaliation protection in the workplace for former and current sex workers, as well as block past or present employment as a sex worker from being used against them in child custody disputes. The petitioner contends it will reduce harm and human trafficking while more effectively using taxpayer dollars to make services more available to people in the sex trade. This measure comes on the heels of HB 3088 from the 2021 legislative session, which stalled in committee, but would have implemented full decriminalization by removing penalties for workers, their clients and third-party facilitators.

SDAO Academy

Certificate Recipients

Congratulations to our recent SDAO Academy certificate recipients!

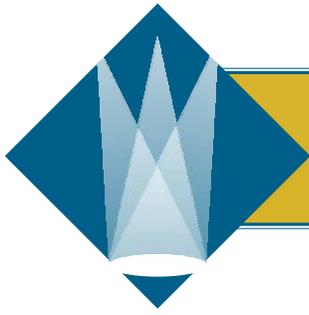
Jamie Porter, Rainbow Water District

Andy Crocker, Rockwood Water PUD

Craig Johnston, Basin Transit Service Transportation District

SDAO Academy offers current, in-depth training and education opportunities in three specialty areas including district management, human resources and personnel management, and risk management and operations. Knowledge and skills in these subjects are critical elements required for success as a leader at a special district. Participants develop their leadership and management skills and are better prepared to take on more responsibility at their district. To learn more, visit www.sdao.com/sdao-academy.





SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER

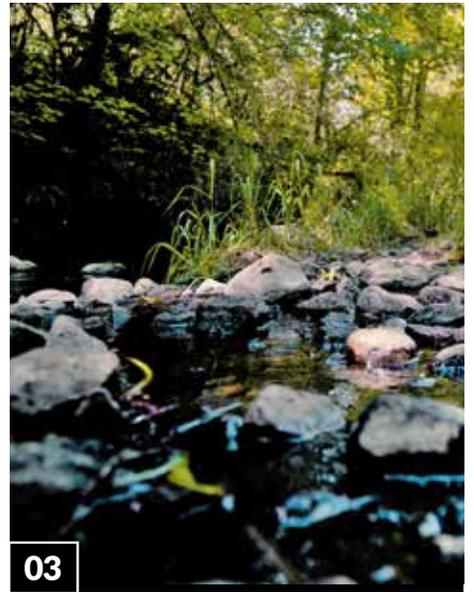
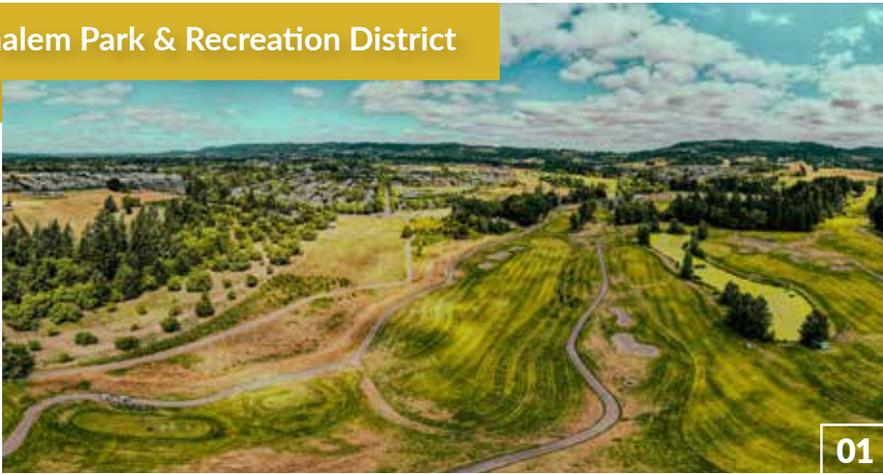
SPOTLIGHT

Chehalem Park & Recreation District

Chehalem Park & Recreation District is located in Yamhill County and encompasses the Newberg and Dundee areas. CPRD provides neighborhood, community, and districtwide parks which include sports complexes, disc golf courses, skateparks (one worldclass), an American BMX Association track, a dog park, and Chehalem Glenn Golf Course – an 18-hole public course. The district's facilities include Chehalem Aquatic & Fitness Center, Chehalem Armory & Youth Center, Chehalem Community Center, Bonnie Benedict Preschool, Chehalem Senior Center, and Chehalem Cultural Center.

- 
- 01** *Aerial view of Chehalem Glenn Golf Course, Newberg, OR.*
 - 02** *Starting line of Chehalem Park and Recreation District's Annual Newberg Camellia Festival Run/Walk 5k/10k.*
 - 03** *Photo of Chehalem Creek at Chehalem Park and Recreation District's Ewing Young Historical Park in Newberg, OR.*
 - 04** *Couple playing mini-golf on the grand opening day of Chehalem Glenn Golf Course's mini-golf course.*
 - 05** *Panorama view from the top of Chehalem Park and Recreation District's Schaad Park Trail, overlooking the Newberg valley.*
 - 06** *Photo from outside of Chehalem Park and Recreation District's administrative office during the 2020 wildfire season.*

Do you have any great photos of your Oregon special district? Has a new facility or project been completed or a recent event held that you would like to share? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at memberservices@sdao.com.



2022 SDAO TRAINING SCHEDULE

Human Resources / Legal

- May 4 | Pendleton – Red Lion Hotel
- May 10 | Cottage Grove – Cottage Grove Events Venue
- May 11 | Medford – Ashland Hills Hotel
- May 19 | Redmond – Eagle Crest Resort
- May 24 | Newport - Location TBD
- May 25 | Salem - Location TBD (Virtual Option)

Board of Directors & Management Staff

- Aug. 3 | Pendleton – Red Lion Hotel
- Aug. 6 | Cottage Grove – Cottage Grove Events Venue
- Aug. 17 | Medford – Ashland Hills Hotel
- Aug. 23 | Redmond – Eagle Crest Resort
- Aug. 30 | Newport – Best Western Agate Beach Inn
- Aug. 31 | Salem - Location TBD (Virtual Option)

Risk Management Sessions

Risk Management Hot Topics Conversation & Networking

- Feb. 23 | Seaside - Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District
- Apr. 20 | Hermiston - Umatilla County Fire District #1
- Jun. 21 | White City - Jackson County Fire District #3
- Oct. 12 | Coos Bay - Oregon International Port of Coos Bay

Risk Management Trainings (Virtual Option Available)

Location - SDAO Salem Office

Mar. 15, May 17, Jul. 13, Sept. 20, and Nov. 16.

*Dates, times and locations subject to change.
All changes will be communicated in advance to
registrants and members via email and our website.*



Special Districts Association of Oregon

NPPGov and Special Districts Association of Oregon has partnered to bring your district discounted pricing on office and facility supplies, ground maintenance, playground equipment and more.

NPPGov is a national cooperative purchasing organization offering government entities access to publicly solicited and awarded contracts with world class vendors. NPPGov's contracts streamline the procurement process saving time and money. As a member of Special Districts Association of Oregon, your district has access to these contracts.

Contracts include:



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SDAO Resource Library

Are you looking for templates, checklists, quick reference guides, toolkits, or past webinars? Check out the SDAO Resource Library! We have resources on:

- Public Records
- Winter Weather Preparedness
- Cyber Security
- Board Member Handbook
- Disaster Preparedness
- Human Resources
- And so much more!

Visit the SDAO Resource Library at <https://sdaoresourcelibrary.com>



PSU PREPARES THE NORTHWEST TO COMBAT CYBER THREATS

By: Summer Allen, December 2, 2021



Ransom attacks and other cybersecurity threats put companies, nonprofits and governments at risk of losing large amounts of money and data. Cyber attacks can also shut down or tamper with vital infrastructure from hospitals and public transportation to pipelines and electrical grids—putting livelihoods and even lives in danger.

Portland State has established a leadership position to help the Northwest combat these growing cybersecurity threats. In 2020, PSU was designated as Oregon's first and only National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Research by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security. This year, the NSA awarded PSU a new two-year, \$2 million grant to establish a consortium of public, private and academic partners that will address cybersecurity issues related to smart grid infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest, Hawaii and Colorado. And in January 2022, PSU will launch a new cyber resilience certification for professionals.

Portland State's new Professional Certificate in Building Cyber Resilience will help city and county managers, and leaders in local nonprofits, schools and tribes protect their organizations from cyber attacks and other cybersecurity threats.

"One of the things that we've learned is that a lot of organizations that are smaller—local governments, tribes, nonprofit organizations, even school districts—don't really have the capacity to run a full cybersecurity program," says Margaret

Banyan, senior fellow at PSU's Center for Public Service and a course coach for the certificate program. "At the same time, increasingly, those smaller organizations are subjects of ransom attacks."

These smaller organizations are considered the "soft underbelly of cybersecurity." They are frequently targeted for cyber attacks due to their lack of defenses and ties to larger organizations.

The goal of the 12-week certificate program is to train local organizations to build up their resilience to cyber attacks and to empower leaders to make decisions that will help defend their organization's most important data.

"It's not really a matter of if someone's going to be subjected to a cyber attack, it's really when," says Banyan. "Instead of trying to keep everything out, which is very difficult and really costly, let's understand what the most important data is that we have and ensure that when we're attacked, we have protection of that data and that we have the policies, the systems and the people in place to be resilient."

The course will be facilitated by Banyan, an expert on strategic planning and policy, and Ronald Buchanan, the Chief Information Security Officer for the St. Charles Health System in Bend. Classes will also feature chief information security officers from other local organizations as guest speakers.

The certificate does not require any computer science or other technical expertise. Participants will work through various components of risk assessment and will learn the legal and regulatory aspects of cybersecurity, including relevant federal and state policy.

Participants will also learn about the importance of internal communication for cyber resilience. "I know that organizations can be silos sometimes, and people are the best defense," says Banyan. "Having a really good clear strategy that department managers can use is a huge asset."

Banyan notes that it is essential for managers to make sure that all employees are on the same page when it comes to cybersecurity. "One person clicks on a PDF in an organization, and it's all over," she says. "That's what happened in one of our local counties, and they ended up paying \$500,000."

The program is also designed to facilitate collaboration between certificate cohort members so that participants can continue to share information and support long after their certificates are in hand. This sort of collaboration is vital, says Banyan, since cyber threats are continually evolving.

The certificate also ties into larger efforts in the state, led in part by PSU, to build cybersecurity collaborations between local governments, utilities and nonprofits. "That collaborative effort, that's going to be what makes the difference," Banyan says. "A lot of the foreign actors, they're collaborating, they're working together. The fact that we don't necessarily do that is a real weakness."

While this new certificate is designed for working professionals, PSU also has academic programs and research opportunities that help train students to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding field of cybersecurity.

"Last time I checked, there were 1.3 million available jobs in cybersecurity covering both the private and public sector," says Birol Yeşilada, director of PSU's Mark O. Hatfield School of Government. "And within two years, we're going to be close to 3 million jobs."

Right now, there are not enough people trained to take these jobs. PSU is trying to change that.

To help prepare students for technical jobs in cybersecurity, PSU's offers a Cybersecurity Graduate Certificate for master's students in computer science.

For undergraduate students, PSU's designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Research provides unique opportunities such as cybersecurity scholarships through the Department of Defense.

The NSA smart grid grant provides funding for internships for PSU graduate students who will work with experts in the private and public sectors to assess cybersecurity vulnerabilities and workforce shortages across the Northwest.

If the two-year grant is successful in its goals of assessing and presenting the regional needs for beefing up cybersecurity and forming a coalition of community, public, private and academic institutions to address these needs, the NSA will award PSU an additional \$1 million to implement the plan. This funding will provide additional opportunities for students to get state-of-the-art training in cybersecurity.

Yeşilada says there are also plans under way for additional academic programs and job training opportunities in cybersecurity at PSU.

For Yeşilada, PSU's community partnerships and location in the heart of Portland make it the ideal regional hub for cybersecurity job training—whether it be for traditional students, career changers or working professionals.

"I think this is an amazing opportunity," says Yeşilada. "PSU has an advantage over other universities and colleges around the country because we emphasize community engagement, more than anybody else I know."



Application Deadline:
5pm on Friday, April 15, 2022

SDAO INTERNSHIP GRANT PROGRAM



Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 SDAO Internship Grant Program! Essential and critical to Oregon's communities, special districts deliver much-needed services while also supporting their local workforce. In addition, many districts offer summer internships to college-level students in their area who are seeking to learn more about local government careers. SDAO recognizes and supports these efforts by providing matching grants through the SDAO Internship Grant Program.

Through this program, interns must be hired by the district as temporary employees to be in compliance with wage and hour laws relative to compensating student interns. A freshman through junior college-level student will need to be hired to qualify for funding of this grant. The maximum grant per district is \$3,000; the funding must be matched by the district by 50%. For example, you may be eligible

“

“We are now better informed of the resources available with the diesel program and how to potentially leverage these resources in the future. This internship set the foundation for further growth in our partnership and understanding of what our community has to offer.”

Jaxsen Sikorski

Klamath Irrigation District



“

The Port of Hood River is once again grateful to SDAO for this key funding support that has enabled a long-sought special project to be completed in one summer, while also providing professional educational opportunities to local students interested in public administration and engineering careers.”

Michael McElwee
Port of Hood River

to receive up to \$3,000 on your request for a project that will cost your district \$6,000 or more. You may be eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$2,100 on your request for a project that will cost your district \$4,200. SDAO may not fund all grant requests. This grant is not intended to fund routine maintenance needs or normal staffing requirements.

The SDAO Awards Committee will review each application to determine which projects are eligible to receive funding. Funds will be disbursed by July 1, 2022.

“

This grant and other SDAO grants are extremely helpful to the fire district in implementing projects that improve the District's best practices and loss control.”

Chief Bart Griffith
Harrisburg Fire & Rescue

To be considered, your completed Internship Grant Program application must be received by SDAO by 5pm on Friday, April 15, 2022. Submit your completed application by mail to SDAO, PO Box 12613, Salem, Oregon 97309; by e-mail to sdao@sdao.com; or by fax to 503-371-4781. Attach a separate sheet if necessary. Learn more and download the Internship Grant Program application at www.sdao.com/internship-grant-program.

SDAO Members *in the* news

Find additional news clippings online at www.sdao.com > Newsroom

LTD to offer safety lights to passengers with darkness and weather becoming a factor

KVAL | 10/22/2021

Lane Transit District is taking new steps to make people stay safe at bus stops as it's starting to get darker earlier here in western Oregon, and darkness and weather can often play a factor in drivers seeing people waiting on the side of the road. LTD is giving out free pedestrian lights, and they're paying for it through a grant from the state with \$5,000 going to fund them.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/3HhjjOw> to read more.

Worldwide honor for Clackamas heroism in preventing sewage spill

West Linn Tidings | 11/8/2021

Clackamas Water Environment Services received a worldwide honor on Oct. 19 for being able to maintain wastewater treatment services for nearly 200,000 customers despite constant power outages at its treatment facilities and pump stations during the challenging and fluid circumstances of the February ice storm. The award also recognized WES's heroic

efforts that prevented partially untreated sewage from being discharged into the Willamette River after the Tri-City Water Resource Recovery Facility lost power.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/342OMFK> to read more.

Port moves forward with new building

Newport News Times | 11/24/2021

A permanent administration building is one step closer to fruition for the Port of Newport following the monthly port commission meeting on Tuesday. With more than nine years in a temporary structure, port officials have been working with local architects Dustin Capri and Dietmar Goebel to create plans and documents for a new office building. A request for quotes yielded three submissions, all within budget, with Baldwin General Contracting, Inc. successfully submitting the winning proposal at \$2.03 million. Port General Manager Paula Miranda said the port can afford the project thanks to its stable financial footing and a low-interest loan from Business Oregon. In addition to the construction cost, port officials also approved a 10 percent contingency and an additional \$120,000 for equipment and furnishing needs for the building.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/3qAlNkm> to read more.

*Providing reasonable, stable rates, and
broad coverage to Oregon's public entities*

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Services

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- On-site Loss Control Consultations
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- Public Safety EAP
- Safety and Security Grant Program
- SDIS Insurance Programs

Next SDIS Board of Trustees Meetings

Feb. 9 | 3 p.m. | *The Graduate Eugene*

Apr. 7-8 | 9 a.m. | *Location TBD*

(Joint Work Session Meeting with SDAO Board of Directors)



Current Theft Trend

By: Jens Jensen, PC Claims Manager

The SDAO Claims Department has seen an increase in two particular items being frequently stolen – catalytic converters and any kind of mobile equipment used in construction.

Catalytic converters are frequently stolen out of two specific types of vehicles – the Toyota Prius and any vehicle with good ground clearance. The Toyota Prius is a sought after target due to the relative ease thieves have in removing them. According to police, and verified by security video footage, a skilled thief can remove the converter from a Prius in about three minutes. Vehicles with good ground clearance, such as trucks, vans, or buses, offer easy and quick access to the converter.

How can you protect your district from the cost and inconvenience of this kind of loss? We suggest doing anything to make access to the converter difficult such as parking vehicles with backs towards fences or having a local shop install a metal plate to deter the thieves. Remember, they don't want to work hard to steal these items. Increased use of security lights or cameras can also be effective.

Theft of mobile equipment used for construction is an emerging trend. Thieves are targeting work trailers, work trucks, and mobile equipment like generators and various hand tools, as well. How can you protect your district from this kind of loss?



We suggest brandishing your trailers and work equipment with the district logo and painting the trailer and equipment in the colors of your district; basically, anything you can do to make those items highly visible and distinct will possibly help. GPS trackers can also help on larger items like trailers. We do suggest, however, not trying to recover stolen items yourself, leave that to the police.

Supply of items to replace stolen items like trailers is also currently limited, so if your items are stolen, you might find it difficult to find a replacement for that item. Your best bet is to try to keep that item in the district's possession in the first place.

Hopefully, these tips will help keep your items allowing you to continue providing your valuable service to your communities. For any questions or assistance with claims, please contact us at 800-305-1736 or claims@sdao.com.

BACK TO



By: Dan Davenport, Risk Manager

We will likely never be back to the normal as we knew it, so we must accept that this may be our new normal. Over the last 21 months, we have been chasing our tails trying to keep up with the ever-changing landscape - a pandemic, wildfires, ice storms, vaccines mandates, etc. While all this was going on, the rest of our "regular work" was put on the back burner, including building inspections, safety committee meetings, and employee annual performance reviews to name just a few. We have heard from many members that they stopped their quarterly building inspections and due to a change in work schedules, they also discontinued safety committee meetings.

As the Delta variant wanes, we need to get back to the business that our community needs and rebuild relationships within the community. You will be hearing a familiar theme over the next year or so from the SDAO risk management team - going back to basics. We will be providing trainings on this topic at the upcoming SDAO conference and throughout the year at your request.

How do we get back to basics? **Remember, there are typically four components to all risk management programs:**

- 1. Risk Avoidance** - Can you eliminate an activity or service that is too risky?
- 2. Mitigation and Prevention** - What steps can be taken to reduce the likelihood of losses

occurring or lessening the impact of losses, should they occur?

- 3. Risk Transfer** - Can we transfer either the risk or financial consequences of losses to another party?
- 4. Risk Retention** - Accept the risk as it is - some risk is inherent in district operations.

Over the next year, we will be doing six hybrid trainings and four listening sessions around the state. Our hope is to hear what your needs are so we can continue to provide you with valuable risk management services and assist you with building upon these risk management program components.

We recommend you get back to the new normal at your district. This includes resuming regular inspections, monthly safety committee meetings, and completing those annual performance reviews. The SDAO Resource Library (www.sdaoresourcelibrary.com) has quick reference guides and checklists to assist with required inspections and webinar recordings on various risk management topics.

As always, if you need any assistance, please reach out to the risk management team at riskmanagement@sdao.com or 800-285-5461.

SDIS Awards Over **\$400,000** to Member Districts



SDIS has awarded just over \$400,000 in safety and security grant funding to special districts in our state to assist with safety-and-security-related projects.

Over the last ten years, SDIS has experienced an increased number of vandalism, burglary, and cyber-related claims happening due to "crimes of opportunity". These claims have contributed to significant loss to the insurance pool. As a result, mitigation of exposure to security threats was the focus of this year's grant program.

Each year, the SDIS Safety & Security Grant Program assists members with funding of safety and security projects that lead to reduced exposure in high-level claims categories. It is our goal to eliminate or lower risk to the SDIS insurance program by supporting members' proactive approaches to preventing loss.

Information about the 2022-23 grant program will be released in the summer of 2022. Please watch your email inboxes, mailboxes, or our website at www.sdao.com/safety-security-grant-program for more information.





Thank You for a Successful Renewal!

By: Chris Hill, Assistant Underwriting Manager

The Underwriting Department would like to extend a big 'THANK YOU!' to all members and your agents of record for once again working hard to make this a successful renewal! We know these are challenging times, and not everyone is an underwriter like us that enjoys thinking about insurance during the holiday season! However, it is your continued support and involvement in the renewal process that helps to make sure SDIS can continue to provide affordable rates and the best possible coverage. Having the most current and accurate information about what you're covering goes a long way toward the Trust gaining credibility with our reinsurers and allows us to better predict what we will pay out in claims. In turn, this saves the Trust money on reinsurance premiums and helps to keep rates stable.

As a reminder, please be sure to review your final renewal packets when they are delivered to you by your agent. You can also access these by logging into www.sdis.org. Then complete the following steps to find your invoice, declarations pages and schedules:

- *Click on 'Insurance'*
- *Click 'Forms'*
- *Click 'Documents'*
- *Find your final renewal packet under the 'Packets Tab'*

IMPORTANT: If your district is eligible, there will also be a Longevity Credit and Rate Lock Guarantee agreement included in your final renewal packet. If you haven't already signed and returned this agreement (it was also included in your preliminary renewal packet if you received one of those), please do so as soon as possible. SDIS is giving back \$3 million to eligible members as part of this program, but your district can only get the credit and rate lock for the 2023 renewal if we receive the signed agreement! For questions regarding eligibility, please review the Longevity Credit and Rate Lock Guarantee memo included in your update packet, which is also posted on the insurance portal.

Thank you again, and we hope you have a wonderful 2022!



Making the Most of Your Health Care Dollars: *Comparison Shopping*

By: The Partners Group

Every day consumers make important decisions that affect their family's health and health-related financial security. Making these choices can be stressful and overwhelming, especially if a family member is ill or considerable medical expenses are involved.

Often, it may seem like you don't have a choice when faced with the cost of medical procedures, but that is not always the case. Many consumers today are taking more responsibility for their health care, which includes seeking more information about the cost of health services and making informed decisions regarding their care.

This movement is called consumer driven health care. You may already participate in a consumer driven plan, if your employer offers a high-deductible health plan (HDHP) coupled with a health savings account (HSA).

Comparison Shopping

Consumer driven health care, or consumerism, revolves around the idea that consumers should be able to make informed choices about their medical care based on price and quality information. The eventual goal is for well-informed health care consumers to compare prices—choosing more wisely and ultimately lowering overall health care costs for everyone. However, the apples-to-apples comparison used for most products or services is mostly useless in the health care marketplace.

To date, lawmakers and health insurance companies have placed a great deal of emphasis

on developing consumer driven insurance products, but price transparency, an important aspect, has been mostly overlooked. Generally, the prices of health care services are not made public, making comparison shopping seem impossible. For realistic comparison shopping between hospitals, for example, you need to know in advance what the bottom line price would be for an all-inclusive bill, including hospital and physician fees. However, it's hard to hunt for bargains when the prices of various tests, treatments and procedures differ significantly depending on a variety of factors, such as the type of health insurance you have, whether you have surgery at a hospital or freestanding surgery center, and whether your surgeon or anesthesiologist participates in your health plan's network.

The goal of price transparency in health care is to help buyers have an easier time determining which providers have the lowest prices. Good information on provider quality is also important, so consumers aren't compelled to simply choose the "cheapest" alternative, but rather make choices that provide the best quality health care for the best value.

Unfortunately, true price transparency—where consumers have realistic information about provider cost and quality at their fingertips—is unlikely in the near future. However, the growth of consumerism in health care and the growing prevalence of HSAs as an integral part of employer-sponsored health benefits are likely to put pressure on hospitals, physicians and other

health care providers to make their prices more readily available.

Many health insurance companies are offering consumer driven health plans and taking steps to encourage plan members to shop around for medical services. Many have begun offering online tools and resources to compare and evaluate cost and quality for various health services. Find out if your health insurer offers any similar tools on their website.

Take Action Today

If you are enrolled with the SDIS plan, you can estimate treatment costs using the Regence Cost Estimator tool found at www.regence.com. With the Cost Estimator, you can select the best place of service for you, identify ways to save money, and discover questions to ask your doctor about your treatment plan.

If you are not enrolled in the SDIS plan and you want to be a health care bargain hunter, but don't know where to start, ask your health plan what tools it offers for comparing prices. Even if you are not in this type of plan or don't have resources available through your insurer, you can still make smarter choices about your health care. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and call around, and remember to be assertive with your questions and take good notes.

The following are some of the charges that you want to focus on when gathering information:

- **Provider charge** - This is the list price for the service that a hospital or health care provider would bill a patient who pays by himself or herself, without any discounts.
- **Contracted price** - This is the maximum amount that a provider or network can receive for an insured patient covered by a private health care plan or public program.
- **Maximum allowable payment** - This is the maximum amount that can be paid for out-of-network services from a private health care plan or public program.

Below are additional online resources you can use to find health care price and quality information.

HealthGrades Inc. - www.healthgrades.com

This website provides physician, hospital and nursing home ratings and quality data, plus cost information for a variety of medical procedures ranging from gastric bypass to cataract surgery.

New Choice Health - www.newchoicehealth.com

This site provides estimated costs for various procedures, organized by region or provider, reviews of health care facilities, plus the ability to request a procedure price quote from local providers.

URAC - www.urac.org

The "consumer" section of URAC's website provides a list of its accredited health care organizations.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) - www.ahrq.gov

The "consumers and patients" section of this website provides information on topics including choosing quality care, understanding medical conditions and comparing medical treatments.

HealthCare.gov - www.healthcare.gov/choose-a-plan/find-provider-information

Find local hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities, and compare on a variety of quality measures.





GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Hasina Wittenberg: 503-906-7228
Mark Landauer: 503-906-7238

UNDERWRITING

Toll-Free: 800-285-5461
Email: underwriting@sdao.com
Fax: 503-371-4781

REPORT AN SDIS WC CLAIM

Toll-Free: 800-305-1736
Email: wc@sdao.com
Fax: 503-620-6217

CONTACT SDAO

Administrators for SDIS
Toll-Free: 800-285-5461

MEMBER SERVICES

Toll-Free: 800-285-5461
Email: memberservices@sdao.com
Fax: 503-371-4781

RISK MANAGEMENT

Toll-Free: 800-285-5461
Email: riskmanagement@sdao.com
Fax: 503-371-4781

REPORT AN SDIS P/C CLAIM

Toll-Free: 800-305-1736
Email: claims@sdao.com
Fax: 503-620-9817

MEMBER CALENDAR

- Jan. 6 SDAO First Thursday Webinar
- Jan. 17 SDAO Offices Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Feb. 3 SDAO First Thursday Webinar
- Feb. 9 SDAO Board of Directors Meeting – Eugene
- Feb. 9 SDAO Board of Trustees Meeting – Eugene
- Feb. 10-13 2022 SDAO Annual Conference - Eugene
- Feb. 21 SDAO Offices Closed – Presidents' Day
- Feb. 23 Risk Management Hot Topics Conversation - Seaside
- Mar. 3 SDAO First Thursday Webinar
- Mar. 15 Risk Management Training – Salem/Virtual

