

The board of directors voted unanimously to direct staff to collaborate with stakeholders and the community to develop and evaluate alternative trail alignments to connect the southern portion of the Deschutes River Trail to the Deschutes National Forest. This will include hiring consultants for

facilitation and engineering expertise in addition to involvement from BPRD staff and other state and federal agencies.

Director Hovekamp made a motion to direct staff to collaborate with stakeholders and the community to develop and evaluate alternative trail alignments to connect the southern portion of the Deschutes River Trail to the Deschutes National Forest, Director Schoen seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0. (Hovekamp, Schneider, Schoen, Owens and Barram)

Stipend for board service

Offering a stipend for board service is a best practice that can help offset expenses that members incur while participating in meetings and fulfilling their board responsibilities, such as transportation, childcare, or lost wages and can better attract and retain board members of all backgrounds.

After consulting with Special Districts Association of Oregon and the Oregon Ethics Commission, it was determined that the board of directors can adopt a policy and vote to approve stipends for board service, set to begin on July 1, 2025, following the May election. Only newly elected board members will be eligible, and participation is optional. The budget impact is estimated to be \$12,000.

Director Schoen a motion to approve the board policy on stipends and reimbursements to take effect July 1, 2025 for newly elected board members. Director Owens seconded. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0. (Hovekamp, Schneider, Schoen, Owens and Barram)