

SUNRIVER SERVICE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF JOINT SSD/SROA ANNUAL MEETING

9:00 A.M. on Friday, May 15, 2026

Meeting In Person at Seator Hall Conference Room and Via Microsoft Teams

Call to Order: Chair Fister convened the joint meeting at 9:01 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

SROA Board/Staff Present: President Burke, Vice President Hays, Treasurer Pederson, Secretary Mobley, Dir. Roni Jacknow, Dir. Brad Banta, Dir. Linda Beard, Dir. Dale Harrison, General Manager Lewis, Asst. General Manager Keith Kessar, and Public Works Dir. Mark Smith.

SSD Board/Staff Present: Chair Fister, Vice Chair Shoemaker, Treasurer Zook, Dir. Kelley, Police Chief Rasic, Police Lt. Van Meter, Administrator Holliday and Executive Asst. Popp. Dir. Stephens was not present.

Public Input:

Kris & Harry Lacy
John Hitt
Susan Quesada
Debbie Baker
Carol Lyn Conragen

Public comments emphasized the importance of reaching a rules enforcement agreement between SSD and the Sunriver Owners Association.

Welcome & Overview

SROA Board President Burke and SSD Board Chair Fister provided a joint statement.

1. SROA Rules Enforcement Update

Chair Fister provided an update on the rules enforcement agreement negotiations between SSD and the Sunriver Owners Association (SROA). He thanked SROA for re-engaging in discussions and acknowledged SSD staff and board members for staying informed and providing input throughout the process. Both organizations are expected to review the proposed contract in the coming days, with SSD scheduled to consider it at next Thursday's regular meeting. The agreement will be available for public review in the meeting packet online earlier in the week. Chair Fister expressed optimism that both parties are close to reaching a workable agreement.

SROA President Burke encouraged the community to follow both the SSD and SROA meetings, where action on the proposed agreement is expected. He also noted that, based on his experience with negotiations, significant breakthroughs can sometimes occur once discussions reach a certain stage.

Chief Rasic stated that while parties did not always agree during negotiations, they have reached a point where both sides are prepared to vote on a proposed agreement soon. He emphasized rules enforcement is a shared responsibility between the SSD and the SROA and the District takes that obligation seriously. He also discussed the improvements being made to dispatch data collection and reporting processes to increase transparency and accuracy in evaluating calls for service.

SROA General Manager Lewis emphasized the SSD and SROA staff all share a strong commitment to community safety and service. He explained that while negotiations focus on the business details of an agreement, the larger goal is maintaining consistent rules enforcement and public safety services for the community 24/7. Lewis also expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts between the organizations and highlighted how fortunate the community is to have a special district structure that provides dedicated police and fire services.

Chief Rasic provided a brief update on bike patrol services, noting that staffing will be in place by Memorial Day, with additional coverage anticipated by the Fourth of July.

2. Pathway and Road/Intersection Updates

Mark Smith, SROA Public Works Director, discussed updates from the Pathway Safety Task Force and ongoing improvements to Sunriver's pathway system and public works coordination.

He explained the task force developed more than 60 safety recommendations, many of which are being implemented in phases. Key updates include refreshed safety signage, updated informational signs at major entry points, and improved messaging for visitors about pathway rules and navigation.

Smith highlighted a new GIS-based mapping system that provides real-time, location-specific pathway information. This includes QR-code access to maps, better navigation support, and the ability to notify specific homeowners when maintenance or closures affect their area. He noted this system improves communication, especially when work schedules change due to weather or other delays.

Smith also described ongoing pathway maintenance efforts, including annual treatment of roughly five miles of pathways, seasonal work schedules, and improved communication to users when sections are closed. He emphasized users will now receive clearer alerts and alternative route suggestions through the mapping system.

SROA General Manager Lewis provided a brief update on the South Century Drive intersection improvements, noting Deschutes County has been evaluating major changes at key crossings with unusually high levels of public input, including substantial comments submitted by SROA. He reported county incorporated many of those comments into revised designs, balancing safety improvements with cost considerations such as roadway alignment, right-of-way constraints, and utilities. A key focus of the discussion was bicycle and pedestrian safety, particularly at high-use crossing points near the business park.

Chair Fister discussed the Deschutes County comprehensive transportation plan, which includes multiple major infrastructure improvements. He noted that several of the South Century projects are approved and expected to be completed within the next four years. The BNSF Bridge project is currently scheduled for the same timeframe as other major work, though coordination timing is being reconsidered. Other elements, including the Vandevent roundabout and Spring River Bridge improvements, are deferred due to transportation funding fluctuations and are likely about six years out, potentially around 2031.

3. Police and Fire Statistics Review

Fire Chief Boos was unable to attend the meeting to provide a fire statistical update. To review the information, refer to page 3 of the 5.15.26 SSD/SROA joint meeting packet, or [click here](#).

Police Chief Rasic reviewed the Sunriver Police Department 2025 Annual Report, which included updates on calls for service as well as administrative and operational activities. Please refer to page 6 of the 5.15.26 SSD/SROA joint meeting packet, or [click here](#).

4. Emergency Communications Update (LRAD and SR Alerts)

Chief Rasic discussed the Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) system, which functions as a highly directional loudspeaker and can be used for search and rescue operations, locating missing people, and especially emergency evacuation situations. It can project clear, targeted messages over roughly a 2,000-foot range, allowing responders to send instructions to specific areas rather than alerting everyone indiscriminately. Chief Rasic is coordinating with Deschutes County Emergency Management, and the device will be made available to the region once it is fully implemented.

SROA Board Director Jacknow asked about concerns related to how much time is being spent responding outside of Sunriver and how that information will be reflected with improved reporting. Chair Fister responded this information is already captured in existing reporting systems. He explained that calls for service—whether proactive patrols or response-driven incidents—are included in monthly reports provided at SSD meetings. These reports are also shared with SROA, published in meeting packets, and made available in public reporting.

Chief Rasic explained that county law enforcement presence in Caldera and Crosswater has increased lately. He noted their involvement has shifted over time. The discussion also touched on broader coordination between agencies, with emphasis on increasing patrol visibility both inside Sunriver and in surrounding areas like Spring River. This expanded presence and cooperation benefits overall public safety.

5. Fire Protection Workgroup

SROA General Manager Lewis provided an overview of the SROA Fire Protection Work Group, which was established following action by the SROA Board in March of this year. It was created as part of broader efforts to strengthen fire safety and align with SROA's strategic priorities around community protection and wildfire risk reduction.

To help inform the public about the effort, education sessions were held, including presentations with representatives from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, to provide context on how fire protection is coordinated in Sunriver and similar communities.

Lewis stated staff and Board liaisons were scheduled to meet the following week to review applicants for the work group. Three applications have been received, and selection would involve coordination among committee liaisons and community representatives. The group is intended to be made up primarily of property owners, including full-time residents and second homeowners, along with input from key stakeholders and agencies as needed.

Lewis noted that the first phase of task force meetings will likely be educational, ensuring participants understand current requirements and responsibilities before moving into evaluation and recommendations. Over time, the group is expected to meet monthly and may bring forward recommendations to the Board. These could include updates to fire protection standards, revisions to mitigation plans, or new design and development guidelines related to wildfire resilience.

SROA President Burke emphasized the importance of including property owners in the Fire Protection Work Group, noting there is strong community interest and potentially room for broad participation. Board liaisons will participate in the process and noted connections to broader regional wildfire efforts, including participation in the Newberry Group's Defensible Space Action

Team. Sunriver is often seen as more advanced in its wildfire planning compared to other regions, with growing interest from neighboring communities.

Burke also reiterated that while owners and stakeholders will be heavily involved, any recommendations from the group would still go through formal governance steps—such as review, comment periods, and Board approval—similar to past changes to design and planning standards. He emphasized the importance of gathering broad input while recognizing that final decisions must balance differing viewpoints and follow established processes.

6. Coordination on External Activities

SROA General Manager Lewis outlined SROA's coordination on external activities beyond day-to-day operations with the Sunriver Service District. He noted that this includes ongoing rule enforcement, legislative monitoring, and engagement with policy issues such as transient lodging tax and other state-level regulations that may impact SROA or the district.

He also highlighted coordination on infrastructure and safety-related matters, including intersection design and improvements that affect emergency response access as well as resident safety, such as bike crossings.

Lewis emphasized that SROA actively tracks legislation coming out of the state legislature, particularly proposals that could influence fire protection rules or service district responsibilities. He added that communication with the community is also a key external function, referencing past updates on safety systems like the LRAD as an example of ongoing public information efforts.

7. Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) Update and Discussion

Chair Fister provided an update on the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT), explaining it is an 8% state-imposed tax on lodging that includes hotels and short-term rentals, with Sunriver and surrounding areas contributing a significant share of Deschutes County's overall revenue.

Sunriver and nearby communities generate a majority of the county's TLT revenue, with a portion of those funds already earmarked by law for tourism promotion and other designated uses. Recent state legislative changes have created some flexibility in how certain TLT funds could be allocated, but Deschutes County has chosen not to make major changes for the upcoming fiscal year, with only potential discussions for future years.

A small portion of unallocated TLT revenue is distributed to services such as the Sheriff's Office and county debt obligations, while other funds support tourism-related efforts like Visit Central Oregon. There was also discussion about whether communities that generate significant TLT revenue receive proportional returns, though the county's position is that it retains discretion over how unallocated funds are distributed.

Additionally, there was mention of ongoing regional coordination opportunities, including potential future funding considerations for public safety resources such as ladder trucks, though no immediate funding changes are expected. The county also encouraged organizations to pursue competitive grant funding, such as through Visit Central Oregon's programs, for additional support.

8. Other Business

SROA General Manager Lewis introduced Brett D'Alessandro, the new SROA Compliance Officer.

Chair Fister shared appreciation to SROA President Burke, Treasurer Pederson, and Secretary Moblely whose terms are ending this year. On the SSD Board, Chair Fister also acknowledged that

Director Kelly and Vice Chair Shoemaker terms are ending August 31, 2026. Interviews for those 2 positions are underway.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Submitted by Rachel Popp, SSD Executive Assistant

APPROVED