

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

## CLIFTON WATER DISTRICT

MARCH 12, 2026

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mel Diffendaffer, Dan McElley, Nick Genova, Jeff Cook, and Michael Slauson.

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Pettingill, Jacob Lenihan, Blair Wade, Ty Jones, Mike Simpson, Kyle Bishop, Branden Edmonds, and Rene Fick.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** AC Elliott

### **REGULAR MEETING – CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Diffendaffer called the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Regular Meeting to order at 5:01pm.

### **GUESTS**

AC Elliott expressed concerns regarding water supply, noting that Lake Powel is only 24% full. She also questioned water concentration and filtration with increased sediment in the water. Providing water service to AI server farms was also raised and she asked if the District is prepared to serve a potential server farm.

Assistant Manager Lenihan responded that the change in water concentration, and low water, is normal for this time of the year. With these conditions, the concentration of inorganics increases, and water treatment is adjusted. Ultra filtration takes care of the larger organics, and the District also utilizes reverse osmosis. In the winter, the goal is for a 50/50 blend to reach a hardness target of 130mg/L. This helps maintain consistency in water quality throughout the year. He added that the District does have the reverse osmosis filtration capacity to handle these conditions. AC asked what the District's stance is on fluoride, referencing a desire from the current administration to stop adding it to the water. Assistant Manager Lenihan responded that fluoride is still added to the water.

Manager Jones commented that the District is keeping an eye on a few bills currently in the state legislature that deals with data centers. He added that data centers most likely cannot be stopped, but better management is preferable to having it forced upon utility companies.

## **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> WORKSHOP AND THE FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> 2026 REGULAR MEETING**

Treasurer Slauson moved to approve the Minutes of the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Workshop, seconded by Vice Chairman McElley. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Diffendaffer questioned a statement relating to the cost of the Water Treatment Plant Project on pg. 2 of the Minutes of the February 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. The wording was updated to add that the next phase of the project is estimated at \$1.4 million. Director Genova moved to approve the Minutes of the February 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting, as corrected, seconded by Vice Chairman McElley. Motion carried unanimously.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Slauson moved to approve the Accounts Payable checks, in the amount of \$793,772.22, seconded by Chairman Diffendaffer. Motion carried unanimously.

### **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

#### Finance Staff Report

- Financial Summary – Finance Manager Wade stated that, as of the end of January, total operating revenue collected was 6.34% of the budget, with non-operating revenue at 8.37%. The District has expended 13.7% of the operating budget, and 1.36% of the non-operating budget. She added that the higher operating expenses are typical this early in the year, and they include annual insurance payments and the first of the District's two annual loan payments.
- 2025 Audit – Preparation has started for the audit and field work is scheduled to start on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

#### Human Resources Staff Report.

- Hiring Updates – HR Manager Pettingill stated that (now former) Lead Water Treatment Plant Operator, Kyle Bishop, has accepted the Project Manager position. His former position was advertised to internal applicants only, and Aaron Minnerath has accepted the Lead Water Treatment Plant Operator position. This led to a vacancy in the Water Treatment Plant, and the Operator position was posted on March 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be open to both internal and external candidates. The seasonal positions were also filled today. HR Manager Pettingill explained that two seasonal positions were advertised, but due to scheduling leeway, the District was able to hire three seasonal staff members. Vice Chairman questioned the hours worked for seasonal staff and HR Manager Pettingill responded that they typically do not get the full 40 hours per week.

In the summer, there is usually an earlier start with six hours scheduled, and this avoids having to work in the worst heat of the day.

## **ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT**

### Engineering Report

- Water Treatment Plan Project – Assistant Manager Lenihan stated that the design kick-off meeting was held today. 75% of design is expected by August, and staff can then move forward on meeting the requirements set by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as part of the District’s State Revolving Loan fund application.
- Colorado River Transmission Main Crossing Project – Staff are still waiting on delivery of parts to complete the portion underneath the pedestrian bridge. The remainder of the line has been installed and the portion south of the bridge has been connected to the existing line on C ½ Road. A change in the field was made to add a t-connection for a possible future line to be stubbed in on the south end of the bridge. The trail will be repaved, and back in use, by the end of the month. Staff are currently working with engineering firm SGM on the design for extending the line approximately 2,500 ft to the west, along C ½ Road, in order to connect to the line on 32 Road. Assistant Manager Lenihan noted that \$150k was included for this line in the 2026 budget. Staff are also looking into abandoning the existing line from C ½ Road that runs northeast towards 32 ½ Road. This line cuts across private property and it appears that a structure has been built on top of our line. The replacement line will run east on C ½ Road, and then south on 31 ½ Road where it will connect to the existing line.
- Desert Road Pump Station – Easements are pending and the project is still in design.
- 32 Road Pump Station – Staff have reached out to the property owners of the possible new locations for this pump station. Feedback has been positive so far following these initial general discussions. Assistant Manager Lenihan explained that the pump station does not need refurbishment, just moved to a new location that will allow for better inlet pressure.
- Storage Tank rehabilitation – Assistant Manager Lenihan explained that the roof of the IMG has some corrosion and the beams are a serious concern. Staff will not know the extent of the damage until sandblasting has been completed. There is a chance that the roof will need to be cut off and redone. The overflow may also need to be addressed, depending on the 32 Road pump station flow to the storage tank. Manager Jones stated that the budget contained funding for rehabilitation of the tank, but staff did not anticipate needing a new roof. Vice Chairman McElley questioned the status of the tank bottom. Assistant Manager Lenihan responded that staff will not know the status until the tank can be drained. The 100k gallon tank is in rough shape and will need to be removed, along with the other older tank, and the former treatment plant building. The power to this location comes in through the old treatment plant building and will

- need to be relocated. Treasurer Slauson asked about any salvage opportunities and Manager Jones responded that there have been discussions regarding any value to these materials. It will most likely end up being deducted from the cost of removal. Once the demolition and removal are completed, there will be enough space for a temporary bladder tank that will serve as substitute while the IMG tank is undergoing rehabilitation. This temporary tank will cost approximately \$300 per day. It was noted that this project has become more urgent than initially expected and the budgeted amount of \$250k may need to be exceeded. Assistant Manager Lenihan commented that when the bottom of a tank is rotting out, it can typically be detected by the thickness of the steel walls. The measurements on the IMG tank wall thickness looked promising. Brief discussion ensued on future capacity to serve the Whitewater area.
- Reeder Mesa Fill Station – Staff are currently in discussion with Mountain Valley Construction to install the 500 ft of pipeline to connect the line on Reeder Mesa Road to the Reeder Mesa Fill station. The District has obtained all the components for the fill station and only the slab needs to be poured. The estimated cost of this installation will be \$49k. He noted that there is a flush station near where the Reeder Mesa line currently ends. Once the fill station is up and running, the need for flushing will either be eliminated, or greatly reduced. Vice Chairman McElley asked about a fill station on Bean Ranch Road. Manager Jones responded that it will be considered in the future but the District aims to adequately serve its current customers before looking into Bean Ranch Road.

## **OPERATIONS**

Brief discussion on tap sales with Manager Jones commenting that per his discussion with a local builder, houses are being sold as fast as he can build them. Assistant Manager Lenihan noted that the fluoride tank has been repaired and staff just need to transfer the fluoride back to the tank.

## **ADMIN/OFFICE**

### Manager's Report

- Colorado River District – State of the River Meetings – Manager Jones stated that this years' State of the River Meeting for Grand Valley will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 8pm. Registration is required.
- Petitions for Inclusion – Assistant Manager Lenihan stated that staff have received six petitions for inclusion from the 18 customers that are still considered Out of District. The public notice will be published on March 18<sup>th</sup> and lists the public hearing date for these inclusions during the next regular meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>. A few more petitions were received after this publication and staff hope to have some more ready for another public hearing at the May meeting.


**ADJOURN MEETING**

Meeting Adjourned at 5:50pm by Chairman Diffendaffer.

**ATTEST:**

  
Mel Diffendaffer, Chairman

  
Dan McElley, Vice Chairman

  
Michael Slason, Treasurer

  
Jeff Cook, Secretary

  
Nick Genova, Director