

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

CLIFTON WATER DISTRICT

MAY 14, 2026

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

ABSENT: Michael Slauson.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Pettingill, Blair Wade, Ty Jones, Mike Simpson, Kyle Bishop, Stephen Silva, Jake Lenihan, Brandon Edmonds, and Rene Fick.

GUESTS PRESENT: AC Elliott.

REGULAR MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Diffendaffer called the May 14th, 2026, Regular Meeting to order at 5:00pm.

GUESTS

AC Elliott addressed the Board regarding the Pivot Solar Farm proposed for construction in Palisade. The major concern is the protection of the water source. Solar farms utilize batteries for energy storage and as with normal batteries, those do fail, along with the ever-present potential for fire. There does not appear to be any plan for trapping hazmat materials in case of fire, and what started out as a \$50k allocation for fire protection has since been reduced to \$5k. She stated that she would like to see the District show a concern with regards to ensuring the safety of the water source. Chairman Diffendaffer thanked her for raising this issue and note that the Board will review the information she had provided for discussion later.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9TH 2026 REGULAR MEETING

Director Genova moved to approve the Minutes of the April 9th, 2026 Regular Meeting, seconded by Chairman Diffendaffer. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chairman Diffendaffer moved to approve the Accounts Payable checks, in the amount of \$861,611.07, seconded by Vice Chairman McElley. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Finance Staff Report

- Financial Summary – Finance Manager Wade stated that, as of the end of March, total operating revenue collected was 20.7% of the budget, with non-operating revenue at 27.26%. The District has expended 30.79% of the operating budget, and 10% of the non-operating budget.
- 2025 Audit – The audit has been completed, and the financial statements have been issued. The audit results will be presented by the lead auditor at the June Regular Board Meeting.
- Check Reports update – Finance Manager Wade explained that several vendors have requested payment via ACH (electronic funds transfers). Due to concerns of fraud, staff have decided that only trusted vendors will be paid using this payment method. Future reports will highlight all payments made via ACH. Director Genova commented on the need for educating staff on possible aspects of fraud. Finance Manager Wade noted that ANB bank does provide good training options.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Human Resources Staff Report.

- Hiring Updates – The Distribution position has been filled, and his start date is pending the results of the pre-hire screenings. The seasonal staff will start next week.
- Policy Updates – HR Manager Pettingill noted that staff plan to present some new policies at the next meeting, along with some minor updates to the Employee Handbook.

ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT

Engineering Report

- Water Treatment Plant Project – Design is ongoing with the goal of hitting 100% design by December and submitting the application for the state revolving loan fund in January 2027.
- Colorado River Transmission Main Crossing Project – The expansion joints are expected in June, and the project should be completed shortly after receipt of these parts.

- Storage Tank rehabilitation – The contractors for this project have been selected and once the power has been relocated out of the old building, demolition of the tanks, and the old treatment building, can proceed.
- Reeder Mesa Fill Station – The fill station is mostly complete and is awaiting installation of power.
- Desert Road Pump Station – Chairman Diffendaffer commented that this project appears to be in limbo. Assistant Manager Lenihan responded that engineering firm SGM is still working on the design and should be wrapping it up soon. The delay is due to surveys and easements. Manager Jones noted that without a completed design the District cannot start the County application process.

OPERATIONS

At the beginning of April, the District connected to the City of Grand Junction's system for a short period. This was a test run in preparation for later this year when the City will be draining their reservoir for repairs and directing that water to the District. A new valve had been installed to more easily control the water flow from the City. Discussion ensued with Assistant Manager Lenihan commenting that during this period of water supply from the City, the treatment plant will be mostly shut down, except for the pumps. Staff are excited to do some much needed updates and repairs during this time. He noted that there will be some savings, specifically on energy costs, but that it will most likely be spent during a period in the future when the water is given back.

Assistant Manager Lenihan stated that the District had undergone an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspection. This was a random inspection with very short notice, specifically focusing on the District's use, handling, and storage of chlorine. He explained that the District is at the minimum threshold (2,500lbs) for storing chlorine and under the Clean Air Act, the District is required to develop and implement a Risk Management Program. It appeared that the EPA inspector was attempting to find flaws and/or inconsistencies in the District's answers and actions. It became apparent that the inspector did not have an abundance of knowledge on chlorine specifically, nor any experience with associated standard operations. Staff presented him with the District's written emergency shutdown procedure at his request, explaining that there are actually several of them - each one deals with a different scenario, e.g. chlorine leak, chlorine connect, or chlorine disconnect. Assistant Manager Lenihan explained that the inspector was stuck on strict use of EPA wording and questioned any District documentation that veered away from such wording. Another issue was the District's use of lead washers, an industry standard with chlorine, and how it should be listed as a hazard. It was noted that the inspector was gathering information on behalf of a superior who will be writing the official report. Overall, staff felt that responses given were more than adequate, and with District staff being properly trained, it was difficult for the inspector to find anything of concern.

ADMIN/OFFICE

Manager’s Report

- Water conditions – Manager Jones explained that he has attended several meetings over the last few weeks with various local water providers. There appears to be a general public awareness of the drought conditions, along with a sincere effort by the water providers to find ways to deal with what is anticipated to be a very dry summer.
- 32 Road Tank rehabilitation – The tank is being recoated and Manager Jones commented that Colorado Mesa University’s logo, along with Central High School’s new logo, will still be added – it is just on hold for a bit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Diffendaffer moved to enter executive session at 5:47pm for the purposes of discussing the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any property interest. The executive session ended at 6:03pm.


ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting Adjourned at 6:04pm by Chairman Diffendaffer.

ATTEST:



Dan McElley, Vice Chairman



Mel Diffendaffer, Chairman

Absent, with excuse

Michael Slauson, Treasurer



Jeff Cook, Secretary



Nick Genova, Director