

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING

CLIFTON WATER DISTRICT

MAY 27, 2026

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

ABSENT: Michael Slauson.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Pettingill, Blair Wade, Jake Lenihan, Ty Jones, Mike Simpson, and Rene Fick.

GUESTS PRESENT:

SPECIAL MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Diffendaffer called the May 27th, 2026, Special Meeting to order at 12:01pm.

- 2026 Rates and Fees – Manager Jones presented Resolution 2026-11 Adopting Emergency/Drought rates, along with Exhibit A - Drought/Emergency rates to this Resolution. He stated that Exhibit A includes updated rates to those adopted at the February 12th, 2026 meeting. Discussion ensued with Manager Jones commenting that Ute Water Conservancy District has already enacted drought rates. The City of Grand Junction does not appear to be taking any action on drought rates at this time. Reservoir levels are not looking good, and it is anticipated that the Highline canal and Orchard Mesa Irrigation District may soon significantly restrict use, or irrigators may lose water completely. Chairman Diffendaffer expressed concern on how long these rates would be in effect and added that there should be a clear statement sent out regarding the temporary status of these rates. Front Office Supervisor Simpson suggested that an end date to the drought rates could be included in the Resolution. If at the proposed end date conditions had not improved to justify reverting back to normal rates, it would need Board action to extend the drought rates. Discussion ensued on how to alleviate customers' fears that rates will never go back down. Determining an end date to the drought rates, and thereby setting expectations, could be problematic when the weather, or the timing of improvements in watershed conditions, simply cannot be accurately predicted.

Chairman Diffendaffer questioned how long the water in the river will last. Assistant Manager Lenihan responded that later this year, the District will be getting water from the City of Grand Junction as they intend to drain a reservoir. This will aid in the District's capability to continue providing water to customers. Staff have reached out to Grand Valley

Irrigation Company (GVIC) to discuss some actions the District can take to ensure continued access to the water in the canal. Vice Chairman McElley questioned the District's ability to pull water directly from the river during low water levels and asked about how quickly permitting for construction could be obtained. Manager Jones responded that it will most likely depend on the circumstances and level of urgency. Engineering firm SGM is involved in what actions need to be taken for a permanent structure, with Assistant Manager Lenihan adding that permitting will be much easier if a natural structure is used vs. a concrete structure.

Chairman Diffendaffer asked the Board for any further questions or concerns regarding the Drought/Emergency rates or Resolution 2026-11. No concerns or objections were raised and Vice Chairman McElley moved to adopt Resolution 2026-11 Adopting Emergency/Drought Rates. The motion was seconded by Director Genova. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued on leak adjustment exception requests, and it was determined that no Board action is required. All exception requests are subject to management's discretion and staff prefer to retain the flexibility this provides.

The press release was reviewed by the Board and no changes or objections were voiced.

ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting Adjourned at 12:23pm by Chairman Diffendaffer.

ATTEST:

Pending

Dan McElley, Vice Chairman


Mel Diffendaffer, Chairman

Absent, with excuse

Michael Slauson, Treasurer


Jeff Cook, Secretary


Nick Genova, Director