

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

CLIFTON WATER DISTRICT

APRIL 9, 2026

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

ABSENT:

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Pettingill, Blair Wade, Ty Jones, Mike Simpson, Kyle Bishop, Stephen Silva, Jake Lenihan (*virtual*), and Rene Fick.

GUESTS PRESENT:

REGULAR MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Diffendaffer called the April 9th, 2026, Regular Meeting to order at 5:00pm.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Diffendaffer called the public hearing to order at 5:01pm, to consider the petitions of inclusion submitted by Leonard and Michelle Selby for 3165 B 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503, Tax ID # 2943-274-00-022; Maurice Van Ackeren Jr for 3125 B 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503, Tax ID # 2943-273-00-027; Dennis and Debra Rapier for 3123 1/2 A 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503, Tax ID # 2943-343-00-084; Larry and Shawna Van Winkle for 3076 Highway 50, Grand Junction, CO 81503, Tax ID # 2967-041-00-229; Richard and Nina Martinez for 3123 A 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503, Tax ID # 2943-343-00-083; and Alice Thompson Stewart for 264 32 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503, Tax ID # 2943-261-00-019.

Chairman Diffendaffer noted that no guests were present and asked for clarification on these petitions. District Manager Jones explained that there are approximately 18 customers that are still Out of District. Following the inclusion vote in 2025 for all Whitewater Out of District customers, staff initiated a clean-up effort to get the last of the Out of District customers included. He further explained that the goal is to no longer serve Out of District customers and these petitions are the first ones to be returned following the initial outreach. He noted that these customers will not be paying the inclusion fee and staff are completing them in batches of five or six in order to keep the overall cost of inclusion down. Front Office Supervisor Simpson commented that certified letters were recently sent out to those customers that have not yet

responded to the initial letters. Vice Chairman McElley questioned the need for this process and District Manager Jones responded that it is a legal process the District has to follow. Front Office Supervisor Simpson added that the property owner has to agree to, and accept, the inclusion into the District.

Chairman Diffendaffer moved to adopt Resolution 2026-04 To Include Private Property 3165 B 1/2 Road, Resolution 2026-05 To Include Private Property 3125 B 1/2 Road, Resolution 2026-06 To Include Private Property 3123 1/2 A 1/2 Road, Resolution 2026-07 To Include Private Property 3076 Highway 50, Resolution 2026-08 To Include Private Property 3123 A 1/2 Road, and Resolution 2026-09 To Include Private Property 264 32 1/2 Road. The motion was seconded by Secretary Cook. Motion carried unanimously. Vice Chairman McElley offered assistance to communicate with the remaining Out of District customers.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12TH 2026 REGULAR MEETING

Treasurer Slauson moved to approve the Minutes of the March 12th, 2026 Regular Meeting, seconded by Director Genova. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Slauson moved to approve the Accounts Payable checks, in the amount of \$782,795.85, seconded by Chairman Diffendaffer. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Finance Staff Report

- Financial Summary – Finance Manager Wade stated that, as of the end of February, total operating revenue collected was 12.86% of the budget, with non-operating revenue at 17.02%. The District has expended 21.52% of the operating budget, and 1.77% of the non-operating budget.
- 2025 Audit – The audit is currently ahead of schedule. Finance Manager Wade stated that there will again be a material weakness noted, specifically related to capital assets, tied to the Springbrook to Caselle conversion. She hopes to present the auditor's report at the May Board meeting.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Human Resources Staff Report.

- Hiring Updates – HR Manager Pettingill stated that a Distribution Technician has resigned. The reason for his departure was an offer to work in the field that he had been trained in. She added that staff are happy for him, as he gets the chance to pursue his dream job. The position has already been posted, and staff are in the process of filling

it. The Water Treatment Plant operator position is almost filled, the successful applicant has received the job offer.

ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT

Engineering Report

- Water Treatment Plant Project – Assistant Manager Lenihan stated that this project is moving along and will have more updates next month.
- Colorado River Transmission Main Crossing Project – The only remaining portion of this project is the installation of the expansion joints. Delivery of these joints is expected mid-June. District Manager Jones had reached out to Mesa County and Colorado Parks & Wildlife and was given authorization to complete the project this summer, rather than wait for the nesting period of the yellow-billed cuckoo to end. The next phase of this project, extending it along C ½ Road, is already being surveyed.
- Desert Road Pump Station – Design has been completed and staff have received the site plan. Some edits will be needed to the site plan, and pricing on pumps are being collected and reviewed.
- Storage Tank rehabilitation – Assistant Manager Lenihan explained that staff received pretty favorable quotes for demolition of the tanks and the old treatment building. The power is being moved out of the old building and once this has been completed, demolition can commence.
- Reeder Mesa Fill Station – Project Manager Bishop stated that the water line has been completed, the building is on-site, and the area has been leveled in preparation for pouring concrete next week. Chairman Diffendaffer asked for an estimated time until the fill station will be in operation. Project Manager Bishop responded that it should take about two weeks, depending on how long it takes for the concrete to cure, and installing equipment once the building has been set. Brief discussion ensued with Project Manager Bishop noting that water quality will improve in this area with the new fill station moving more water through the lines.

OPERATIONS

Assistant Manager Lenihan explained that Water Treatment Plant operators dealt with some limitations on pulling water from the river while the canals were filling, adding that it has been a bit of a struggle with the low river conditions. District Manager Jones added that Grand Valley Water Users' Association started pulling from the river approximately two weeks earlier this year. Conditions reached a point where river levels were too low to continue pulling water and staff switched to the canal instead. Vice Chairman McElley commented on increasing storage and District Manager Jones responded that water providers with existing storage are also facing difficulties this year. He added that improving the river intake is in the Capital Improvement Plan,

with the goal of making it more user friendly during low river conditions. Assistant Manager Lenihan commented on the current river flow, adding that the general feeling is that the river has peaked already. Vice Chairman McElley asked why the District is not doing more to inform the public. District Manager Jones responded that the State of the River press conference was held earlier in the day where water awareness was stressed, along with cautioning against watering outside.

ADMIN/OFFICE

Manager's Report

- 32 Road Pump Station – District Manager Jones reminded the Board that an executive session is scheduled for later to discuss property acquisition options.
- Business Operating Hours – District Manager Jones explained that different options for the 40-hour workweek have been discussed with staff, and a proposal is being presented to the Board today. The District's operating hours will remain the same from Monday to Thursday (8am – 5pm), but on Fridays the proposed new hours will be 8am – 3pm. Staff will still be working 40 hours a week through adjustments in start times and lunch breaks. He explained that the front office staff arrive prior to 8am in order to be ready for customers when the doors open. This led to either longer lunch breaks or overtime. Staff are not allowed to do this prep work “off the clock”, as specifically stated in the District Employee Handbook. The solution was to set an earlier start time for front office staff Monday – Thursday and any extra time worked is negated by closing at 3pm on Fridays. District Manager Jones stated that the District will still have after-hour staff available, along with the after-hours messaging service. Front Office Supervisor Simpson added that this will reduce overtime within the Administration department, which reduces overall District expenses. Vice Chairman McElley inquired on summer start times for Distribution staff. Distribution Supervisor Silva responded that his staff will start at 7:30am year-round and the general consensus is to keep consistent start times even though it is a bit dark at 7:30am in the winter. Discussion ensued with Manager Jones stating that staff is considering a May 1st effective date for the new operating hours. This allows for enough time to notify customers of this change. Treasurer Slauson moved to approve Resolution 2026-10 To Alter the Business Operating Hours for Clifton Water District, effective May 1st. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman McElley. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2026 Special District Association (SDA) workshop – Manager Jones noted that the 2026 SDA workshop will again be held in the District Board room, on June 18th. He asked the Board to let him know if they want to attend.
- Update to the bill format – Manager Jones noted that staff are working on a new billing statement format and the most important update is the inclusion of usage graphs to illustrate past usage vs. current usage.

- Update on Shoshone Water Rights – Manager Jones provided some updates on this acquisition process. The trial is expected to start in early 2028 and the Colorado River Water Conservation District is looking into alternative funding as there is uncertainty on whether the \$40 million in Federal funding will still be available.
- 2026 Drought conditions – Manger Jones noted that Grand Valley Irrigation Company (GVIC) is expected to start cutting back water to their users in late June. Grand Valley Water Users’ Association (GVWUA) already has restrictions in place. He asked the Board to consider what the trigger would be for enacting drought rates. He added that any cuts from GVIC to their users will most likely cause some District customers to increase use of domestic water for irrigation. The District bills in arrears, so usage in June will be billed for in July, prompting the need for a decision in May to allow enough time to notify customers *should* the Board vote to enact drought rates. Manager Jones stressed that staff are merely asking for Board consideration and that the decision will ultimately be up to the Board. Brief discussion followed with Vice Chairman McElley questioning usage to golf courses, parks, etc. Manager Jones responded that many of those properties use non-potable irrigation and the District has no authority over that. He added that staff created an online calculator in preparation for drought rates so that customers can calculate the difference and educate themselves on the cost of continuing to irrigate under drought rates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Diffendaffer moved to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any property interest. The executive session ended at 6:48pm.

ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting Adjourned at 6:49pm by Chairman Diffendaffer.


 Dan McElley, Vice Chairman


 Mel Diffendaffer, Chairman


 Michael Slason, Treasurer


 Jeff Cook, Secretary


 Nick Genova, Director