



**NAVAJO WESTERN WATER DISTRICT**

**705 Navajo Road; Walsenburg, CO 81089**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS (REGULAR) MEETING**

**Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 1:00 pm.**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

**The Navajo Western Water District Board of Director's Regular Meeting was called to order by President Dave Rogers on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 1:03 pm.**

**II. ROLE CALL:**

**In Attendance: President Dave Rogers, Vice President Rick Williams, Treasurer Vanna Morningstar, Director Dan Palmisano, Director James Bierly. Water Operator (ORC) Dave Rabideau, Bookkeeper Beckie Ferrell, and Secretary Debbie Palmisano were also present. *A quorum was met.* Guests in Attendance: Quintessa & Benny Ivory**

**III. READING/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (Debbie Palmisano, Office Secretary)**

**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Regular) Board Meeting**

- MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2026, MINUTES AS PRESENTED by Director Dan Palmisano; MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> by Vice President Rick Williams. Discussion. Vote. *UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.***

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.**

**V. TREASURERS REPORT: (Vanna Morningstar, Treasurer)**

**A. FINANCIAL REPORTS: (March 2026) – see attached.**

- NWWD Water ORC hit a CenturyLink (underground) line in November 2025 and cut the cable. CenturyLink is charging NWD \$1,343.22 to repair the cut cable.**
- Property Tax received by NWWD for March 2026 (\$14,628.37)**
- MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURERS REPORT AS PRESENTED by Director Dan Palmisano; MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> by Vice President Rick Williams. Discussion. Vote. *UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.***

## **B. BOOKKEEPER REPORT: (Beckie Ferrell)**

- **There has been an issue with Internal Transfers between accounts. The process has changed (per the Bank). Beckie presented two (2) options for Internal Transfers to the Board:**
  - o **(Option #1) Beckie would initiate the transfer, and one (1) BOD Member would need to verify the transfer within a specific timeline.**
  - o **(Option #2) Change to one (1) signature on accounts (For Bank Purposes ONLY).**
  - o **After a lengthy discussion, it was decided by the Board of Directors that for simplification purposes, Option #2 will be used. (The Bank will also require a copy of the Minutes from the BOD meeting when this was discussed and voted upon).**
- **A MOTION WAS MADE TO CHANGE FROM TWO (2) REQUIRED SIGNATURES TO ONE (1) REQUIRED SIGNATURE FOR ALL TRANSFERS (*FOR BANK PURPOSES ONLY*), EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, by Director Dan Palmisano; MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> by Treasurer Vanna Morningstar. Discussion. Vote. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.***

## **VI. OPERATIONS REPORTS:**

### **A. Water Facility Operator Report – for March 2026 (Dave Rabideau, Operator Responsible Charge) – see attached**

- **Dave will be watching the “Unaccounted For” Water Usage (usage by customers) and report back to the Board next month. (It was higher this month at 8.3%). This may be an issue.**
  - o **14% is a typical percentage for “Unaccounted For” Actual Loss (monthly). (This is still within the National average).**
- **#5) Dave Rabideau and Keith Saint-Peter volunteered to help with the major water leak in Walsenburg and found a leak in the system.**
- **#9) We installed our first TAP of the season on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**
- **#13) Mid-month Meter reads: There are no issues.**
  - o **Dave Rabideau will be running mid-month readings to try to keep on top of any issues – it is easier to monitor usage doing mid-month readings.**
- **The first CRWA Webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**
- **Dave feels it is a good idea to keep putting messages on the monthly bills regarding drought conditions and use of water. He will work with Beckie on the messages.**
- **Other area Water Systems are preparing for the worst drought in years. Some are raising the Base Rates, Overages, etc. What ways can we (NWWD) prolong keeping water available?**

- – **President Dave Rogers will consult a Legal Attorney to see what options are available.**
- **QUESTION: Is there a plan for NWWD in case of drought? Conserve whenever/wherever possible. We will be sure to emphasize this in the Newsletter and reiterate there is No Outside Watering Allowed.**
- **QUESTION: Regarding people with repeated water overages that own animals: What can we do? Can we send a letter to the customer stating that no animals and/or no outside watering are allowed? Also, emphasize drought conditions?**
  - **Suggestion: The customers may need to get water from another outside source (ex. Walsenburg).**
  - **Suggestion: 1<sup>st</sup> month of water overage: let it slide**
    - **2<sup>nd</sup> month of water overage: NWWD will send a letter to the customer**
    - **3<sup>rd</sup> month of water overage: Water will be Shut Off at the residence**
  - **President Dave Rogers will consult our Legal Attorney and see what options are available to us.**
  - **Dave Rabideau, ORC, will continue to watch for misuse of water.**
- **Question: NWWD owns the water. Can we ration the water due to drought conditions? (ex. 4,000 gallons per household). If the customer is overusing the water, can we shut off the water immediately? NO (there is no meter in existence for this).**
  - **Pursuant to Colorado law: To occupy a residence, Water must be provided. (It is a public health issue).**
- **Question: Could we set an excessive \$ amount if the customer goes over 4,000 gallons (ex. \$1,000/gal.)?**
  - **President Dave Rogers will call the Lawyer and try to get some answers. He will report back to the Board next month.**

**WATER OVERAGES: Dave Rabideau, Operator Responsible Charge**

**#1) 620 Cochise Drive: A letter of Forgiveness was received from the customer (The customer is a new owner and purchased the residence on 1/12/2026). Dave Rabideau went out and verified there was a leak (12,380 gallons – the home is in the highest-pressure zone) and that the leak had been repaired. The customer provided receipts for the repair. (The customers attended the BOD meeting.)**

**-MOTION TO FORGIVE THE \$500 WATER OVERAGE FEE by Director Dan Palmisano; MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> by Treasurer Vanna Morningstar. Discussion. Vote. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.***

**#2) 25 Buffalo Drive South: The customer submitted a letter of Forgiveness. Dave Rabideau went out to the residence and could not find a leak at first (9,156 gallons – the home is in a low-pressure zone). The customer repaired the leak and**

**Dave Rabideau verified that it had been repaired. (No receipts were provided by customer).**

- **MOTION TO FORGIVE THE \$500 WATER OVERAGE FEE by Treasurer Vanna Morningstar; MOTION 2<sup>ND</sup> by Director Dan Palmisano. Discussion. Vote. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.***

**B. Office Report: (Debbie Palmisano, Secretary)**

- **Delinquent Accounts: (4) new accounts (3) last month – (2) new due to H2O overages. Presently have (2) customers on Payment Plans (due to water overages). (One customer paid-in-full, and the account is now current).**
- **Susan Smith – contracted employee? Susan will be an Independent Consultant. We will need to write-up a contract. What is Susan asking for salary?**
- **Rules & Regulations Workshop: The workshop was held Friday, March 27, 2026. The updates are completed except for a few footnotes regarding pertinent laws and statutes. I will present at May BOD Meeting for signatures. Once signed off on, I will post on NWWD website, send copies to Dotter and Stewart Title Companies, and include a notice on next month's bills that the updated/revised Rules and Regulations are available on NWWD website or via mail.**
- **2026 SDA Safety Grant: (\$829.57 is available for 2026) What do we need? Fire extinguishers? NO. No Shooting Signs? YES, that would help tremendously with the cost. (Deb will get together with Dave Rabideau to see what is needed).**
- **New chairs for outer NWWD Office: The chairs in outer office are very worn & uncomfortable. Can we watch auctions, etc. and look for new chairs?**
  - o **Suggestion: The HOA uses these chairs more than NWWD. Would they be willing to pay ½ to replace present chairs?**
  - o **Used Furniture store in Trinidad – check there?**

**C. Board President's Report: (Dave Rogers, President)**

- **Construction on Rt. 160: Will begin Monday 4/13/26 and run through October 2026. \*Be prepared for up to 15-minute delays. (They are beginning the work in LaVeta and working their way back to Walsenburg).**
- **Walsenburg had a major water leak on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 – No water in town at all.**
  - **Dave Rabideau has an advanced alert system for NWWD.**
  - **The largest distributor of water – COORS – make a large donation of water.**
  - **Black Hawk Energy will be taking over the Water Dept in Walsenburg. (They will be installing new meters, etc).**

- **NWWD is doing well. There have been no complaints regarding water, Water Operators or Office Staff. Thank you!**
- **2026 SDA Annual Regional Workshop: This year's annual workshop is being held on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the Fountain Sanitation District, from 8:30am-11:30am. Members attending the workshop: Dave Rogers, Vanna Morningstar, Dan Palmisano, Debbie Palmisano, Beckie Ferrell.**
  - o **Jim Bierly and Rick Williams will get back to me re: attendance at the workshop.**
- **Spring Newsletter 2026: Be sure to emphasize having no animals in the covenants. Also stress the importance of conserving water due to drought conditions in Colorado.**

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **Mid-month Water Meter Readings: Previously discussed during Dave Rabideau's Water Operators Report. These mid-month readings have caused no issues, and Dave will continue to do readings mid-month, as well as month-end.**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Spring 2026 Newsletter**

**B. 2026 SDA Annual Regional Workshop – Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in Fountain.**

**C. 2026 SDA Safety Grant**

**\* All items for New Business were discussed in Debbie Palmisano's Office Report.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:55pm by Vice President Rick Williams; MOTION 2<sup>nd</sup> BY Director Dan Palmisano.**

**\*\*The next Regular Board of Director Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 1:00pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Debbie Palmisano**

**Secretary**