

# **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING**

## **CLIFTON WATER DISTRICT**

**AUGUST 14, 2025**

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

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Pettingill, Jacob Lenihan, Blair Wade, Ty Jones, Mark Dalley, Stephen Silva, Mike Simpson, and Rene Fick.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Linda Roper, and Analee C. Elliot.

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

Chairman Diffendaffer called the August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Meeting to order at 5:01pm.

- Linda Roper stated that she is present today to ask for Board consideration for a tap at her property located north of I-70. Clarification was requested on the location and Assistant Manager Lenihan explained the parcel is located just north of the District's storage tanks. She has lived there for over 20 years and has been hauling water. Manager Jones asked if the property is within Ute Water Conservancy District's boundaries. Linda responded that she has both Ute & Clifton Water District boundaries on each of her property lines, adding that Ute quoted her \$50k for a tap. Chairman Diffendaffer asked about the location of our distribution line and Assistant Manager Lenihan responded that an 8" line runs right up to this property line. Discussion ensued with Manager Jones commenting that it would need to first be established if this property is located within Ute's boundary, as it is not within Clifton Water District's boundaries. A possible next step would be to submit a petition for inclusion to the Board, and if approved, the District will publish a notification regarding the public hearing to be held for the inclusion. It was reiterated that the property owner is responsible for installing the service line from the meter pit to the residence(s).

### **MINUTES OF THE JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2025 REGULAR MEETING**

Director Genova moved to approve the Minutes of the July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Regular Meeting, seconded by Secretary Cook. Motion carried unanimously.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Slauson moved to approve the Accounts Payable checks, in the amount of \$796,869.92, seconded by Chairman Diffendaffer. Motion carried unanimously.

## **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

### Finance Staff Report

- Financial Summary – Finance Manager Wade stated that as of the end of June, total operating revenue was at 45.7% and non-operating revenue at 58.1% of the budget. The District has expended 39.9% of the operating budget and 20.9% of the non-operating budget.
- Investments – The District has a few investments with maturity dates in 2026, and staff are working with Schwab advisors to determine whether to consider multi-year treasury notes or transferring funds to COLOTRUST. These decisions will be based on whether interest rate cuts occur in September/October, along with the District's cash requirements.
- 2026 Budget – Initial budgets have been submitted by management staff, and a draft will be ready for presentation in September.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

### Human Resources Staff Report.

- 2026 Benefits & Insurance renewals – HR Manager Pettingill noted that she is expecting the health, dental, and vision renewal rates on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Colorado Special District will conduct its 2026 property and liability, and worker's compensation kick-off meeting on the same day.
- Training – The District's recently purchased cyber insurance includes a one-year subscription to cybersecurity awareness training. Staff are taking advantage of this, and rollout of this training will occur this month.
- Distribution Supervisor – Interviews for this position were held this week and a decision is expected by next month.
- Mission, Vision, and Core Values – A staff survey was sent out to determine what best describes the District's mission statement, vision statement, and core values. The mission and values currently published on the District's website warranted an update as it was challenging to distinguish the mission statement from the values. Staff presented the results of the survey and asked for Board input. Brief discussion ensued, with HR Manager Pettingill explaining that this may seem like "fluff", but from a grant application point of

view, these statements do matter. She further noted that during the supervisor interviews, it became clear that the changes management has made over the last few years have had a positive impact. The change in culture has made the District a desirable place to seek employment. She added that a tagline was also included in the staff survey, with “Quality Water. Quality People” being the most voted for. The Board was in general agreement with publishing the updated values and statements to the District’s website, and using the tagline. Analee Elliot commented that the tagline could be incorporated with the District logo.

## **ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT**

### Engineering Report

- Water Treatment Plant Project – The Request for Proposal (RFP) is almost complete. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) provided some comments to ensure it meets the requirements for the State revolving loan fund. Those comments were incorporated and sent back to CDPHE for a final review. Attorney Kurath wrapped up the contract updates. Currently, it is still a draft but it is all that is needed right now. The RFP will be sent out shortly and will need to be advertised for 30 days.
- Colorado River Transmission Main Crossing – This project is still under County review, and District staff are addressing some questions from the County.
- Desert Road pump station – The new location has been surveyed. Estimated cost to get power to the location is \$70k, following discussion with Grand Valley Power. SGM will be contracted to complete the pump station design, as budgeted for in 2025, with a proposed start in construction in 2026.
- Coffman Road Transmission – The second part of this project is underway, with staff starting to clear the path for the water line. Distribution Supervisor Dalley stated that installation of pipe will start following the completion of locates on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Diffendaffer asked about tree removal and Distribution Supervisor Dalley responded that only a few small trees have been removed, staff are working around most of the trees. He estimated project completion by the end of September, barring any unexpected leaks or breaks elsewhere that will pull staff and equipment away from this project.
- Storage Tank rehabilitation – Initial inspections have been completed. Divers will be scheduled to inspect the 1 million gallon tank currently in use. The initial reports indicate that the two larger tanks are in good shape but will need to be recoated. The older, smaller tanks may not be worth the cost of rehabbing compared to the cost of replacement. The recoating process will take a few months and involve draining, recoating with cathodic protection, followed by refilling, disinfecting, and testing.

- 32 ½ Road and E Road Mesa County Project – Water main work has been completed.
- SGM Proposal – Staff will start working on the Master Service Agreement and are asking Board approval for District Manager Jones to sign the agreement when completed. Vice Chairman McElley moved to authorize Manager Jones to sign the agreement outlining on-call services and associated costs with SGM, seconded by Director Genova. Motion carried unanimously.

## **OPERATIONS**

The Board had no questions regarding the June Operations Report

## **ADMIN/OFFICE**

- Black & Veatch American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) proposal – The risk and resiliency assessment proposal was briefly discussed. As noted in the August 13<sup>th</sup> workshop, the District is required to complete this assessment every five years and the cost of this assessment by Black & Veatch will be \$61,594. Director Genova moved to approve contracting the services of Black and Veatch, and authorize Manager Jones to sign the contract when finalized at the cost of \$61,594. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman McElley. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2025 Rates and Fees – Manager Jones stated that tap fees will need to be restructured as a result of the passing of HB25-1211. Resolution 2025-12, Resolution to Revise Tap Fee Structure to Comply with HB25-1211 is being presented for board approval today. Chairman Diffendaffer moved to adopt Resolution 2025-12, Resolution to Revise Tap Fee Structure to Comply with HB25-1211, seconded by Vice Chairman McElley. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Diffendaffer moved to approve the Residential Tap Fee Policy, effective immediately. Vice Chairman McElley made a point of clarification that the policy to be approved will include the irrigation discount. The motion was seconded by Director Genova. Motion carried unanimously.
- Manager's Report
  - Communication was received from CMU tech regarding logo placement on the tanks located at 32 Road and Highway 50. The old agreement is still in place and Manager Jones asked the Board if there are any objections to proceeding. Treasurer Slauson clarified that all associated costs belong to CMU and Secretary Cook questioned if there would be interference with the tanks. Manager Jones responded that there will be no costs to the District. Functionality is the higher priority for the District, and painting or logo placement will not interfere with that.

- A hearing will be held at the Colorado Conservation Board meeting regarding the Shoshone Water Rights. Brief discussion ensued with Manager Jones noting that it appears the front range is not opposing the rights transfer, but the amount of water represented by those rights.
- River levels were briefly discussed, with Manager Jones noting that low levels may result in a re-evaluation of the plan to assist the City of Grand Junction with water supply during their planned reconstruction.

### **ADJOURN MEETING**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:08pm by Chairman Diffendaffer.

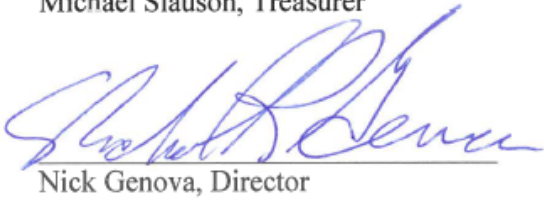
#### **ATTEST:**

  
Mel Diffendaffer, Chairman

  
Dan McElley, Vice Chairman

  
Michael Slason, Treasurer

  
Jeff Cook, Secretary

  
Nick Genova, Director