

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

The regular meeting was held on July 1, 2026, at the Hill County Water District's office in Hingham, Montana.

Board members present: Lowell Strissel, Jason Myers, Kevin Springer, Rob Moog, Shane Borlaug, and Larry Fossen. Absent: Dan Hybner and Tina Wood.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: None.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Chairman Lowell Strissel. Also present was Manager Chad Hedges, and Secretary Genevieve Hanson.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: President Strissel asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the June 3, 2026, regular Board meeting previously received by all Board Members. On motion by Jason Myers, seconded by Shane Borlaug, the Board approved the minutes of June 3, 2026, regular Board meeting as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Water Loss Report** – The Board reviewed the most current water loss report. North Kremlin has high water loss again. Possibly created a new leak while fixing the leak on April 1, 2026. Plans are in place to address the water loss in North Kremlin as well as Joplin.
- b. **PFAS Testing** – Results came back. HCWD passed the PFAS testing with negative PFAS in the samples. Samples were taken from BPS#2, Inverness and Hingham.
- c. **BPS#2 GPM Issue** – Mr. Hedges reported some issues with GPM signals being sent to SCADA. He did some troubleshooting two weeks ago and no issues have occurred since. Hopefully the issues were caused by a loose wire. Mr. Hedges also discussed how well Diamond Maps will work for mapping meters and gate valves. The software is user-friendly and will be a useful tool.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Wilbur Ellis Leak-** Two leaks were discovered in Hingham on the Wilbur Ellis line in June. Both have been fixed by Precision Ex, LLC. The Board requested that Wilbur Ellis split some of the cost because the line belongs to Wilbur Ellis. Mr. Hedges reported that a curb stop was installed so that if the line breaks again in the future, customers will not be without water while the line is being repaired.
- b. **Gildford Leak-** A leak was discovered right before the curb stop near the Miller residences in June. The Gildford Water Board was able to repair the leak and had the parts on hand to make a full repair.

- c. **Approve Power as Member of NCMRWA-** The town of Power has requested membership to the North Central Montana Rural Water Authority and requires approval from current members for the addition. The Board discussed the pros and potential cons if Power was to join in membership. Motion was made by Shane Borlaug, seconded by Rob Moog, the Board unanimously approved Power's membership and passed the Resolutions Approving the Town of Power as a Member.
- d. **Liberty Colony Proposal & Core Line Customers-** Liberty Colony is in the process of establishing a Hutterite Colony, located south of Chester. Secretary, Sam Mandel sent a letter to HCWD indicating that they are in the process of securing water for drinking, household needs, gardening, and livestock, estimating needs of 50,000 gallons per day when the colony becomes fully operational. The Board discussed the pros and cons of allowing connection to the HCWD line. While this request cannot be carried out at this time due to being at capacity, the Board agreed that they would be happy to revisit this when HCWD is near connection to NCMRWA.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. **Bills/Financial Reports** – The Board reviewed the bills and financial reports. Shane Borlaug motioned to approve bills and financial reports, seconded by Jason Myers. The Board unanimously approved the bills for payment, and financial reports.
- b. **CDARs-** Another CDAR matured on June 26. That CDAR is currently sitting in the savings account. Ms. Hanson discussed the option of combining that CDAR with the next CDAR maturing on July 30 and reinvesting the combined amounts with 1st Bank. Jason Myers approved combining CDARS and reinvesting with 1st Bank and Rob Moog seconded, the Board approved going forward with the transaction.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. **Bureau of Reclamation Report** - Mr. Hedges reported that river flow will be near 1500 cfs over the weekend. It will be beneficial to the upcoming push of farmers spraying ahead of harvest.
- 2. **Delinquencies** – Reviewed by the Board. Ms. Hanson reported that two more delinquent customers have been set up with autopay which will remove them from the delinquent list.
- 3. **Pipe Threader-** Mr. Hedges reported that he is selling his threading machine and thought it would be beneficial to HCWD to make stainless steel nipples at the shop, instead of ordering them. On motion by Larry Fossen to purchase the threading machine, seconded by Rob Moog, the Board approved the purchase.

ADJOURNMENT: Rob Moog motioned and Shane Borlaug seconded for meeting adjournment at 8:26PM.

Genevieve Hanson, Board Secretary

Next Regular Meeting- Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 7:30p.m. at the District office at 104 Second Street, Hingham, Montana.