MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

The regular meeting was held on September 2, 2026, at the Hill County Water District's office in Hingham, Montana.

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: None

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:32PM 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 July 1, 2026, regular Board meeting previously received by all Board Members. On motion by Larry Fossen, seconded by Tina Wood, the Board approved the minutes of July 1, 2026, regular Board meeting as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. **Water Loss Report** – The Board reviewed water loss numbers for the month of August and there is notable loss in North Rudyard, Joplin, North Kremlin and Hingham. Two leaks were discovered and fixed in North Rudyard. Currently, Mr. Hedges is working with the Joplin water board to find their leak which is suspected in the old school. Regarding the Hingham leak, Jason Myers requested clarification on whether Hingham Park is now billed with the town- Mr. Hedges confirmed that it is, so Hingham Park is no longer a water loss issue and there must be a leak. Another leak was also discovered on the North Kremlin route through a customer's infrared drone. This leak will be fixed soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **North Rudyard Leaks –** There were two large leaks found on the North Rudyard route last month. Both have been repaired.

b. **RRGL Grant Application –** HCWD has applied for a Planning grant with the help of Bear Paw Development Corporation. The grant is worth $40K and HCWD will need to match those funds for the PER (Preliminary Engineer's Report) which is estimated at $80K. The PER will be for soil boring and procuring a new water tank in Inverness. The boring is to test the soil where the tank will be placed. The application deadline closed on August 21, 2026, and grant money will be available in 2028, if it is awarded.

c. **Sanitary Survey –** Will take place on September 2, 2026, with DEQ personnel from Helena. The survey is scheduled to begin around 9am and last until noon. It is predicted

to go well, and the Board will be notified of the results as soon as the survey is complete.

d. **Billing Services for Rudyard County Water & Sewer** – The Board was informed that HCWD will be providing billing services to Rudyard County Water and Sewer District effective September 16, 2026, which is when the first cycle of bills will be run by HCWD. Rudyard has been notified of the change by mail with last month's bills. Each Rudyard customer will be subject to the $4 billing fee that was passed in July 2026.

e. **Billing Fee Exemption for Customers Enrolled in Autopay and Text Alerts –** Due to inflation with everyday costs of living, it was requested that the Board waive the $4 billing fee for any customer who enrolls in both autopay, and text alerts. Autopay saves time for administrative staff, finance charges for customers who mail in a late check, and alerts are an effective way to notify customers of outages or water conservation/ restrictions. The exemption is an incentive to enroll in both. Larry Fossen motioned to approve the billing fee exemption for customers enrolled in autopay and text alerts, and Daniel Hybner seconded. The Board unanimously approved the billing fee exemption.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. **Bills/Financial Reports –** The Board reviewed the bills and financial reports. Tina Wood motioned to approve bills and financial reports, seconded by Jason Myers. The Board unanimously approved the bills for payment, and financial reports.

b. **Financial Reports – see above**

c. **CDARS Update –** Money has been moved from Independence Bank to a 1st Bank shadow savings account which will act just a CD account. The shadow savings account gives FDIC insurance required to insure that amount of money. The Board also discussed its desire to keep some CDAR funds with Independence Bank.

d. **OTHER NEW BUSINESS:** None

ADJOURNMENT: Jason Myers motioned and Kevin Springer seconded for meeting adjournment at 8:10PM.

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Genevieve Hanson, Board Secretary

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