

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Public Meeting
May 12, 2026

Board Members present: Dennis Peppenger, Dave Schuler, Kristie Blackford, Susan Bersuch, Jerry Ulmen
 Conducting: Jerry Ulmen
 Recording Secretary: Christy Walter & Kristie Blackford (Training)
 Operator: Brian Blackford
 Bookkeeper: Ashlee Liedle
 Excused Absence: Dave Schuler
 Guest: Amy Grisak
 The Public Meeting began at 6:55 pm

Dennis made the motion to open the meeting: Second: Susan Passed

Dennis made the motion to accept the minutes of 04/28/2026: Second: Susan Passed

Old Business:

3/10/2026 – Jerry requested that we put the generator for sale on Facebook market place, Dave agreed and will post. 3/24/2026 – Dave confirmed that the listing had been created on Facebook market place. 04/14/26 Dave had an inquiry on the generator and provided Brians contact information to discuss the specs of the generator. Closed

04/14/2026- The board discussed upcoming staffing changes and the need to fill a vacant board position. Upon submission of Board Member Kristie Blackford's formal resignation, the Board will begin advertising for a new board member. Board Member Kristie Blackford has provided a verbal resignation from her board position in order to assume the role of Secretary to better meet the needs of the district. This transition is tentatively scheduled to take effect on May 1, 2026. 04/28/2026 Dave will start advertising for a new board member. Decisions will be made by 06/09/2026. Closed

04/14/2026- Book keeper Phone and Computer are outdated and a discussion was made to look into the price of upgrading. Susan made a motion to upgrade the book keeper mobile phone: Second: Dennis Passed Closed

04/28/2026 Discussion about the bank card: Dave is going to the credit union tomorrow and ask about a new debit card. The previous card was deactivated. 05/12/2026 Closed

04/28/2026 Arnie Schendlson has applied for unemployment. Dave has a questionnaire to fill out. Closed

04/28/2026 Christy Walter will work in a consultation with Kristie to train her as the new secretary at \$30.00 an hour starting in May. Closed

The laptop will not stay charged and will shut off randomly. She checked on the price of a new Laptop and the cost is approximately \$629.00 up to \$700.00. Jerry made a motion to purchase a laptop: Second: Susan Passed Closed

New Business:

Going forward the wording on motions need to read who made the motion. Proceeded to who second the motion. Discussion and passed.

Bookkeepers Report:

Black mountain had mis-communicated with Ashlee/Arnie and the wrong quote on the renewal was given. The actual annual amount will be \$9962.03

Lap top was purchased and the phone will be addressed by the next meeting.

The following bills were read for approval:

05/12/2026 Transfer Main Checking – To Bond Repayment \$468.00 – Bond Repayment from 05/05/2026 Deposit
 Transfer Main Checking-O&M \$693.18 05/12/2026 Deposit

Checks received at meeting: #554 Check# 1000 \$83.51
 #541; Check# 14103; \$70.54
 #502; Check# 12477; \$300.00

DEQ	\$	30.00	Water Renewal Fee Brian	
DEQ	\$	30.00	Water Renewal Fee Royce	
DEQ	\$	30.00	Water Renewal Fee Dave	
DEQ	\$	30.00	Water Renewal Fee Dennis	
Hawkins	\$	501.50	Chlorine cylinder	

Utilities Underground Locate	\$	17.80	Excavation Notifications for the month	
Northwestern Energy PH#2	\$	1,779.30	Utilities	
City of Great Falls	\$	26.00	Water Samples	
DEQ	\$	30.00	Water Renewal Fee Jerry	
	\$	2,474.60		5/12/2026

Checks:

5041 Brian Blackford \$ 600.00 Cost of HP Laptop
5042 DEQ \$ 150.00 Drinking water certification 5 employees

Dennis made the Motion to Pay the Bills as Read:

Second: Susan Passed

Treasurer's Report: Kristie has been assisting the bookkeeper with the transition process, including organizing accounts, obtaining access to various programs and accounts, and completing necessary account cleanup.

Operator's Report:

- Discussion on watering times
- New pump ordered for PH#1 and it has not come in yet
- #577 rescheduled to replace water meter
- Starting to rebuild meters
- #590 has unusual water readings and it will be checked

Planned absences:

Dennis made a motion to adjourn at 7:41.: Second: Susan Passed

Jerry Ulmen
Vice President

Kristie Blackford
Secretary