

**GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**406-761-6528**  
**Minutes of the Public Board Meeting**  
**Public Meeting**  
**May 13, 2025**

Board Members present: Dennis Peppenger, Jerry Ulmen, Mercy Padgett, David Schuler, Kristie Blackford  
Conducting: Dennis Peppenger  
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter  
Operator: Brian Blackford  
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson

The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Jerry  
Second: Mercy Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 4/22/25: Kristie  
Second: Jerry Passed

**Checks Received at the meeting:** #541 \$67.18 ck# 13998 #502 \$200.00 ck# 12383

**Old Business:**

#705 ~ Homeowner was questioning what the status of the generator was. He offered to help us sell the generator. Dennis said he will ask Grant to start the process of selling the generator for \$16,500. 11/12/2024 ~ Homeowner has placed the ad on craigslist with Dennis's phone number. 12/23/24 ~ Dennis had a request to purchase the generator. This was refused because it was a low-ball offer. Dennis is waiting to hear back. 1/14/2025 ~ Dennis is still waiting. 2/11/2025 ~ David will follow up with the 705. 5/13/2024 ~ Dave and the homeowner updated the posting.

#672 ~ was questioning his water usage. His December usage was over 20,000 gallons. Brian did check the meter 12-13 days ago with the wife. Brian verified that the when the water was shut off there was no meter reading. The board reviewed his annual billing and Brian suggested changing his meter tomorrow. 2/25/2025~ Brian changed the meter. 3/11/25 ~ meter has been changed. We are monitoring usage. 5/13/2025 ~ the board reviewed the usage before and after the meter change. It is the decision of the board that the water went thru the meter and that amount is owed. Letter will be mailed. Closed

The homeowner at #525 has been out of town for the last 2-3 months. He had extremely high-water usage while they were gone. Mercy suggested that we install a new meter and follow it for the next 60 days to see what is going on. They will be gone off and on over the next few months. 3/25/2025 ~ New meter was installed. We will observe the usage for the next 60 days, but the outstanding flat rate needs to be paid. 5/13/2025 ~ Kristie talked to the homeowner and reviewed the usage. The usage prior to meter change is drastically higher than the usage after the change. Kristie proposed that the homeowner will pay the monthly fees and to charge the usage for 2024 (the previous year) plus 20%. Arny will determine how to properly adjust this and report at the next meeting.

3/25/2025~ Dennis and Jerry have gone down the Credit Union to get Mercy added. 4/8/2025 ~ Kristie has been at the credit union. 5/13/25~ Still waiting for Dave and Mercy.

**New Business:**

DEQ sent us letter and we are on a reduced monitoring on Lead and Copper from semi annually to annually.

Dave suggested that get a Debit/Credit card. He had to use his personal card to pay the domain name bill.

Dave also mentioned that we need have someone responsible for reading the emails. Mercy will make a point of checking the email twice a month. Arny also checks the email.

Christy supplied the board with the 2024 CCR Consumer Confidence Report. We have 25 violations reported in there because we missed a testing cycle by 22 days. We did test and all results were negative, but end result is we missed the test cycle by 22 days. Brian and Royce will review the testing schedule.

**Bookkeepers Report:**

8/27/24~ An email was sent asking about the attachments we should be sending with the emailed bills. 10/22/24 ~ Arny has provided Christy a paper list. He is working on an electronic list.

#567 ~ Lani (daughter) has been in contact with Arny. Arny is working on getting this taken care of.

#634 ~ homeowner is questing her water usage while she was gone.

The following bills were read for approval:

Brian Blackford	\$	1,143.50	Operator's Wage
Kristie Blackford	\$	138.53	Director's Fee
Gary Humble	\$	213.16	Wages, Mileage, Misc
Mercy Padgett	\$	138.53	Director's Fee
Arnold Schandelson	\$	973.88	Bookkeeper's Wage
David Schuler	\$	108.53	Director's Fee
Royce Shipley	\$	186.63	Wages, Mileage Misc
Christina Walter	\$	362.93	Secretarial Wage
Utilities Underground Locate	\$	13.76	8 locates
Montana State Fund	\$	346.95	MSF Worker's Comp
Wendy Weissman CPA	\$	160.10	QuickBooks & Payroll
AT&T Wireless	\$	106.86	Monthly Cell phone
KDS Networks	\$	54.95	Monthly Internet
Montana Rural Water	\$	300.00	MRWS membership dues
Energy West	\$	41.33	PH # 2
Energy West	\$	64.17	PH #1
	\$	4,353.81	

Arnold Schandelson \$28.04 Ink Cartridge Royce Shipley \$212.93 Wages, Mileage, Msc  
Gary Humble \$277.70 Wages, Mileage, Msc David Schuler \$20.00 Domain Name Subscription  
DEQ Renewal Fee \$30.00 each Dennis, Jerry and Dave \$90.00

Motion to Pay the Bills as Read: Mercy  
Second: Jerry Passed

**Delinquents:** Payment is due 5/26/2025 Termination is 5/28/2025.

# 530	\$ 131.04	# 530	\$ 131.04	# 556	\$ 148.61	# 561	\$ 160.96
# 564	\$ 286.86	# 603	\$ 365.37	# 612	\$ 159.57	# 625	\$ 212.13
# 665	\$ 155.61	# 636	\$ 160.99	# 646	\$ 140.36	# 648	\$ 699.05

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Kristie is working on filing and reviewing accounts.

#### **Operator's Report:**

- PH # 1 Distribution pump 1 Variable Speed Drive (VSD) is non-operational. Cascade Electric came out 4/8/2025 and stated "Repair is outside their scope". Nash Electric out of Helena is assisting. 5/13/2025 Replaced. Closed
- Timers will be moved to summer watering this week.
- Distribution pump 2 PH #2 is leaking around the motor shaft. Replacing the gland is no longer working. This is causing leaking. While not bad at this point, it will be a future maintenance item.
- Nash Electric advised Brian that our pressure fluctuations in the system are most likely due to advanced age of the pressure sensors. Motion to replace the sensors: Mercy

Second: Jerry passed.

Motion to adjourn at 8:21 Kristie  
Second: Mercy Passed

---

Dennis Peppenger  
President

---

Christy Walter  
Secretary