

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Public Meeting
June 10, 2025

Board Members present: Dennis Peppenger, Jerry Ulmen, Mercy Padgett, Kristie Blackford
Conducting: Dennis Peppenger
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter
Operator: Brian Blackford Excused
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 5/27/25: Jerry
Second: Mercy Passed

Checks Received at the meeting: #502 \$200.00 ck#12392 #541 \$134.36 ck#14005

The checks received at the 5/13/2025 meeting have not been deposited. Christy received them, but Arny did not get them. Christy had been recently hospitalized and was on medications. She has no idea what happened and apologizes.

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. 5/27/2025 ~ Motion to reduce the price to \$15,000 and advertise with MT Rural Water: Mercy
Second: Kristie Passed

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. 6/10/2025 We received \$124.18. We will make a decision on this after the June meter reading.

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. 5/27/2025 ~ Dave will go to the credit union tomorrow 5/28/2025.Closed.

Dave suggested that get a Debit/Credit card. He had to use his personal card to pay the domain name bill. Dave will ask when he goes down 5/28/2025. Debit card is in the safe. Closed

#518 Royce left a message stating that his valve is non-functioning and would like to have that fixed. 6/10/2025 Brian was excused. Will follow up with him at the next meeting.

New Business:

Quarterly Newsletter was mailed out with the May billing.

Gary Humble has put in his notice that he want's to retire as of the end of June. This was noted and advertised in the newsletter.

Bookkeepers Report:

#634 ~ homeowner is questing her water usage while she was gone. 5/27/2025 Arny provided usage to Brian to review. Brian reported that she had a leak in Jan. 6/10/2025 ~ We will need to follow up with Brian on this.

MJD Contracting has not cashed his \$66,300.00. Joel Piltcher from Great West contacted him and was told that he will get around to cashing it in the next few weeks. Closed.

Army talked to the auditor and we need to do an audit this year. Army has tried to schedule a meeting with the WipFli.

The following bills were read for approval

Montana State Fund	\$	163.76	UI Insurance	
Northwestern Energy	\$	2,061.74	PH # 1	
Northwestern Energy	\$	1,239.31	PH # 2	
Energy West	\$	35.55	PH # 2	
Energy West	\$	18.34	PH # 1	
City of Great Falls	\$	26.00	Water Testing	
Utilities Underground Locate	\$	10.50	6 locates	
KDS Networks	\$	54.95	Monthly Internet	
Wendy Weissman CPA	\$	160.10	QuickBooks & Payroll	
Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$	329.74	Supplies	
Brian Blackford	\$	1,143.51	Operator's Wage	
Kristie Blackford	\$	138.52	Director's Fee	
Gary Humble	\$	354.46	Wages, Mileage, Misc	
Arnold Schandelson	\$	1,001.91	Bookkeeper's Wage	
David Schuler	\$	128.52	Director's Fee	
Royce Shipley	\$	150.29	Wages, Mileage, Misc	
Christina Walter	\$	362.93	Secretarial Wage	
	\$	7,380.13		
# 5014	Gerald Ulmen	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
# 5015	MT Dept of Environmental Quality	\$	30.00	Royce Shipley dues
# 5016	MT Dept of Environmental Quality	\$	30.00	Brian Blackford dues
# 5017	Mercy Padgett	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
		\$	337.04	

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

Delinquents: Payment was due 5/26/2025 Termination is 5/28/2025. No Terminations this week.

Treasurer's Report:

Kristie is working on filing and reviewing accounts.

Operator's Report: Excused

- Timers have been 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. 5/27/2025 We will address this in October.
- The recycle pump used to pump water in the filter house was replaced some time ago and needs to be rebuilt.
- Check Valve parts came from Northwest Pipe.
- There has been less pressure complaints since the variable speed drive that was failing has been replaced.

Motion to adjourn at 7:51 Mercy
Second: Kristie Passed

Dennis Peppenger
President

Christy Walter
Secretary