



Minutes

President Rathbun called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., and Mr. Leonard called roll.

Directors:

Kirk Rathbun, President
Gene Huffman, Vice President
David McKenzie
Arland Ward
Griffin Hanberg

Staff Present:

Shane Leonard, District Manager
Jason McShane, Assistant District Manager
Stuart Dezimmer, Comptroller/Treasurer
Seth Defoe, Land and Water Resources Manager
Ben Woodard, Engineering and Operations Manager
Lori Gibson, Executive Administrative and HR Manager
Mardi Perry, Executive Coordinator

Other Persons Present:

John Crotty, Western Legal

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA: Vice President Huffman moved to confirm the agenda. Director McKenzie seconded. All present voted in favor and the motion carried.

WORKSHOP

2026 Budget: The 2026 Preliminary Budget packet was presented to the Board. Mr. Leonard introduced the packet, and Mr. Dezimmer reviewed select line items. A discussion ensued regarding the equipment replacement reserve fund and Policy 2.29, and the needed operations equipment. Mr. McShane reviewed the equipment replacement spreadsheet with the Board and explained the history behind the fund.

Mr. Dezimmer continued reviewing alternative budgets with the Board. Director Hanberg inquired regarding the cost of Washington DC representation. There was a discussion regarding other alternatives. Director Hanberg asked if the Board had an option of waiving their compensation, and legal counsel explained the steps involved in taking this action.

There was a discussion regarding reserve funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 10:08 a.m., Mr. Leonard announced on behalf of the presiding officer that the board would go into executive session at 10:08 a.m. to discuss with legal counsel potential litigation, in the form of litigation or legal risks of a proposed action or current practice pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(iii) until 11:00 a.m. unless extended.

There were no members of the public in the Boardroom or on Zoom.

At 11:00 a.m., executive session was extended for 30 minutes.

At 11:30 a.m., executive session was extended for 15 minutes.

11:45 a.m., executive session was extended for 15 minutes.

OPEN SESSION: At 12:00 p.m., open session resumed.

Approving 2026 Schedule of Rates & Charges; and Assessments; and Select Surcharges:

Director Hanberg moved to approve Alternative 4. Director Ward seconded. There was a discussion regarding the motion. President Rathbun called for a vote. The vote was

conducted by voice vote. Ayes: Director Hanberg, Director Ward. Nays: President Rathbun, Vice President Huffman, Director McKenzie. The motion failed.

Vice President Huffman moved for a 2% rate increase across all tiers. Director Hanberg seconded. There was a discussion regarding the motion and further clarification was provided. President Rathbun called for a vote. The vote was conducted by voice vote. Ayes: Director Hanberg, Director Ward, Director McKenzie, Vice President Huffman. Nays: President Rathbun. The motion passed.

President Rathbun called for a motion to adjourn.

Director Hanberg moved to adjourn at 12:40 p.m. Vice President Huffman seconded. All present voted in favor and the motion carried.

Attest:



Kirk Rathbun, Board President
Minutes Approved December 15, 2025

Witness:



Shane Leonard, Board Secretary

Prepared by Lori Gibson