

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Public Meeting
October 22, 2025

Board Members present: David Schuler, Dennis Peppenger, Jerry Ulmen, Kristie Blackford
Conducting: David Schuler
Recording Secretary: Kristie Blackford (acting recording secretary)
Operator: Brian Blackford
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson
Members Absent: Christy Walter (Secretary)
Guest: Susan Bersuch
The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Dennis
Second: Jerry Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 10/08/25: Dennis
Second: Jerry Passed

Checks Received at the meeting:

#14043 #541 \$70.54

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. 6/24/2025 ~ the price has been reduced to \$15,000 and Dennis will get an advertisement with MT Rural Water. 07/22/2025 MT Rural water will post it on their website. Dennis and Brian are going to do a trouble shoot on the generator battery. 8/12/2025 ~ nothing new to report 8/26/2025 ~ Townsend Electric may have someone interested in the generator. Brian will follow up tomorrow. 10/8/2025 ~ Nothing new

#634 had questions about the bill. Brian will take the leak detector to her home Thursday night to check. She was out of state from Nov 2024 to April 2025. 8/26/2025~ Brian followed up with the homeowner. There is a leak, but the meter is across the street from her property. Brian proposes that we move the meter to her property. He has talked to Steve about the feasibility of this. This would cost the district \$2,000 to \$3,000. The outstanding balance is still due to the district. 9/9/25~Brian is waiting to schedule with Steve. Steve is requesting locates. 9/24/2025~ we are waiting for a permit from Cascade County allowing us to dig under the road. 10/8/2025 ~ The leak is fixed. The dig was challenging. There was a new tap into the tranzite pipe. Moving the meter pit fixed the problem. She was told at the meeting she attended to pay the current balance and an additional \$50.00. CLOSED

9/9/225~# 518 notified Dennis that his curb stop was not working. Dennis told him we would have Steve fix it the next time he is up here. Steve will take care of this after Call before you dig marks it. Brian verified. CLOSED

Mercy has indicated that she will be submitting a letter of resignation. She was appointed to fill Collette's position. She turned in her keys but we are waiting on written notice 10/22/2025.

Christy Walter will need to be out Monday 10/20/2025 thru Friday 11/14/2025 for medical reasons. Kristie Blackford will cover the 2 meetings, deposits and statement stuffing during this time.

New Business:

Northwestern Energy notified us to put a power poll on the property in the easement. Board discussed the underground lines. Motion to approve the line for Northwestern Energy: Jerry
Second: Dennis Passed

The board discussed implementing a late fee for customers who do not make their payment by the end of the month and is doing research on this matter. Under MCA7-13-2301 Paragraph 3 Charges and penalties are authorized for water systems. This will be discussed in more depth during future meetings.

Bookkeepers Report:

Arny talked to the auditor and we need to do an audit this year. 07/22/2025~ A meeting has been scheduled. 8/12/2025~ Arny has had his first meeting with the auditor and provided documents to the board. It was discussed that the taxes and unemployment can be paid prior to board authorization because those must be paid on the last business day of the

month. 10/8/2025 ~ Arny has been in touch with Clayton and most of the audit will be done electronically. Wendy Weissman has agreed to help Arny with some of the new requirements. 10/22/2025 Audit will start soon.

Arny has talked to Cascade County regarding the delinquent balances. Arny has the format they want the information provided. We will have this prepared for the 8/26/2025 meeting so we can have this at the Cascade County by 9/1/2025. 8/12/2025~ Christy will gather all of the info for Arny by next meeting. 8/26/2025 ~ #691 will be turned over to the county. That property is owned by #645. Christy will get a letter out to #645 for \$1,865.00 9/9/2025~ #645 called Arny questioning the bill. He was told that as the property owner, the bill stops with him if his tenant is not paying. Arny told him to attend tonight's meeting and he did not show up. 9/24/2025 ~ Mercy and Dave signed the letter going to the county tonight. 10/08/2025 ~ Arny needed signatures from all board members. He will submit tomorrow hopefully. 10/22/2025 CLOSED

We have 2 CD's maturing in October 18 and October 30. Arny will get rates for our next meeting. 10/8/2025 48-month CD is 2.5% the 7-month CD is at 3.5%.

Motion to roll both CD's into the 7-month CD's: Kristie
Second: Jerry Passed 10/22/2025 CLOSED

There has been problem with the company phone for three days. AT&T notified and problem was fixed.

#538 New owners

Black Mountain office will be closed 12/23/2025-12/26/2025

The following bills were read for approval:

Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$	408.44	Supplies
Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$	389.36	Supplies
Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$	223.57	Supplies
Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$	4.01	Supplies
Hawkins	\$	40.00	CL2 Rentals
Northwestern Energy	\$	2,089.92	Ph# 2
Northwestern Energy	\$	1,522.95	PH# 1
City of Great Falls	\$	26.00	Water Test
AT&T	\$	100.04	Phone Bill
Energy Lab	\$	340.00	Lead and Cooper test
DEQ	\$	460.00	Annual Fee
	\$	5,604.29	

10/22/2025

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

Treasurer's Report:

Nothing to report.

Operator's Report:

- Pumphouse #1 is shut down after seal failure at distribution pump causing air bubble in system.
- Brian has tried to reach out to Butch to find out when he can re-install the rebuilt distribution pump at PH #1. Seals have been received and the second pump should be installed in a week. 10/22/2025 Still haven't heard anything from Butch. Dennis will reach out to him and follow up.
- The key for the isolation valve broke while exercising valves. Repairs are being done.
- Curtesy water shut off for #625 and #639 to perform repairs.

Motion to adjourn at 7:47: Dennis
Second: Jerry Passed

David Schuler
Vice President

Christy Walter
Secretary