

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Public Meeting
August 26, 2025

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

The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Kristie
Second: Dennis Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 8/12/25: Kristie
Second: Dennis Passed

Checks Received at the meeting: #541 ck# 14025 \$68.13

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. 7/8/2025~ Dennis will get the info to 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.

#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. Motion to move the meter to the correct side of the yard: Dennis

Second: Jerry Passed

#505 was billed for over 200,000 gallons of water in July. Brian read the meter tonight. 8/26/2025 ~ There was a error on the meter reading. CLOSED

Christy notified the board that she will be retiring as the secretary no later than December 2026. If we find someone earlier, she is more than willing to step down and provide training for the new person.

New Business:

Montana Rural Water Conference will be in Billings for 2026. David suggested that those members that need continuing education can go online.

Did the lifting of the odd /even daily restrictions in the month of July effect the district. It did not seem to effect the water availability. We will review this Spring 2026.

Resolutions 2026-001, 2026-002 and 2026-003 were unanimously approved, and signed.

Bookkeepers Report:

Arny talked to the auditor and we need to do an audit this year. Arny has tried to schedule a meeting with the WipFli. 7/8/2025~ Arny is working on getting this scheduled. 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.

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

#667 is still questioning his water usage. He is asking to have his meter replaced. 07/22/2025 Brian is trying to get into contact with customer and the phone number is not current. Brian is going to #667 to contact individual.

The following bills were read for approval

AT&T	\$	99.81	Monthly Cell Phone
City of Great Falls	\$	156.00	Water Testing
Hawkins Inc	\$	40.00	Chlorine Cylinder Rentals
Wendy Weissman CPA	\$	181.74	QB and Payroll
MT Dept of Labor	\$	4.80	60 locates from 7/1/23 to 6/30/24
	\$	482.35	

Estimated Payroll month end August 2025

Brian Blackford	\$	1,143.51	Christina Walter	\$	362.93
Gary Humble	\$	354.46	Kristie Blackford	\$	138.52
Royce Shipley	\$	150.29	David Schuler	\$	128.52
Arnold Schandelson	\$	1,001.91	Mercy Padgett	\$	138.52
Alice Christinsen	\$	280.00	Edward Taylor	\$	195.00

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

Delinquents: Payment was due 09/8/2025 Termination is 09/10/2025.

# 598	\$ 202.29	# 634	\$ 963.25	# 635	\$ 244.09	# 665	\$ 490.08
# 672	\$ 274.01	# 683	\$ 138.64	# 691	\$ 1862.27	#	\$

Treasurer's Report:

Kristie is working on filing and reviewing accounts.

Operator's Report:

- Variable Speed Drives have been malfunctioning. Cascade Electric is scheduled to fix them in August. Cascade Electric is unable to fix. Nash Electric should be out Wednesday 8/13/2025 hopefully. The existing Eaton VFD model SVX9000 is not readily available with no future prospects. A newer model will be installed in its place hopefully. Communication has been intermittent and challenging with Nash Electric. No other electrical company has been found that can service our Eaton VFD(variable frequency drive). 8/26/2025 ~ The new VFD is being installed Wednesday 8/27/2025.
- We had a spike in our chlorine. Our numbers are back within normal parameters.
- Brian has backwashed the filter houses.
- Brian has tried to reach out to Butch to find out when he can re-install the rebuilt distribution pump at PH #1.

Motion to adjourn at 7:58 Jerry
Second: Kristie Passed

David Schuler
President

Christy Walter
Secretary