



Mission Statement

“To provide reliable water and sewer service in a safe, cost effective environmentally sound manner in accordance with community needs.”

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
IDYLLWILD WATER DISTRICT
25945 Highway 243
Idyllwild, CA 92549**

February 19, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

President Schelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Wendy Harsha was sworn in by President Schelly.

ROLL CALL

President Schelly, Vice President Priefer, Director Olson, Director Davis and Director Harsha were present along with General Manager Rojas and Chief Financial Officer Shouman. General Counsel Ryan Guiboa was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Jacob inquired about the profile of the new director. Director Hasrah declined to comment. President Schelly noted that the new director had been a member of the community for years and then turned it over to Director Olson for a statement. Director Olson stated that he had encouraged the new director to apply because she is a business owner and actively volunteers in the community. He believed she would be a good fit for the board. Mr. Jacob asked if she had a background in water or utility management and what business she owned. The board responded no background in those areas, but that she was a community member and that a Form 700 would be filed.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, to be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, it shall be removed so that it may be acted upon separately.

A. MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting: January 15, 2025
Special Board Meeting: February 7, 2025

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Income statement for the seventh month ending January 2025



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b. District warrants for January 2025	
Check #18733-18779	= \$248,837.87
Gross Payroll	= \$79,250
Federal/State PR taxes	= \$7,792
LAIF Transfers	= \$0
Transfers/charges	= \$347

C. OPERATIONS REPORT

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Davis asked why the “slippage” (water loss) increased this month. Mr. Rojas responded that the rise in water loss was due to several leaks that occurred during the month.

Director Olson inquired about the specific leaks and sought clarification on whether they were the primary cause of the water loss. Mr. Rojas explained that in addition to leaks, water loss also resulted from system flushing and water usage by the Fire Department, which the District tries account for, but it isn't always 100% accurate.

President Schelly asked about "I&I," what it stands for, and how the system performed after the last rainstorm.

Mr. Rojas explained that "I&I" refers to inflow and infiltration into the sewer lines. He reported that following the most recent rainstorm, there were no issues, and nothing abnormal was detected. He also mentioned that crews have been actively addressing trouble areas over the past month by hot jetting the sewer lines to maintain system integrity.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tara Baldwin asked about water loss, the percentage, and how it related to the holding tanks. President Schelly clarified that the percentage was included in the report and was 13%. Ms. Baldwin then asked if that percentage was considered average. Mr. Rojas explained that the typical average is around 10%, meaning the current percentage was slightly above normal. He noted that the increase was primarily due to losses in the distribution system, including leaks that occurred this month. Ms. Baldwin also inquired about the status of the springs and whether the issue could be drought related. Mr. Rojas responded that, generally, spring flow is more closely tied to heavy rainfall rather than drought conditions.

A motion was made by Director Olson to approve the Consent Calendar and Director Davis seconded.



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AYES

**Director Davis
Director Harsha
Director Olson
Director Priefer
President Schelly**

NAYS

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

Motion approved.

INFORMATION

2. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

The General Manager will update the Board on accomplishments, challenges that have occurred, and key performance metrics.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Olson mentioned that in the RFP on proposal fundings RAMS they talked about grant funding. Mr. Rojas responded that we have done business with CRWA and have applied for a grant through them. We recently received an update from Duckett, indicating that we must be at 73% or lower of the average income (disadvantage community) in our zip code, based on the latest census report. Currently, we are at 83%, which resulted in the state's denial of our grant application. Mr. Shouman mentioned that we are going to try and send out a survey to the sewer customers. Director Olson expressed a preference for securing a grant over a loan.

Director Davis congratulated Lu on passing his water exam.

Vice President Priefer had a few questions about the sewer system, including whether we could rehabilitate our current system. Mr. Rojas said that option is not out of the question, but they are still working on funding and may explore other avenues. Vice President Priefer also asked when the sewer project is projected to start—possibly by the end of this year? Mr. Rojas responded that the project is only at 30% completion, so there is still a long way to go before construction can begin. Additionally, Vice President Priefer inquired about the census and sought clarification regarding a past census report. President Schelly provided clarification, using the school as an example and noting that the government website offers different tables for reference

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephanie Yost asked which areas were included in the ZIP code for the census report. Mr. Rojas responded that it covered all of 92549, which includes Idyllwild-Pine Cove and Fern Valley. Mr. Shouman added that the data was based on entering the 92549 ZIP code, which encompasses all of Idyllwild-Pine Cove.



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Diane Darcy asked how the community can help with grant funding and which political offices should be alerted. President Schelly responded that the District would reach out to anyone involved, but the public is also encouraged to reach out.

Mrs. Yost offered to help also any way she can.

Tara Baldwin asked about the Strawberry Creek project and whether it would continue east of Village Center. President Schelly clarified that the project is not under the District's jurisdiction.

John Jacobs asked if a “Plan B” was being considered for the sewer plant. President Schelly responded that yes, they are exploring all options, using a good, better, and best approach. They need to secure a grant to pursue the best option.

Mr. Jacobs also asked about the rate increase. President Schelly explained that the District is looking for grant funding to help cover costs. Mr. Jacobs asked why the hydrant flushing program was paused. Mr. Rojas explained that the program was temporarily halted due to numerous sampling requirements, but it will resume soon, and residents will be notified

ACTION ITEMS

3. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR AUDITING FIRM

The Board of Directors will consider approving an RFP that was submitted to the District.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Olson expressed extreme disappointment in the RFPs, noting the numerous typos in both documents and pointing out several errors. He stated that he believed RAMS was the better of the two proposals.

Director Harsha preferred to go with the lower-priced option, which was RAMS.

Director Davis agreed with both Director Olson and Director Harsha's comments, sharing a similar viewpoint.

Vice President Priefer also agreed with Director Olson and Director Harsha but inquired whether a different group of auditors within the company could be assigned.

Director Olson noted that a rotation is required periodically. Mr. Shouman clarified that the rotation occurs every three years.



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PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

A motion was made by Director Olson to accept RAMS as our auditing firm and Director Davis seconded.

AYES

NAYS

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

**Director Davis
Director Harsha
Director Olson
Director Prierer
President Schelly**

Motion approved.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 802 WATER STAND-BY ASSESSMENTS FOR FY 2025-2026

The Board of Directors will set a date of May 21, 2025, for a Public Hearing for water stand-by assessment fees for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for undeveloped parcels within the Idyllwild Water District (water service area).

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

A motion was made by Director Olson to approve the date of May 21, 2025, for a Public Hearing for water stand-by assessment feeds for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and Director Davis seconded.

AYES

NAYS

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

**Director Davis
Director Harsha
Director Olson
Director Prierer
President Schelly**

Motion approved.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 803 SEWER STAND-BY ASSESSMENT FOR FY 2025-2026

The Board of Directors will set a date of May 21, 2025, Public Hearing for sewer stand-by assessment feeds for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for undeveloped parcels within the



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Idyllwild Water Improvement District No. 1 (sewer service area).

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

A motion was made by Director Olson to approve the date of May 21, 2025, for a Public Hearing for sewer stand-by assessment fees for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and Director Davis seconded.

AYES

**Director Davis
Director Harsha
Director Olson
Director Prierer
President Schelly**

NAYS

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

Motion approved.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 804 TRANSFERRING EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

The Board of Directors will discuss transferring employee retirement plans from Voya to Charles Schwab retirement program.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Olson asked whether the fees with Schwab were \$6,000 per year or per month. Mr. Shouman clarified that the fee is per year no hidden fees.

Vice President Prierer asked how the changes would affect those who are already retired from IWD. Mr. Shouman responded that each retiree would handle their own investments individually.

President Schelly asked if the staff voted unanimously and if they all wanted to transfer. Mr. Shouman responded yes, they wanted to transfer their retirement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

A motion was made by Director Olson to transfer employee retirement funds to Charles Schwab and Director Davis seconded.



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AYES

**Director Davis
Director Harsha
Director Olson
Director Prierer
President Schelly**

NAYS

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

Motion approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. LEGAL COUNSEL EXPLAINING BOARD RULES

The Board of Directors will hear Legal Counsel explain the authorization and responsibilities of being a Board Member.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

President Schelly provided some background on the 'On-Boarding' process for new board members and explained that IWD follows Rosenberg's Rules of Order rather than Robert's Rules of Order.

President Schelly asked Tyla Wheeler about the required training for board members. She responded that three of the five board members have completed the necessary training, and she is working on providing the information to the two members who have not yet completed it.

Then the Board of Directors heard from General Counsel Guiboa, who presented a slideshow and elaborated on the authorization, roles, and responsibilities of being a Board Member. General Counsel provided an in-depth explanation of the legal and ethical duties that Board Members are required to uphold, including their fiduciary responsibilities, the decision-making process, and the importance of complying with relevant laws and regulations. This session ensured that all Board Members were fully informed of their obligations and expectations in their role, and it provided an opportunity for any questions or clarifications.

There were several typical questions asked to gain clarification.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Jacobs asked about the application process for new board members and how conflicts of interest are addressed. It was explained that Form 700 is filed and reviewed to disclose any potential conflicts.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Director Olson asked about Resolution 714. President Schelly stated that it would continue to be reviewed until the necessary changes were made.



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Vice President Priefer thanked Mr. Rojas for his time and for providing a tour of the District. She also welcomed Ms. Harsha to the Board.

President Schelly asked about establishing a policy for the General Manager to have a higher spending allowance in an emergency situation.

John Jacobs asked about the property near the Idyllwild Brewpub. President Schelly stated that there are no updates on that property.

The Board of Directors adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

** Vice President Priefer dismissed herself before moving into closed session.

The Board moved into Closed Session at 7:45 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR- GOV'T CODE SECTION 54956.8

Property Description: Property in Idyllwild
-54700 Pine Crest Ave , Idyllwild , CA 92549
-53599 Westridge Rd, Idyllwild , CA 92549
Agency: Absence of a Specified Negotiator
District Negotiator: Bill Rojas, General Manager
Negotiating Parties :
- Robert Jordan Priefer Family
- Robert Michael Tranchida and Paul O' Kane
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms
Manager
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

The Board moved into Open Session at 8:28 p.m.

REPORT FORM CLOSED SESSION

Nothing to Report.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.



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CLOSING DIRECTOR COMMENTS

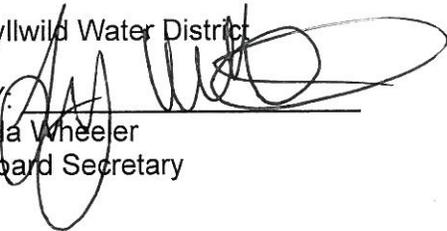
None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 8:30p.m.

The next Board meeting is a Regular Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., to be held at the Idyllwild Water District Boardroom, 25945 Hwy. 243, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

Idyllwild Water District

BY: 
Tyla Wheeler
Board Secretary

Idyllwild Water District

BY: 
Dr. Charles Schelly
Board President