

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE TWENTYNINE PALMS WATER DISTRICT  
72401 HATCH ROAD, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277**

**March 26, 2025 / 4:00 P.M.**

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Bob Coghill called the Board meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Those responding to roll call were Michael Arthur, Larry Bowden, Bob Coghill, Randy Leazer, and Amy Woods. Also present were General Manager Matt Shragge, Maintenance Superintendent Mike Minatrea, Treatment/Production Superintendent Robert Shelton, Financial Consultant Scott Nelsen, and District Secretary Cindy Fowlkes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Steve Gurney led the pledge.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

1. Public Hearing on Proposed Amendment to the District Groundwater Management Plan  
1.1 Board to Hear Public Testimony at This Time

Director Leazer moved to open the Public Hearing at 4:01 p.m., seconded by Director Arthur, and unanimously approved.

There being no public comment, Director Arthur moved to close the public hearing at 4:02 p.m., seconded by Director Leazer, and unanimously approved.

2. Consideration of Resolution 25-02 Intent to Amend the District Groundwater Management Plan

Staff recommends adopting Resolution 25-02. The GWMP acts as a planning tool assisting the District in protecting the quantity and quality of groundwater within the District's service area. The data also provides useful information for the District's planning documents like the Salt Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) and the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan.

Director Woods moved to adopt Resolution 25-02 intent to amend the District Groundwater Management Plan, Director Arthur seconded, and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Directors Arthur, Bowden, Leazer, Woods, and Coghill
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

3. Consideration of Resolution 25-03 Intention to Continue Currently Existing Water Availability Assessments of the Twentynine Palms Water District in the Upcoming Fiscal Year 2025/2026

The District intends to continue with the existing assessments levied on parcels within the District to which water is made available. The current fiscal budget projections stand at \$592,000 for the imposed assessment.

Director Woods moved to adopt Resolution 25-03 intention to continue currently existing Water Availability Assessments for the upcoming fiscal year 2025/2026, Director Arthur seconded, and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Arthur, Bowden, Leazer, Woods, and Coghill  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

4. Commending Steve Gurney for Twenty Years of Public Service

General Manager, Matt Shragge, thanked Steve for his commitment and service to the District. Coworker, Ryan Weber, read Resolution 25-04 commending Steve for his 20 years of public service as the mechanic for the District. Steve was also recognized for serving his country for 20 years in the United States Marine Corp.

Steve thanked the District and senior staff for affording him the opportunity to grow and learn throughout his career at the District.

Director Arthur moved to adopt Resolution 25-04 commending Steve Gurney for twenty years of public service, Director Leazer seconded, and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Arthur, Bowden, Leazer, Woods, and Coghill  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

5. Approval of Kennedy Jenks Amendment #2 to the 2024-2027 Master Professional Service Agreement and Accept Proposal for Well 11B Treatment Evaluation

The project will evaluate and identify optimal treatment alternatives for the removal of arsenic, fluoride, and hexavalent chromium from Well 11B.

Director Arthur moved to approve Amendment #2 to the 2024-2027 Master Professional Service Agreement and accept proposal for Well 11B treatment evaluation, seconded by Director Bowden, and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Arthur, Bowden, Leazer, Woods, and Coghill  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

6. Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee for Joint City Meeting

After discussion, Director Woods moved to withdraw her request to have a joint meeting with the City and forgo the formation of an ad hoc committee, seconded by Director Leazer, and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Arthur, Bowden, Leazer, Woods, and Coghill  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

7. Discussion of a Health Insurance Feasibility Study for the Board of Directors  
Scott Nelsen presented the Board with two scenarios for medical benefits provided through the District's insurance carrier ACWA/JPIA. The highest cost scenario for Board members to have medical insurance would cost the District \$125,000 annually for an HMO plus one plan. The lowest cost scenario would be \$52,000 a year for a PPO single member plan.

After discussion, the Directors decided not to move forward with a health benefit policy for the Board at this time.

8. Consent Calendar

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on February 26, 2025
- Audit List

Director Arthur moved to approve the Minutes and Audit List, seconded by Director Woods, and approved unanimously.

9. Items Removed from the Consent Calendar for Discussion or Separate Action  
None

10. Management Reports

10.1 Maintenance

Mike reported that the District responded to 106 Underground Service Alerts, had 1 water main leak, 1 water meter leak, 0 service line leaks, 2 fire hydrant repairs/maintenance, installed 0 new services, replaced 6 customer gate valves, performed 3 leak audits, painted 0 fire hydrants, performed 4 customer pressure checks, replaced 5 water meters, Tested and exercised emergency generators and sounded wells for February. 0 water waste inquiries were received. There was a total of 517 work orders processed during the month.

10.2 Water Quality

Robert reported water production was down 14.29% as compared to the same month in 2013. 40 routine and 17 special water samples were taken. All special samples tested negative for Colilert. All current wells meet the 2.0 mg/L standard fluoride variance set by the State Water Resource Control Board. All samples tested were below the variance. Robert congratulated Steve on his retirement.

10.3 Finance

Scott Nelsen reported on January's financials. Bad debt expense is higher this month as unsettled accounts from 2020 are written off during January. The budget at 58% of the year is trending as expected with total expenditures at 54% and total revenues at 62%.

10.4 General Manager

Matt thanked Steve for his service and friendship over the years and wished him a happy retirement. Steve's 20 years of institutional knowledge will be missed at the District.

11. Conference With Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation - Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: (1 case)

Director Bowden moved to enter closed session at 5:36 p.m., seconded by Director Arthur, and unanimously approved.

The Board returned to open session at 6:20 p.m. Director Coghill announced there was no reportable action.

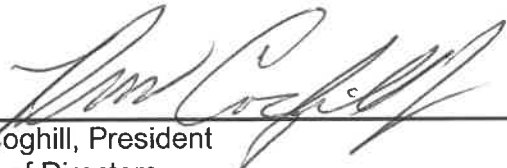
12. Future Agenda Items and Staff Tasks/Directors' Comments and Reports

Director Leazer would like to see a comparison of Board member benefits from other water districts.

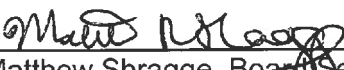
Director Woods would like to see if a medical carve out policy is available. Director Woods thanked Steve for keeping employees of the District safe during his years of service.

13. Adjournment

On motion by Director Bowden, seconded by Director Leazer, and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at: 6:23 p.m.

  
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Bob Coghill, President  
Board of Directors

Attest:

  
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Matthew Shragge, Board Secretary  
Twentynine Palms Water District