

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

September 23, 2026 / 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 Directors Larry Bowden, Bob Coghill, Randy Leazer, and Amy Woods. Director Arthur was late. Also present were General Manager Matt Shragge, Director of Operations Mike Minatrea, Financial Consultant Scott Nelsen, and District Secretary Cindy Fowlkes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Director Leazer led the pledge.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

1. Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel

Anticipated Litigation (Gov't Code, Section 54956.9(D) (4)) (One Case)

Director Leazer moved to enter closed session at 4:02 p.m., seconded by Director Bowden, and unanimously approved.

The Board returned to open session at 4:36 p.m. Director Coghill announced there was no reportable action.

2. Discussion of District's Financial Responsibility toward the Community's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Approval of Payment Schedule

In 2025, the District made a commitment to contribute \$200,000 for a five-year geological joint survey with the City of Twentynine Palms. The District has allocated funds (\$50,000) beginning with the 2026/2027 fiscal year thru 2029/2030. The total project cost is \$2,431,988. The City was awarded an EPA Grant for \$1,938,224. The City is requesting the first installation payment of \$50,000.

Director Leazer made a motion to approve the payment schedule for the District's portion of the USGS survey, seconded by Director Arthur, and approved by the following roll call vote:

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

3. Review and Adjust Board Meeting Schedule for November and December

Staff recommends adjusting the Board meeting schedule in November to the 18th and December to the 16th due to the holidays. Historically, the Board has changed the date to the third Wednesday of the month to avoid scheduling conflict with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Director Bowden made a motion to adjust the November and December Board meetings to November 18th and December 16th, seconded by Director Leazer, and approved unanimously.

4. Discussion of Annexation – APN #609-271-02

A private landowner of a 128 acre parcel has approached the District and would like to be included in the District boundary. The owner would be responsible for the cost of the annexation. The District would provide a service line to the property.

After discussion, Director Woods moved to proceed with the annexation through LAFCO, seconded by Director Bowden, and approved unanimously.

5. Conservation as a Way of Life Compliance Summary: Twentynine Palms Water District

The regulation went into effect on January 1, 2025, requiring all Urban Water Suppliers to report water usage on an annual basis beginning January 1, 2026. The objective is to lower the water usage each year to meet efficiency standards by allowing suppliers to implement local solutions. The report requires the following:

- Calculate residential indoor water use; residential outdoor water use; water loss; commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes with dedicated irrigation meters.
- Carry out performance measures for water use
- Annually report to the State Water Board

The District successfully met the 47 gallons per capita per day (GPCD) for the 2024-2025 reporting year. By 2030, the calculated objective for residential indoor water use will drop to 42 (GPCD). The District will be looking into a swamp cooler variance that may help meet future state mandated objectives.

6. Discussion of Including Water Availability Assessment to Fire Only and Lear Fire Only Parcels

The District's Water Availability Assessments are grandfathered having been implemented prior to the adoption of Proposition 218. The owners of the Fire Only and Lear Fire Only parcels, approximately 1,363 parcels, opted out of water service with the District at the time of their annexation. If the District were to extend the Water Availability Assessment to these parcels, it must comply with Proposition 218 procedures and would be limited to those parcels with sufficient existing infrastructure to allow connection to the water system. Currently, District infrastructure is not available to the majority of the parcels in question. The District can assess a Standby Charge, in accordance with Proposition 218 procedures provided there is sufficient existing infrastructure for connection to the water system.

7. Consent Calendar

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on July 15, 2026
- Audit Lists for July and August

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

8. Items Removed from the Consent Calendar for Discussion or Separate Action

None

8. Management Reports

8.1 Maintenance

Mike reported that the District responded to 51 Underground Service Alerts, had 0 water main leaks, 1 water meter leak, 0 service line leaks, 1 fire hydrant repair/maintenance, installed 1 new service, replaced 3 customer gate valves, performed 8 leak audits, painted 40 fire hydrants, performed 4 customer pressure checks, replaced 10 water meters, Tested and exercised emergency generators and sounded wells for August. 0 water waste inquiries were received. There was a total of 691 work orders processed during the month.

8.2 Water Quality

Mike reported water production was down 14.35% as compared to the same month in 2013. 50 routine and 16 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.

8.3 Finance

Scott Nelsen reported on June and July financials. The preliminary report for year-end 2025/2026 was included. June ended at 97% of the operating budget. The July financials included a new format with revenue and expense graphics illustrating actual versus budget.

8.4 General Manager

Matt thanked the Board of Directors for representing the District at the 2026 CSDA Conference. Board members attended various classes including AI, Succession Planning, and How to Evaluate a General Manager. Riverdale Water District toured the Fluoride Removal Plant and was very impressed with the operation. Mike Minatrea, Brian Peters, Tyler Russell, Jacob Bell, and Jake Hu were thanked for taking pride in the Treatment Plant. Cindy Fowlkes was acknowledged for her work on septic tank outreach with the customization of Don't Flush this Book. The District hosted a summer BBQ lunch for the employees. Carol Giannini was wished a speedy recovery. New hire, Johnny Mendez, was acknowledged. Director Woods was wished a happy birthday.

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

Director Bowden would like more visible signage listing the office hours.

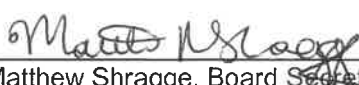
10. Adjournment

On motion by Director Woods, seconded by Director Leazer, and approved by the Board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.



Bob Coghill, President
Board of Directors

Attest:



Matthew Shragge, Board Secretary
Twentynine Palms Water District