

Minutes of the Maeser Water Improvement District Board of Trustees meeting held at 1:00 P.M. on March 12th, 2026 at 1063 North 2500 West, Vernal, Utah.

Present: Vice Chairman: Robert Leake. Trustees: Nolan Jackson, Kevin VanTassell, GaLynn Oaks. Staff: Dusty McCormick and Cameron Durrant.

Absent: Richard Jolley and Branden Lammert.

Prayer: Dusty McCormick

Pledge of Allegiance: Robert Leake led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Public Attendees: Craig Nebeker Sunrise Engineering, Talon Mortenson Jones & DeMille engineering

Approval of February 12th 2026 board meeting minutes: Nolan motioned to approve the February 12th board meeting minutes with corrections, clarifying that Nolan Jackson and Richard Jolley attended the sewer board meeting and clarifications to show that the board members who motioned and seconded motions from the previous meeting had also voted in favor of those motions. Robert 2nd, Kevin Yea, Robert Yea, Nolan Yea, GaLynn Yea. Motion carried.

Follow up February 12th board meeting minutes:

Painted Hills Well iron removal project: Dusty reported that he is working with Jones & Demille to determine the proper design and application for the filters and to make sure that the piping is designed correctly. If the future design is approved by the Division of Drinking Water, we will be able to move forward with the project by determining if a building needs to be made. Talon spoke with the Division of Drinking Water and reported that they said we can start chlorinating the water and that some treatment permitting may be waved due to the chlorinated water in our system.

Transfer funds from checking to PTIF complete: Dusty reported that we had moved \$200,000.00 to the PTIF.

Open positions, planning & advertisements: Dusty reported that we finished adding the edits to the job advertisements suggested by the board members and submitted those advertisements to Corper James for his review. After receiving his feedback and revising the documents accordingly, we posted those advertisements on our website, the Rural Water website, Utah Jobs, and other similar job posting websites. The advertisements have been posted for approximately a week. Dusty suggested that the board wait for approximately one month to allow submissions to come in before reviewing those submissions. Kevin suggested meeting approximately a week

before the next board meeting on April 9th. Dusty will keep track of the applications that are coming in and will reach out to the board to set up a meeting time to review the applications.

Utah Rural Water Conference attendee report: Nolan reported on the meeting. Topics discussed during the meeting included the importance of being able to contact one's water users for updates and in case of emergencies, the importance of a district keeping a list of facilities that need to be maintained and carefully prioritizing the maintenance of facilities in order to avoid liability, and the importance of network security, especially in relation to the recent wars, as it is a common tactic for foreign countries to target water infrastructure for cyber attacks. Dusty talked about the network security on our website and the firewalls on SCADA. The district's emergency response plan will be updated by Craig this year. Craig is in the process of putting an agreement together.

Report from Staff:

Water use data report complete: Dusty reported that the water use data report was completed and submitted. Unaccounted water for the district is at 11%, slightly over the 10%, which is the industry standard. Dusty also reported that we should be in good shape with the Painted Hills tank.

Sewer truck high pressure water pump rebuild complete: Dusty reported that the high pressure pump on the sewer truck was leaking. We were able to disassemble the pump and rebuild the pump so that it could be usable. While our sewer truck was down, we worked with Ashley Valley and Vernal City to have a working sewer truck available at all times.

Ashley Creek users meeting March 25th at 5:30 PM at the DNR office: Dusty reported that Ivan Merrill had informed him about a meeting regarding the distribution of the lower end of Ashley Creek. Robert believed that the subject matter of the meeting did not concern the Maeser District.

Sewer board report:

Board Meeting Report: Nolan attended the sewer board meeting. Richard Jolley was elected the new chairperson with Max Haslem as the new vice-chairperson. Stubbs & Stubbs are working steadily on the lift station and have put in place piping for the odor control unit, which should be delivered next week. Stubbs & Stubbs asked for a pay request of \$62,504.00, which was approved by the board. The board also discussed updating the master plan through Bowens & Collins. Dean wanted to attend the CIB public hearing on the 14th of April and secure funding before moving forward with the project. In the meantime, the survey portion of the project is going forward. Road improvement on the lagoons is moving forward. The meeting also discussed the replacement of four pumps for a lift station. The board had initially planned on spending 15-20 thousand dollars on the project, but the bid they received wanted \$43,423.00, so the board discussed doing the project in-house. The safety meeting for the Ashley Valley Sewer Management Board discussed confined spaces.

New Business:

Ashley Valley Nature Park, Landscape water needed: Dusty reported that the trees in the Ashley Nature Park are dying. The caretakers of the park would like to get a water right from us in order to set up a landscape meter. Dusty explained to the caretakers that landscaping is cut off first during a drought or other emergency situation. We have water rights in the central canal and shares in the upper. The only way for the caretakers to get the water they need would be to lease it. Robert asked how the district prioritizes who to lease water to first and Dusty explained that water leases have been given on a first come first serve basis. The district does have an option to fill out a temporary change application to move our water to the spring for a year. Kevin motioned that the district reserve 7.5 acres on the Ashley Upper Primary delivery for the possible conversion to culinary water for one year, Nolan 2nd, all in favor. Motion carried.

Ruby Fields subdivision water line upsize consideration: Nolan motioned to put in a 10 inch pipe. Kevin 2nd. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ruby Fields subdivision secondary irrigation system consideration: The board discussed whether or not the district wanted to install a secondary irrigation system, but ultimately decided to not move forward with the project at this time.

Retirement incentive planning and discussion: Dusty discussed funding concerns related to hiring new employees while Dusty remained employed with the district, demonstrating that overall funds would be saved as Dusty gradually worked fewer hours for the district until retiring.

Review of bills paid: Nolan motioned to accept into the record without exception the bills paid from 02/01/2026 to 02/28/2026. GaLynn 2nd. Kevin yea, Robert yea, Nolan yea, GaLynn yea. Motion carried.

Nolan exited the meeting.

Retirement service credit review and correction Branden Lammert: Dusty discussed Branden's concern over not receiving credit for working six months before being hired on full time. The board discussed purchasing the six months of credit and whether or not Branden was receiving benefits during those six months. Dusty will review Branden's records and look into whether or not he was receiving benefits during that period.

Adjourn: Kevin made a motion to adjourn, all in favor.

APPROVED:

Dusty McCormick, Records Officer

Richard K. Jolley, Chairman