

MINUTES

Thursday, March 19, 2026
Mammoth Community Water District
Regular Board Meeting

The Board of Directors convened in session at the hour of 5:30 p.m. No recess was taken, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Prepared by:



Stephanie Hake
Executive Assistant

ATTEST:



Clay Murray
Board Secretary

THE REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Directors of the Mammoth Community Water District was held on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Present

Director: Tom Cage
Director: Dennis Domaille
Director: Elizabeth Hylton
Director: Tom Smith
Director: Gary Thompson

Board Absent

None

Staff Present

General Manager: Clay Murray
District Engineer: Garrett Higerd
Finance Manager: Jeff Beatty
Operations Superintendent: Chris Monroe
Information Services Manager: Justin Mulbay
Principal Administrative Analyst: Michael Draper
Executive Assistant: Stephanie Hake
Legal Counsel: Josh Horowitz (*remote attendance*)

Guests Present

Anthony Elowsky – Robert D. Neihaus, Inc.
Leanna Block – MCWD
Melissa Bretz – MCWD
Chris Weibert – MCWD (*remote attendance*)

PUBLIC FORUM

President Smith opened the public forum at 5:31 p.m.

Clay Murray formally introduced Chris Monroe, the District's newly appointed Operations Superintendent. Director Cage congratulated Mr. Monroe on his new position.

No one else addressed the Board and President Smith closed the public forum at 5:31 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA A

A-1 Approve the February 2026 Check Disbursements

A-2 Approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held February 19, 2026

Director Hylton made a motion.

BOARD ACTION – To approve Consent Agenda A

MOVED BY: Director Hylton

SECONDED BY: Director Cage
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

CONSENT AGENDA B – DEPARTMENT REPORTS

B-1 Operations Department Report	B-5 Information Services Report
B-2 Maintenance Department Report	B-6 Personnel Services Report
B-3 Finance Department Report	B-7 Regulatory Support Services Report
B-4 Engineering Department Report	B-8 General Manager’s Report

Director Domaille made a motion.

BOARD ACTION – To approve Consent Agenda B

MOVED BY: Director Domaille
SECONDED BY: Director Thompson
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

CURRENT BUSINESS

C-1 Discuss and Consider Adopting Resolution No. 02-28-26-02 Honoring Mark Busby’s Service to the District

President Smith read the resolution into the record; then asked for a motion.

BOARD ACTION – To adopt Resolution No. 02-28-26-02 honoring Mark Busby’s service to the District

MOVED BY: Director Domaille
SECONDED BY: Director Cage
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

C-2 Public Hearing on Proposed New District Water and Wastewater Rate Structure

- **The Board will receive a staff presentation and then receive public comment on the proposed Fiscal Years 2027-2031 water and wastewater rates. After the hearing is closed, staff will provide the Board with a tabulation of valid written protests filed against the new rate structure.**

President Smith opened the Public Hearing at 5:35pm.

Jeff Beatty briefly described the rate study process and the methodology for the proposed changes to the rate structure. He said that all customer classes, not just a few, would have a tiered rate structure. The tiers are tied to the historical averages of the availability of surface water vs. ground water.

Board members complimented staff and the consultant, Anthony Elowsky, on a well done and a thorough report.

President Smith then asked if there were any members of the public interested in making a comment. There were no members of the public in attendance either in person or virtually, therefore, no comments.

President Smith then closed the public hearing at 5:45. Mr. Beatty stated that the District had not received any comments, written or oral during the published comment period.

BOARD ACTION – None, information only

C-3 Discuss and Consider Adopting Resolution No. 03-19-26-03 Setting Water and Wastewater Rates for Fiscal Year 2027 through Fiscal Year 2031

Following the public hearing, Director Cage made a motion to adopt the resolution setting the new water and wastewater rates.

BOARD ACTION – To adopt Resolution No. 03-19-26-03 setting water and wastewater rates for fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2031

MOVED BY: Director Cage
SECONDED BY: Director Hylton
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

C-4 Discuss and Possibly Approve a Sponsorship Grant for the High Sierra Energy Foundation’s LivingWise Education Program in the Amount of \$4,141.20

Michael Draper said that the program’s director, Pam Bold, was unable to attend the meeting and went on to briefly describe the long-standing program. He noted that the District recently hired a couple of staff that had been through the program over 10 years ago when they were 6th grade students.

Director Cage commented that the LivingWise Program was worthwhile and provided value to the 6th grade students and the community, as well as a great recruitment tool. Director Hylton then made a motion.

BOARD ACTION – To approve the sponsorship grant for the High Sierra Energy Foundation’s LivingWise Education Program in the amount of \$4,141.20

MOVED BY: Director Hylton
SECONDED BY: Director Thompson
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

C-5 Discuss and Consider Adopting Resolution No. 03-19-26-04 Establishing the Fiscal Year 2027 MCWD Master Fee Schedule

Jeff Beatty said the Master Fee Schedule (MFS) contains all rates and fees charged by the District. The rates and fees listed in the MFS align with the cost to the District’s for providing the service and are reviewed annually as part of the budget development process.

There was no discussion. Director Domaille made a motion.

BOARD ACTION – To adopt Resolution No. 03-19-26-04 establishing the Fiscal Year 2027 MCWD Master Fee Schedule

MOVED BY: Director Domaille
SECONDED BY: Director Thompson
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

C-6 Discuss and Consider Adopting Resolution No. 03-19-26-05 Approving the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating and Capital Budget

Jeff Beatty introduced the item and said Melissa Bretz would lead the presentation. Ms. Bretz highlighted the few changes to the document since the draft was presented in February.

Director Cage complimented staff for the work that went into preparing the annual budget and noted it was very easy to read and understand.

There was no further discussion. President Smith said it was a great team effort and called for a motion.

BOARD ACTION – To adopt Resolution No. 03-19-26-05 establishing the Fiscal Year 2027 MCWD Operating and Capital Budget

MOVED BY: Director Hylton
SECONDED BY: Director Cage
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

C-7 Discuss and Consider Adopting Resolution No. 03-19-26-06 Establishing an Initial Appropriations Limitation for the Fiscal Year 2027

Jeff Beatty said that this is a two-step annual process associated with the budget adoption. The initial appropriations limit brought to the Board in March is an estimated amount, then once the state provides the necessary annual figures, typically in May, the estimated amount is revised with the actual figure.

There was no discussion.

BOARD ACTION – To adopt Resolution No. 03-19-26-06 establishing an initial Appropriations Limit for the Fiscal Year 2027

MOVED BY: Director Cage
SECONDED BY: Director Hylton
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

C-8 Discuss and Consider Adopting Resolution No. 03-19-26-07 Approving the Fiscal Year 2027 Salary and Authorized Positions (SAPR)

Chris Weibert said there were only minor changes to FY 2027 Salary and Authorized Positions at this time and that likely an amended resolution would be brought to the Board once negotiations with the Local 12 Union concluded.

There was no discussion, and President Smith called a motion.

BOARD ACTION – To adopt Resolution No. 03-19-26-07 approving the Fiscal Year 2027 Salary and Authorized Positions (SAPR)

MOVED BY: Director Domaille
SECONDED BY: Director Thompson
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

C-9 Discuss and Provide Direction to Staff Regarding a Request by the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project Team (ESCCRP) to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Whitebark Institute and Other Organizations to Explore Stakeholder Benefits Related to Forest Restoration Projects in the Mammoth Lakes Region of the Inyo National Forest

Clay Murray said there was no financial commitment or staff time obligated by signing the MOU. Attorney Horowitz verified that the agreement was legally acceptable.

There was no further discussion and President Smith called for a motion.

BOARD ACTION – To direct staff to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Whitebark Institute and other organizations to explore stakeholder benefits related to forest restoration projects in the Mammoth Lakes region.

MOVED BY: Director Hylton
SECONDED BY: Director Thompson
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD DURING THE MONTH

Technical Services Committee – *March 18, 2026*

Dennis Domaille
Gary Thompson

Special Finance Committee – *March 18, 2026*

Tom Cage (absent)
Elizabeth Hylton

Finance Committee – *March 18, 2026*

Tom Cage (absent)
Elizabeth Hylton

Technical Services Committee:

Director Domaille reported the committee was updated on the process for abandoning Well 16 located in the Chair 15 parking lot. Also discussed was the snowpack is melting much faster than anticipated for this time of year.

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Special Investment Committee:

Director Hylton said that the upcoming assessment of the aging Administration Building could result in a recommendation for significant costly upgrades. Therefore, the committee met to discuss making possible

changes to the investment strategy to prepare for these expenditures. She reported that the committee thought it best to "stay the course" and not make any changes at this time.

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Finance Committee:

Director Hylton reported that the committee reviewed most of the business that had been discussed at this meeting.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS, REQUESTS, AND REPORTS

Director Cage commented that last year the Board cancelled the June and August regular Board meetings. This allowed staff to focus on projects and field work during the short construction season. He requested that the Board consider cancelling a Board meeting or two during the upcoming summer months. He stated that he has a potential conflict with the June Board meeting date.

Clay Murray said he and staff would consider the summer schedule comments as potential business items surface over the next couple of months.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Horowitz said the state legislature has many bills that are currently being worked on. He highlighted a few that could have an impact on the District if passed. Assembly Bill (AB) 2180 related to the setting of rates and AB 2013 related to wildfire protection; Senate Bills 101 and 1153 also related to wildfire situations. He said ACWA and his office are keeping a close eye on how these develop. He anticipates ACWA will be asking for letters of support in the coming months.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

President Smith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

BOARD ACTION – To adjourn the Board Meeting

MOVED BY: Director Domaille
SECONDED BY: Director Hylton
AYES: Directors Cage, Domaille, Hylton, Smith, and Thompson
NAYS: None

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.