

PRICE RIVER WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

January 6, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Price River Water Improvement District was held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the District's Service Center located at 265 South Fairgrounds Road, Price, Utah.

Present

Rick Davis	Jeff Richens	Jacob Martinez
Ed Chavez	Micha Marrelli	
Scott Jensen	Kiera Luke	
Chris Haycock	Troy Mastin	
Brian Thayn (via phone)	Ross Bryner	

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Rick Davis. He thanked everyone for their attendance and welcomed all to the meeting. He noted that all board members are present but clarified that Brian Thayn was tuning in via phone due to being out of town and will be representing Wellington City.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

By invitation from Davis, Haycock led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Marrelli administered the Oath of Office to newly elected trustee Chris Haycock. It was noted that Brian Thayn was out of town and will be sworn in as a trustee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments presented to the Board.

POSSIBLE CONFLICTS WITH AGENDA ITEMS

There were no conflicts with agenda items.

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 16, 2025 meeting were reviewed by the Board. Jensen moved to approve the minutes. Chavez seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Chavez, Haycock, Davis, and Jensen.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Jensen reported that over the past few weeks the Wastewater Treatment Plant staff have continued routine sampling for the State COVID-19 and Measles study. Operational work included refilling the East Facultative Sludge Basin and pumping the West Facultative Sludge Basin to the farm field. Maintenance activities addressed repairs to the East Tank drain and ongoing upkeep of gravel roads in and around the plant. Staff also completed cleaning and organization of the shop area. All plant data sheets were reviewed and updated in preparation for the 2026 reporting year. Throughout this reporting period, plant operations remained focused on maintaining system

reliability and regulatory compliance. A total of 396 laboratory tests and samples were collected and analyzed over the three-week period. The majority of these samples were used for process control, with the remainder supporting the State Discharge Monitoring Report requirements.

Chavez shared that the Fleet Department continued routine preventive maintenance on all equipment and vehicles including fueling, greasing, and washing. Unit #3 (2014 Chevrolet 3500HD) had its engine oil cooler lines replaced and is back in service, while Unit #22 (2013 Chevrolet 3500HD) received replacement body components that will be painted and installed following ELDT completion. Unit #8 (2010 Ford F-250) was taken out of service due to a cracked transmission filler tube; repairs are underway, and new tires will also be installed. The Genie GS1930 scissor lift was fully repaired with a new hydraulic pump and motor and is now operating to specification. Building and grounds work continued with progress on the Bay 2–Bay 3 separation wall and partial installation of the East Building air compressor system. The Omni waste oil burner furnace was serviced, relocated, and reinstalled, with new chimney components on order. ELDT behind-the-wheel training is ongoing with all participants passing the written exam and CDL skills testing is scheduled. As of December 30, fuel inventory includes 2,386 gallons of unleaded gasoline and 1,777 gallons of winterized diesel fuel.

Davis reported that during a phone conversation with Jacob earlier today, Jacob informed him of a main line leak located near the Sleepy Hollow area. Davis stated that the repair will need to be scheduled and that the necessary parts have already been accounted for. Due to the relatively minimal nature of the leak and current weather conditions, the District and crew may wait until warmer weather to complete the repair. In the meantime, staff will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Richens, Mastin and Thayn all contributed to the department report for the Water Treatment Plant. They shared that the Water Treatment Plant operations have averaged approximately 1 MGD during runtime, with Price City providing an additional 600 gallons per minute. Staff have been completing consumable inventory as time allows between routine lubrication schedules and ongoing projects. Two operators have been attending ELDT training, and one operator was on vacation for three weeks, requiring the remaining operators to cover additional janitorial duties and lubrication schedules. Plans are in place to purchase and replace brittle tubing in the chlorination system to ensure continued reliability. Personnel have also been reviewing and purging outdated paperwork, reusing folders for the new year where possible. Additionally, the pretreatment basin is being slowly drained due to operating with only one decant pump. Once drainage is complete, staff will enter the basin to perform a full inspection.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Richens presented the Utah SNOTEL report for the Price/San Rafael area and highlighted three specific drainages noting that current snowpack levels are at what would typically be considered a median April level. This means this area is significantly behind normal snowfall amounts for this time of year.

Richens also provided a River Commissioner update, reporting positive conditions at Scofield Reservoir. The reservoir is less than seven feet from spilling, with the majority of inflows originating from mountain runoff. He further explained that water being pumped from the mine flows from Electric Lake, through the mountain, and ultimately into Scofield Reservoir.

Richens then reviewed a detailed packet regarding ongoing court proceedings involving the Sanpete Water District and Price River Water User's Association. He summarized that the dispute centers on a subordination clause that originally required water storage behind a newly

constructed Gooseberry/Narrows dam. Sanpete Water District is now seeking to modify the right to allow canals to be constructed across the face of the mountain to divert the water. As of this meeting, the January 15, 2026 Water Rights hearing has not been canceled. Legal counsel has advised that if an appeal is filed, the District should consider submitting an *amicus brief*, meaning a “friend of the court” letter, in support of the Price River Water User’s Association. Richens stated he will continue to keep the Board informed as the situation develops.

Lastly, Richens informed the Board that Washington County has recently purchased water rights from the Price/San Rafael drainage which is presumed to be associated with the Lake Powell Pipeline project. He expressed concern that Scofield Reservoir’s storage rights only date back to 1941 and are considered junior rights, meaning that in the event of curtailments, the District or anyone possessing those rights could be disproportionately impacted.

CUSTOMER REQUEST TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gary Scow was invited to attend the meeting; however, Richens informed the Board that he spoke with Mr. Scow prior to the meeting and was advised that Mr. Scow was unable to attend. Mr. Scow indicated that his sons, Steven and Brandon, would be present in his place. He also stated that he would be unavailable to attend the January 20, 2026 meeting and requested that the matter be resolved prior to February. In anticipation of Board discussion, Richens prepared and provided drawings related to the meter placements for review with the Scow family. No one from the Scow family was in attendance at tonight’s meeting. Chavez moved to table the matter until the January 20, 2026 meeting. Haycock seconded the motion but a vote was not taken as Davis requested additional discussion before any action was taken. The Board was informed that multiple letters were included in the meeting materials, consisting of written statements from District employees who have interacted with Gary Scow regarding this issue, along with several letters sent in by Mr. Scow. Also, two drawings that were created by Ross Bryner, after meeting with Mr. Scow, were prepared and presented. As the discussion progressed, Jacob Martinez reported that Mr. Scow has stated/claimed that if PRWID excavates the gravel roadway, the District would then be responsible for maintaining the roadway indefinitely. It was noted that the proposed options by Mr. Scow under discussion would create long-term maintenance concerns for the District. Richens explained that PRWID avoids placing water meters within driveways or roadways and does not wish to do so. Instead, PRWID would offer to bore underneath the farm road and pull their service line back to the meter location consistent with District standard practice. The meter would be installed at the location recommended by PRWID. Richens stated that the District is prepared to proceed with whichever option the Board approves. Chavez and Haycock discussed that they would like to require Mr. Scow to sign an agreement releasing PRWID from liability related to future work or maintenance on the customer’s portion of the water service line. Haycock thanked Jacob Martinez and Ross Bryner who were in attendance, and it was noted from Martinez that Pat and Nick have also taken part and helped address their work on this issue and for compiling the supporting documentation for the Board’s review. Jacob further clarified with the board that the District no longer installs services at an angle as those who mark for Blue Stake requests assume meters are install at 90-degree alignments rather than angled placements. Following the discussion, Davis revisited the motion on the table with Chavez and Haycock. Both restated their motion and second. The motion was carried unanimously. AYE: Chavez, Haycock, Davis, and Jensen.

APPROVE BOARD MEMBERS AND MANAGER TO ATTEND UTAH WATER LAW AND WATER USER'S ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Richens reviewed the conference dates included in the Board packet and noted that this would be the first time Brian Thayn and Chris Haycock would attend. He explained that travel would occur on the Sunday prior to the conference and expressed hope that all invited participants would be able to attend. Richens also confirmed that motel reservations have already been made, but that those would change due to board member commitments.

Jensen moved to approve board members and the manager to attend the Utah Water Law and Water User's Association conferences. Chavez seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Chavez, Haycock, Davis, and Jensen.

APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT OF OPEN POSITION

Richens informed the Board that Jacob Martinez has submitted his letter of resignation as he has accepted a construction position operating equipment for the Division of Wildlife Resources. The Board expressed appreciation to Martinez, who was present, for his hard work and contributions to the District. Richens noted that there are two internal employees who are qualified for the position and asked whether the Board would like to advertise the opportunity outside the company or only internally and allow both individuals to apply.

Davis emphasized the importance of transparency in hiring practices and expressed support for advertising the position both internally and to the public. Davis and Chavez also then discussed their preference for promoting from within when possible, particularly for employees who have demonstrated experience and commitment. The Board discussed several options for proceeding. Richens suggested that if the process moves slowly, the District should prioritize filling the Superintendent position first, then backfill as the process proceeds. Jensen moved to advertise the position internally. Haycock seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Chavez, Haycock, Davis, and Jensen.

UPDATE ON SANPETE WATER CONSERVANCY HEARING

Richens apologized to the Board and noted that this update had already been provided earlier during the Manager's Report.

ORGANIZATION OF BOARD LEADERSHIP

Richens stated that, at the time the agenda was published, he was not aware that Brian would be out of town for this meeting. He explained that in the past, the Board has waited until all five members are present before organizing leadership positions, including Chair, Vice-Chair, and departmental assignments. Davis expressed a preference to wait until the full Board is present and sworn in. The item will be held until the next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need for a closed session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Davis shared that he and Richens have had discussions regarding the employee wage scale and expressed a desire to review this topic with the full Board. Davis expressed his opinion that the wage scale is a living document and that the Board should have a clearer understanding of it to ensure employees are being fairly compensated. He clarified that he is not seeking to challenge state requirements, but rather to improve overall understanding and consistency. Martinez

expressed that the Line Maintenance department employees don't see an incentive to getting their grade 4 certification as it takes 17 years to get to the grade 4 pay. So, for those guys to run out and go get that doesn't make sense, and that they're getting grade 1's because there's no incentive. "If they knew that they would jump to the grade 4 pay, then every person on that crew would have that. They would have their grade 2s if they know they would jump to grade 2." He also felt that a lot of guys in their 40s get their 1 and then see where they are going to end up so it's hard to motivate them to do more. Martinez expressed appreciation to the members of the board for considering his comments.

Richens then asked Davis if there were any updates regarding the water rights legal representation discussions from Price City. Davis reported that he has spoken with both the former mayor, Mike Kourianos, and the newly appointed mayor, Terry Willis, and plans to follow up with the new mayor later in the week, noting that the meeting date was her first day in office.

With no further business, Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Chavez seconded and the motion passed unanimously. AYE: Chavez, Haycock, Davis, and Jensen.


Rick Davis, Vice-Chairman


Kim Wood, Clerk