

PRICE RIVER WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

March 3, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Price River Water Improvement District was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the District's Service Center located at 265 South Fairgrounds Road, Price, Utah.

Present

Scott Jensen  
Ed Chavez  
Chris Haycock  
Bryan Thayn

Jeff Richens  
Micha Marrelli  
Kiera Luke  
Troy Mastin  
Glade Nielson - Sunrise Engineering

Excused

Terry Willis

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Jensen. He welcomed all and thanked everyone in attendance. He noted that all board members were present except for Willis. He also noted that the meeting would follow the order outlined in the agenda.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments. Richens noted that the public comment forms and sign-in sheet were ready to go.

POSSIBLE CONFLICTS WITH AGENDA ITEMS

There were no conflicts with agenda items.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 17, 2025 meeting were reviewed by the Board. Chavez moved to approve the minutes. Haycock seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously. AYE: Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Thayn reported that the Fleet Department is waiting for the backordered parts for the WWTP Case backhoe which are scheduled to arrive this week. Staff has continued routine truck and preventive maintenance to keep the fleet operational. Work in Bays 1 and 2 of the East Maintenance Building has progressed, with electrical and plumbing installations now complete. PVC wall panels will be installed next to protect Bay 4 walls during equipment washing operations. Thayn also reported that the storm collar for the oil-burning furnace has been installed, and the furnace is fully operational and ready for use as needed.

Chavez shared that the Water Treatment Plant produced between 250,000 and 560,000 gallons per day and continues to receive 600 gallons per minute from Price City. LED lighting was installed in the sludge building pump pit to improve visibility, energy efficiency, and longevity. Recent rainfall temporarily increased river turbidity to 2,500 NTU necessitating that crews hose out the sand trap and flush the diversion. Staff addressed an issue with the sludge pump that is

experiencing a high-voltage overload fault on its controller. The pump was disassembled, cleaned, and confirmed to turn freely, but the fault persists. Due to the 480-volt system, an electrician will be brought in to troubleshoot the issue. The decant pump was received and is scheduled for installation during the first week of March. Crews also focused on cleaning work areas and catching up on lubrication schedules in preparation for upcoming operational changes. Brent Richardson attended the Water Conference in St. George and reported that both the Consumer Confidence Report and the Source Protection Plan have been updated with the Division of Drinking Water.

Haycock reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant continued participation in the state COVID-19 and measles sampling study. Maintenance work included repairs to the headworks bar screen, servicing the Sullair air compressor, and general shop cleaning. Crews also repaired gravel roads in and around the plant, completed sanding and landscaping work outside the facility, and finalized the annual biosolids report. A total of 236 laboratory tests and samples were collected and performed over the two-week period. Most samples supported routine process control, with the remaining samples submitted for the State Discharge Monitoring Report.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

Richens provided an update regarding Senate Bill 209 and the proposed Gooseberry Narrows State Park project. He distributed a flyer prepared for legislative outreach and reminded the Board that the bill sponsor previously expressed surprise at the projected cost of the project. Richens explained that the legislative process has involved multiple revisions and noted that PRWID testified in opposition before the Senate and House. A third substitute has now been introduced; while it reduces the fiscal note to \$5,000 to allow the study to move forward without appropriations approval, it is strictly limited to a study. The bill has passed the House committee and has one additional committee hearing before returning to the Senate floor. Haycock had requested a brief history and discussion regarding the Gooseberry Narrows project. In response, Richens prepared and distributed a brief historical summary and reviewed the project timeline with the Board. Richens also reported that Scofield Reservoir is less than 6 feet from spilling and that mine pumping operations have resumed. Finally, he informed the Board that PRWID needs to reapply for a water right change application related to effluent water at the Treatment Plant. An additional change application will be required to include domestic use, at an estimated cost of \$500, which Richens noted may be beneficial long-term.

#### APPROVE PURCHASE OF WTP REPLACEMENT WATER FOUNTAIN

Richens presented a request to replace the drinking fountain at the Water Treatment Plant, which has been in service since 1978. The proposed replacement is an Elkay Bottle Filling Station that will provide both cooling and filtration for drinking water. The unit that is proposed to be purchased is from Amazon at a total cost of \$1,449.00. After discussion, Thayne moved to approve the purchase. Chavez seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayne.

#### REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES AND LIMITATIONS

Richens presented proposed public comment guidelines for those individuals wishing to address the Board. He noted that the guidelines reflect prior Board discussions and suggested displaying the guidelines on a 24" x 36" poster for clarity at meetings. Richens asked board members if there were any recommended additions or revisions. Thayne requested clarification

regarding Open Meeting requirements and whether public comment must be allowed. Richens explained that his understanding of current statute only requires School Districts to provide a public comment period while other entities are allowed to but not required. Thayn moved to adopt the public comment guidelines into the District's meeting structure. Haycock seconded and the motion carried unanimously, AYE: Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

#### APPROVE NEW LINE MAINTENANCE HIRE

Richens reported that approximately twelve applications were received for the Line Maintenance position. Pat and Michael reviewed the applications and recommended seven candidates for further consideration. Of those seven, one applicant had accepted other employment and another did not respond, resulting in five candidates being interviewed. Following the initial interviews, the pool was narrowed to three finalists, and staff recommended moving forward with John Hreinson. Richens noted that Hreinson is currently employed with Waste Logistics and has solid experience working with sewer and water lines. He was described as well qualified for the position. Chavez also spoke favorably of Hreinson's work performance. Chavez moved to approve hiring John Hreinson for the Line Maintenance position. Haycock seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

#### APPROVE 2026 WATER SHARE LEASE RATE AND QUANTITY

Richens reported that 1,300 water shares were leased in the previous year but expressed concern about offering the same quantity in 2026 due to lower snowpack levels compared to 2024–2025 conditions. He reviewed the standard limit of 25 shares per person and noted there are some exceptions related to family sharing and other requirements. Richens recommended advertising availability in the newspaper and opening the lease period in approximately two weeks anticipating significant public interest. The Board discussed both quantity and pricing. Chavez suggested increasing the lease rate to \$50 per share while Richens recommended \$35, explaining that lease fees are only intended to cover PRWID's assessments. After discussion, the Board expressed greater comfort with initially offering 750 shares. Jensen indicated support for increasing the rate to \$40 per share. Upon final discussion, Chavez moved to approve leasing 750 shares at \$35 per share and to authorize Staff to increase that amount up to 1,000 shares if an adjustment to the quantity becomes necessary. Thayn seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

#### CANCEL MARCH 17, 2026 MEETING

The Board discussed the need to cancel the March 17, 2026 meeting due to all Board Members attending a conference in St. George. Haycock moved to cancel the March 17, 2026 meeting. Thayn seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

#### CLOSED SESSION

There was no need for a closed session.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Richens reviewed travel plans with Board Members for the upcoming conference in St. George scheduled for March 16–18, 2026, and confirmed logistical details.

Glade Nielson, representing Sunrise Engineering, inquired about the status of the lead and copper surveys being returned to Sunrise Engineering. He noted that Sunrise offers to assist with

conducting surveys in lieu of sending operators into the field. Richens reported that a second request for survey responses was distributed on PRWID letterhead, resulting in improved participation. He acknowledged some challenges, particularly with elderly residents needing assistance with technology, but stated that staff have been providing support and are seeing progress.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by a motion from Chavez which was seconded by Haycock at 7:41pm. AYE: Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn



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Scott Jensen, Chairman



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Kim Wood, Clerk