PRICE RIVER WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
June 16, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Price River Water Improvement District was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the District's Service Center located at 265 South Fairgrounds Road, Price, Utah.

Present

Scott Jensen	Jeff Richens
Ed Chavez	Micha Marrelli
Chris Haycock	Kiera Luke
Bryan Thayn	David Jelin
Terry Willis	

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Jensen who welcomed all in attendance. He noted that all board members were present and 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

Jensen asked Mr. Jelin if he had any public comment. Jelin declined and stated that he may have comments later.

POSSIBLE CONFLICTS WITH AGENDA ITEMS

There were no conflicts with agenda items.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 2, 2026 meeting were reviewed by the Board. Willis moved to approve the minutes as written. Haycock seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Willis, Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Willis shared that during the past month the Line Maintenance crews respond to several emergency situations including a contractor striking a fire hydrant at Declaration Drive causing a major water line break that required crews to quickly isolate the leak and maintain service to customers. Additional callouts included pressure issues near Robertson Lane, a failed pressure-reducing valve in the Westwood area, and a leak at 1973 East 1700 South. Administrative duties included budget tracking, processing timecards and purchase orders, attending weekly supervisor meetings, updating the Emergency Response Plan, and managing work orders and inventory. The water crew completed multiple infrastructure repairs, including replacing meter boxes, rebuilding the failed Westwood PRV, conducting hydrant testing for the Everest project, and performing camera inspections and Vactor operations. Crews also continued inspecting tanks and stations, completing weekly station checks, and addressing maintenance items in preparation for the upcoming sanitary survey. The sewer crew completed asphalt patching projects, continued camera inspections and Vactor operations, performed routine station and monthly system inspections, and continued maintenance work at the Zebra and Pinnacle lift stations. Blue Stakes personnel completed daily and emergency locate requests, collected required samples, and assisted water and sewer crews as needed to support ongoing operations throughout the district.

Haycock reported that over the past few weeks the Wastewater Treatment Plant Staff have continued collecting samples for the State COVID-19 and measles monitoring program while maintaining normal plant operations and process control activities. Crews completed sprinkler repairs, continued seasonal weed spraying, and resumed mowing and landscaping projects throughout the facility. Staff also performed routine plant maintenance to ensure equipment and treatment processes remain reliable and efficient. The department continues working with engineers to provide operational data needed for the Everest Group project. Employees participated in forklift certification training and attended online NetDMR training to stay current with state reporting requirements and regulatory compliance. During the reporting period, laboratory staff collected and analyzed 287 samples and tests, supporting both daily process control operations and required State Discharge Monitoring Report compliance activities.

Chavez shared that the Water Treatment Plant continues to operate on a 24-hour schedule and is currently producing an average of 3.5 million gallons of treated water per day while supplying approximately 300 gallons per minute to Price City. Staff obtained three supplier quotes for a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) replacement for the East Flash Mixer, and a purchase request has been submitted to move the project forward. During routine water quality monitoring, an elevated bromate result was detected in a sample that would normally show non-detectable levels. Additional sampling is being conducted to determine the source of the bromate, and corrective actions will be implemented as necessary to maintain water quality standards. Maintenance activities included replacing the diaphragm on an LMI pump at the sludge building and preparing to replace the head on a second pump due to worn threads. Security improvements are also underway, with two new alarm cameras installed at the plant and a third scheduled for installation. In addition, several operators have completed forklift certification training, with the remaining staff expected to complete the training as scheduling allows. Plant operations, maintenance activities, and water quality monitoring continue to be carried out to ensure reliable service and regulatory compliance.

Lastly, Thayn began by sharing that in the past month the Fleet Department has continued performing preventive maintenance, repairs, fueling, greasing, and cleaning of county vehicles and equipment to ensure safe and reliable operation. Maintenance was completed on Unit #19 and Unit #5, including replacing worn tires, balancing and installing new tires, and performing scheduled service work. The department is preparing to resume Utah State Safety Inspections for vehicles over 26,000 pounds, and Tony will be completing the required recertification process for his inspection license. At the Service Center, crews continued seasonal grounds maintenance, including mowing, trimming, and weed control applications. Staff also inspected and cleared a blockage in the RV dump station sewer manhole to restore proper operation. Progress continues on the East Maintenance Building, where the mezzanine above the utility rooms has been completed and Utility Room #1 is now fully finished. Oil and coolant storage systems have been installed, and work has been completed on the dispensing reel support structure and fluid distribution lines. In addition, the Fleet Department coordinated and provided OSHA-required forklift certification training, including classroom instruction and hands-on skills testing, which was successfully completed on June 15, 2026.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Richens reviewed the River Commissioner's report with the board, noting that Scofield Reservoir remains approximately 8.5 feet below the spillway and that water deliveries continue at one acre-foot per share. He reported that recent efforts to fine-tune water accounting, including leased water and daily usage tracking, have resulted in PRWID being "billed" at a lower rate than in previous years. Based on current projections, the district expects to use approximately 130 additional acre-feet in June, 256 acre-feet in August, and between 1,100 and 1,200 acre-feet for the remainder of the year. Richens stated that while leasing additional water through entities such as Helper City or Rocky Mountain Power remains an option, PRWID anticipates having adequate water resources for the year.

Richens also referenced a recent article published by Price City regarding fees from the Division of Drinking Water associated with the culinary water diversion. He explained that the fee fluctuates based on water usage and estimated the current cost to be approximately $5,500 due at the end of 2027. At this time, he did not recommend any action but advised the board to remain aware of the issue moving forward.

Richens briefly addressed elevated bromate readings referenced in the Water Treatment Plant report. While the board did not request additional discussion, Richens stated that staff hopes to have more information by the next meeting regarding the source of the elevated readings.

APPROVE 2026 CERTIFIED TAX RATE AND ADOPTION IF RESOLUTION 2026-2

Richens explained that the district is required annually to adopt its certified tax rate. He reviewed the proposed rate of 0.000687, which includes allocations for both Tort Liability and County Improvement District purposes. The certified tax rate is projected to generate approximately $1,171,298.00 in revenue, although actual collections may vary slightly. Chavez moved to approve the 2026 Certified Tax Rate and adopt resolution 2026-2. Willis seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Willis, Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD SETTLEMENT PAYMENT AND POSSIBLE DISBURSEMENT

Richens informed the board that PRWID had received a settlement payment of $26,213.25 as part of the nationwide settlement involving Blue Cross Blue Shield. Although the district no longer carries insurance through Blue Cross/Blue Shield, it qualified for a refund based on premiums previously paid. Richens noted that in past situations the district had shared portions of similar reimbursements with employees and requested board direction regarding the funds. Willis moved to accept the settlement payment into the budget. Haycock seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Willis, Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

APPROVE WTP PURCHASE AND CONFIGURATION OF VFD

Richens presented a request from the Water Treatment Plant to purchase and configure a replacement Variable Frequency Drive (VFD). He explained that several existing drives have experienced startup failures and that staff recommends replacing one of the units. The proposed VFD would cost $898.64, and engineering services to configure and commission the equipment would cost $1,400.00, bringing the total cost to $2,298.64. Due to previous successful projects and familiarity with the district's systems, staff recommended utilizing Castle Gate Engineering for the configuration work.

Thayn moved to approve both the purchase of the equipment from WiAutomation in the amount of $898.64 with the installation and configuration from Castle Gate Engineering for $1,400.00 totaling $2,298.64. Chavez seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Willis, Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE URS TIER II PLAN

Richens reported that PRWID had recently been notified of a compliance issue related to changes made by Utah Retirement Systems in 2022. Following discussions with URS representatives, the district learned that certain Tier II retirement contributions exceeded allowable limits. To remedy the issue, affected employees must repay the amounts to the district or forfeit those associated service credits. Richens explained that URS advised that the district could provide a bonus payment to employees, allowing them to repay the required amounts without creating a financial burden.

Willis moved to reverse the additional percentage offset payment that is going into the Tier II employees' checks. Thayn seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Willis, Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

Willis moved to approve that the additional percentages (currently at 0.81%), be added to the current 2.18% for a total of 2.99%, to be contributed to the district's Tier 2 employees' 401k program. Chavez seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Willis, Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

Willis moved to use some of the funds from the Blue Cross/BlueShield settlement to cover the two former employees' repayment to the district in the amount of approximately $1,300.00. Haycock seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Willis, Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

The board then discussed how to utilize the remaining settlement funds. Willis expressed support for distributing funds directly to employees, while Haycock suggested combining a monetary distribution with an employee appreciation event. Thayn questioned whether some funds should be retained and whether any recognition should be coordinated with the holiday season.

Following discussion, Haycock moved to use a portion of the settlement funds to host an employee appreciation barbecue and provide a $300 payment to each employee. Willis seconded and the motion carried unanimously. AYE: Willis, Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

Richens thanked the board and stated that staff would now be able to explain the settlement and resulting actions to employees. Marrelli asked about timing, and Richens suggested distributing the payments with either the next payroll or the following payroll cycle.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need for a closed session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dave Jelin chose to address the board at this time with several questions and concerns. He referenced a previous discussion regarding a damaged fire hydrant and asked whether any water quality or public safety concerns had resulted from the incident, noting that he had not seen any public notification regarding the matter. He also expressed concerns about vehicle traffic on highways and rail associated with accidents potentially leaking into the river systems, increased traffic, and development. Jelin further questioned the district's rate structure, particularly the differences between customer meter sizes and opining that property tax rates are inequitably assessed. Richens explained that tax revenues primarily support administrative functions, while utility revenues fund treatment and operational expenses. He reviewed the district's tiered rate structure and explained that sewer billing is calculated differently than water service. While acknowledging Jelin's concerns, Richens noted that a full discussion of utility rates at this time was difficult because the matter was not listed on the agenda.

The board then discussed scheduling the employee appreciation barbecue approved earlier in the meeting. July 15 at approximately noon was proposed as a potential date, and Richens encouraged board members to attend and visit with district employees.

Marrelli then took time to inform the board that Ross Bryner is currently planning to retire in July 2027 and distributed a list of his duties. She suggested that the district consider budgeting for a new employee to work alongside Bryner for approximately six months before his retirement to facilitate knowledge transfer. Richens stated that while he was not aware this topic would be discussed that evening and had not yet seen the document, succession planning would be beneficial and could be addressed during the October 2026 budget discussions. He also shared that in his discussions with Ross Bryner, Bryner has not finalized his decision. Richens added that several qualified individuals may exist within the community but emphasized that any future position would need to be properly advertised as there are currently no in-house employees who are qualified.

Haycock then reported that several residents of Spring Glen had asked how much longer they would be required to make payments associated with the area's loan. Richens estimated that approximately 15 years remain on the original 25-year loan obligation.

Before concluding the meeting, Richens informed the board that he would like to take approximately two weeks of vacation at the end of the year to visit family in Japan. He stated that he would ensure all year-end responsibilities were completed before traveling, and the board expressed support for his plans.

With no further business at that point, the meeting was adjourned by a motion from Chavez and a second by Haycock at 8:10 pm. AYE: Willis, Haycock, Jensen, Chavez, and Thayn.

Scott Jensen

Scott Jensen, Chairman

Kim Sandoval

Kim Sandoval, Clerk