

ASHLEY VALLEY WATER
& SEWER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
1753 E 1500 S
VERNAL UTAH

Minutes of the Ashley Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District Board Meeting, held on Tuesday **August 18, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.** in the conference room of Ashley Valley Water & Sewer 1753 E 1500 S Vernal Utah.

IN ATTENDANCE

Boyd Workman	Chairperson
Brownie Tomlinson	Vice-Chairperson
Max Haslem	Trustee
Dean Baker	Trustee
David Hatch	Trustee
Ryan Goodrich	District Manager
Nora Garcia	District Clerk
Allen Hacking	Assistant Manager
Isaac Hatch	Assistant Manager

Chairperson Workman called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Present for today's meeting: Craig Nebeker with Sunrise Engineers, Logan Palarios and Brigg Edwards with BHI, Trudy Wheeler with Jensen Water. There were several customers in attendance for public comment.

Administrative and Organizational Updates

- The board approved the minutes from the July 21, 2026 meeting. Brownie moved to approve the minutes, and Max seconded the motion. Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd voted in favor.
- There were no statements of conflict from any board members regarding the current agenda.

Project Updates

- The board finalized the new office building project by approving pay requests 11 and 12. Dave moved to approve the pay requests, and Brownie seconded the motion. Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd voted in favor.
 - The approval includes the release of the retainage account totaling \$198,000.
 - A final small pay request of \$5,583 was also authorized to close out the project.
 - Remaining minor tasks include programming a motor on a gate on the west side of the building.
- Craig Nebeker of Sunrise Engineers provided an update on the 500 N 1500 W project, noting that work is progressing and horizontal directional drilling is now underway beneath the canal.
 - A project change order resulted in a total cost increase of approximately \$32,000.
 - The change was necessary because UDOT refused to permit conventional trenching, requiring the district to coordinate with Geneva Rock and utilize directional drilling to stay on schedule.
 - A formal motion to approve this expenditure will be added to the agenda for the next meeting, as Ryan previously polled the board to allow work to proceed.
- Ryan will attend the CIB meeting on September 3, 2026 to present the 2500 S Water and Sewer Project.
- The district received an official letter from the CIB awarding a \$50,000 grant for a comprehensive water master plan update.
 - This grant will be matched by a \$50,000 contribution from the district.
 - The project includes a water model update, rate analysis, impact fee study, and the creation of an asset management plan, fulfilling the requirement for an update every five years.

Property Disputes and Source Water Protection

- The district is managing an ongoing dispute with Uintah County regarding a proposed easement and potential condemnation of district property.
 - The county submitted a formal offer of \$6,100 on August 7, 2026, to purchase an easement through the north and south operation centers of the treatment facility.
 - The county is seeking access to the Ashley Gorge for recreation, following the development of the Via Ferrata.

- Board members, staff and several members of the community expressed significant concerns regarding the security of the water supply and operational risks.
 - Ryan noted that opening the facility to public vehicle or foot traffic creates liability and risks to source water protection, which is the district's primary mandate.
 - The district previously offered an alternative route around the east end of the property, but the county rejected it due to high costs.
 - The board entered a closed session to discuss legal strategies and a memo from their attorney regarding the Dingle Act and the county's claims.

Water Supply, Conservation, and Rate Adjustments

- The board passed Resolution 8-18-2026, ending the temporary conservation water rates and reinstating normal rates effective July 31, 2026. Brownie moved to approve the resolution, and Max seconded the motion. Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd voted in favor.
 - The higher tiered rates were initially implemented in response to the worst recorded snowpack in Utah history and extreme drought conditions.
 - Early season indicators showed the district had exhausted its 640 acre-foot allotment from Steinecker Reservoir by the end of April.
- Conservation efforts yielded historic results, according to a report by Ryan.
 - District customers reduced water usage by 32.5% compared to 2025, saving a total of 547 acre-feet.
 - The district allocated over \$80,000 for customer incentives, leak adjustments, and the installation of smart meters.
 - Approximately 500 smart meters have been installed to date, with another 500 on order, allowing customers to monitor daily usage and detect leaks.
- The district reached a settlement in a long-standing dispute with Central Canal regarding water rights.
 - The state engineer ruled against the district, resulting in the loss of 18 shares of Ashley Creek flow, which represented roughly half of that specific water source.
 - The settlement includes a lease agreement for water and an understanding that the canal company will not contest future stock purchases by the district up to the 18-share limit.
- During the public comment period, several customers attended and shared feedback. Most comments were positive, with only a few negative remarks.

Administrative and Operational Matters

- The board approved an HVAC repair bid for the shop portion of the building. Brownie moved to approve the bid, and Dave seconded the motion. Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd voted in favor.
 - The contract was awarded to the low bidder, David Sadler, for \$10,500.
 - The repair covers offices and a bathroom area where the unit has been non-functional for several years.
- The September board meeting has been rescheduled to accommodate staff training and a stakeholder meeting regarding the Green River pumping project. Brownie moved to approve the motion on the date change, and Dean seconded the motion. Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd voted in favor.
 - The meeting will now take place on September 22, 2026, at 1:00 PM.
 - Board members are encouraged to attend the Green River stakeholder meeting earlier that morning from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- A preliminary report on a comprehensive water development study is expected within the next month.
 - The study explores long-term options including new reservoirs, wells, and groundwater storage to ensure future supply stability.
- Total expenditures for August 2026 were approved in the amount of \$436,438.08. Dean moved to approved and Brownie seconded the motion. Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd voted in favor.
 - A significant portion of this total, over \$200,000, was allocated to BHI for the final office building pay request.

Closed Session

Brownie made a motion to go into a closed session at 1:57 p.m., seconded by Dean. Dave, Dean, Max, Brownie, and Boyd voted in favor.

Returned to open session at 3:03 p.m.

Max made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 p.m.