

# FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #101

POB 1141, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

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\*\*\* Meeting Agenda April 7, 2026 \*\*\*

## General Meeting:

### I. Call to Order 7:03pm

General Meeting for FCWD 101 held this April 7, 2026 was called to order at 7:03pm. Directors present include Hilary Shepard, President, Jody Mason, Steve Fucci and Norm Nunnally.

Also in attendance: David Baltz, customer, Sasha Marlett, MAPS, Tina Morrison Bondy, Board Secretary

### II. Adoption of the Agenda - Hilary made the Motion to adopt the agenda. Steve seconded the Motion and all voted in favor.

### III. Review and Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2026 - Hilary made a Motion to approve the Minutes as drafted; Steve seconded the Motion and all voted in favor.

### IV. Time for Public Comment and Discussions - 5 min limit / property owner.

David Baltz, district customer, inquiring whether the district could bill each person connected to the meter, instead of 3 bills combined into one. Would prefer renters get billed and then they write the check. Explained further about his ownership set up, where the renters own the trailers and he owns and rents them the lots. Board discussion regarding this to consider a way to make it easier on the landlords. Long term lease is that way to differentiate?

*\*Note for further discussion at the next meeting.*

### V. Reports

#### a. Board President: Last Month Action Items Recap

#### b. Water Operations

i Gavin emailed - system was flushed 3/23/2026. One valve near old Phyggs Deli location - lots of manganese and he is recommending quarterly flushing.

ii DEQ regular inspection on 4/3/2026 - PFSA testing next couple of weeks. PFAS are forever chemicals - testing of samples are free to the district. Giving all water systems free for the first 2 for EPA compliance. If both samples come back positive - the district does have options.

#### c. Financial Operations

i Last 2 years financial reports put together - up to date with local gov't; minutes on county website also compliant.

ii Hilary has gone through all accounts. P&L for fiscal year, balance sheets in the past the liabilities were overstated by \$500k - so only owe roughly in the \$517k. Now more

current, and can now can apply for the emerging contaminants funding. Looking forward to budgeting for this year and next.

- iii** Next step is finding a better way to receive payments. Now they are sent to either PO box, Whitefish Financial, or placed in the dropbox on the pump house door. Want to align the way the district receives payments, but may do this in conjunction with a potential change with bookkeeping.
  - iv** Discussion - a new, revised income survey is going to be needed in order to apply for funding.
- d.** Committee Reports - Bylaws Committee.

Norm provided a rewrite of the FCWD 101 Bylaws. There is a comparison summary document of this that guided the board's discussion.

Hilary proposed posting a flyer on the pump house with general information about the upcoming board meetings, as well as with updated contact information. This would be in lieu of posting each month at the Junction Gas as directed in the original Bylaws.

Public hearing when substantively changing the Bylaws and/or raising prices by more than 5%, require publications in a local newspaper.

In this case, the rates are not being changed, but Norm wants the rates included in the Bylaws. He introduced these changes at last month's meeting and the Board put them in place temporarily; recommendation would be to vote this evening to continue to move forward.

Sasha advised that given the changes that are proposed, a hearing is not required.

David Baltz, as a member of the public in attendance at this meeting, inquired about the voting rights of property owners. If he has 3 properties - is he 1 vote or 3? Discussion that each parcel gets a vote. This is where we need to further define. All registered voters in the district have a right to vote.

Steve made the Motion to move the draft Bylaws forward; Jody seconded and all voted in favor.

**e.** Admin: Website / Email Updates

- i** Elections Department - Seats need to be numbered. Following discussion by the Board and records received it was determined that the following should be the Seat numbers for the 5 Board members:
  - 1** Steve Fucci - Seat will be open for reelection in 2027
  - 2** Jody Mason - Seat will be open for reelection in 2027
  - 3** Norm Nunnally - Seat will be open for reelection in 2027
  - 4** Linda Parker - Seat will be open for reelection in 2029

**VI. Unfinished Business**

- a. Rules and Regulation, policy and procedures
- b. Hookup fees

Need to get the Bylaws in place first, but there is a discrepancy on the website between hookup fees and sign-up fees.

- c. Building for the Future - PER

Need to get a district roster together. Owner / renter / homeowner's names and contact info.

The income survey has to be approved by the grants that you want to apply for. Based on the residents, not just the owners. One house = one family. Have to have a % of respondents. Should give a heads up to the district – that they will be sending out this survey; Sasha has a form letter for this.

Grants from \$40-\$70k. Sasha will help us get on the list for funding – only listing for the next 2 years. It's a 100% forgivable loan.

**VII. New Business**

**VIII. Correspondence and Additional Discussion**

The district issued letters to the most severely delinquent accounts and some responses were received. Board discussed the following two accounts.

Misty Allabaugh / Darrel Gresham received a letter about their overdue account, and responded with a letter asking for \$2k credit for damage that occurred to their property when the pump house was flushed. (When pumphouse is flushed, the tank runs out the back of the building and onto their property.) They provided descriptions and photographs. They also advised they were willing to start making payments and catching up past due. But would like \$400 removed from the bill for a leak that earlier had occurred and the operator at the time was unable to timely assist. The board discussed these details.

Jody made a Motion to remove the \$400 for the leak and offer \$1500 credit for the damage to their fence. Steve seconded the Motion and all voted in favor. Board also discussed that there needs to be a plan for their property to make sure this damage does not recur.

Austin and Erin Weaver received a letter as well and responded with details and pictures of black water both inside and outside of their home. They want a water safety / quality test conducted at their house. They are willing to get caught up on their past due amounts but would like some sort of goodwill from the Board.

Board and Sasha discussed this and the fact that the emerging contaminants project money that may be available for the district may help with this. In the meantime, the water should be tested and if it comes back as problematic, an easy fix would be to start with a filter.

Hilary agreed that a water test should be conducted, and she also suggested that Gavin be brought into the discussion, to get a better understanding of the valves and where the manganese is coming from. Wondering if there is a hole in the pipe? Should it be snaked with a camera? Board also discussed offering the Weaver's a percentage reduction as an act of good faith. Hilary made a Motion that the district pay for a water test, take 25% off the past-due bill and further research the problem; Jody seconded the Motion and All voted in favor.

**IX. Adjournment 8:38pm.**

Hilary made the Motion to adjourn, Steve seconded and all voted in favor.

Board announced the next General Meeting of the Board scheduled May 5, 2026, 7pm, at the Badrock Fire Department.