

**JEFFERSON COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT #13**  
**1951 Wellman Rd. Lawrence, KS 66044**  
**785-842-1502**  
**www.jfrwd13.com**  
**MONTHLY PUBLIC BOARD MEETING**  
**April 16, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**  
**LOCATION: District Water Office - 1951 Wellman Rd.**

**CALL MONTHLY BOARD MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting is called to order by Chairperson Gordon Brest at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Chairperson Gordon Brest, Treasurer Paulette Schwerdt, Director John Hachmeister, Director Crystal Miles, Director Ann Clark, Secretary George Pogge (7:08 p.m.)

Absent: Vice Chairman Andrew Brewer

Staff Members Present: Joe Osborn, Niki Fincham

Guests: Attorney Todd Luckman; Louis Funk and John Ruckman with Bartlett & West

The Board recognizes Louis Funk who announces his retirement from Bartlett & West as of May 1st and introduces John Ruckman as his replacement who has been with their company for 32 years. Mr. Ruckman assures the Board the relationship will carry on as it always has.

Mr. Funk then provides a handout for and explains the calculations for the McLouth water rates. He indicates the rates were originally based on the District's operating numbers from 2020 and have increased about 25% over the last five years reflecting 5 years of inflation.

He reminds the Board that we still have a 2<sup>nd</sup> pump (piping) that needs to be completed and suggests it is kept on our radar. Board members express their appreciation for Mr. Funks service through the years and wish him well.

Todd Luckman is recognized regarding a recent lawsuit; Klinger vs Hettinger Excavating.

**Executive Session:**

**MOTION:** It is moved by John Hachmeister and seconded by Paulette Schwerdt to enter into Executive Session pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319 (b) to consult with the attorney for the body or agency which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship for 10 minutes beginning at 7:16. The open meeting will resume in this room at 7:26.

**VOTE:** So moved 6-0.

The Board comes out of executive session at 7:26 p.m. and no binding actions or decisions are made as a result of executive session.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

MINUTES FROM March 19, 2026 BOARD MEETING

NEW CERTIFICATES - 0 TRANSFERS - 3

**MOTION:** It is moved by Crystal Miles and seconded by John Hachmeister to approve the consent agenda.

**VOTE:** So moved 6-0



**TREASURER REPORT:**

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY:** Paulette Schwerdt reports that she has reviewed all bills, financials and reconciliations. She finds nothing exceptional.

A complete and thorough Executive Summary Report and Cash/Cash Equivalents - Detail Report is included in the Board Packet with an Unpaid Bills Report.

**MOTION:** It is moved by Paulette Schwerdt and seconded by Ann Clark to pay the bills.

**VOTE:** So moved 6-0.

**PLANT & DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT:** A detailed report is included in the Board packet regarding the following: Cheyenne Ln. Water Line Replacement (Lake Dabinawa) in which Joe is tasked with contacting the Association to request contributing to the project; Water Plant; Distribution; Water Usage & Water Loss; Water Sold Breakdown and Water Loss Report/Chart.

**OFFICE OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT:**

All detailed financial reports are included in the Board packet.

**BUSINESS:**

1. Discuss email from Roberta Renz (Handout in packet):

Joe Osborn explains that he doesn't know exactly what Renz's are expecting but will follow up upon their return and coordinate with Hettinger Excavation. Crystal Miles, who visited the Renz property, addressed the damaged tree specifically. She provided a written "general recommendation" (included in the Board Packet) Explained that, in her opinion, Hettinger needs to trim the wound and apply topsoil noting that a formal assessment should be performed by a licensed & insured arborist). Gordon Brest instructs Joe to email Hettinger Excavation with what must done so they understand "They're on notice" to correct.

2. Analyze Rate for McLouth:

**MOTION:** It is motioned by Crystal Miles and seconded by Paulette Schwerdt to accept the Water Rate Calculation (Handout presented by Louis Funk) for McLouth's new rate.

**VOTE:** So moved 6-0

3. KRWA Conference notes from attendees:

The consensus from all attendees was that the conference was positive and classes were very informative with exceptional speakers.

4. Review SSI Forms:

All members reviewed the SSI Forms and Niki will have them filed appropriately.

5. Proposal Review for Meter Reader Contract:

**MOTION:** It is moved by Ann Clark and seconded by Paulette Schwerdt to accept the Meter Readers Contracts.

**VOTE:** So moved 6-0.

Note: Gordon Brest suggests we start spot checking 11-12 random meter readings on a monthly basis.

6. Review Calendar for Next Month's Agenda Items



**ADJOURNMENT:**

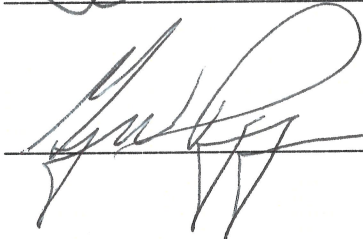
**MOTION:** It is moved by John Hachmeister and seconded by Paulette Schwerdt to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

**VOTE:** So moved 6-0.

Respectfully Prepared and Submitted by,  
Niki Fincham, Office Operations Manager



Gordon A. Brest, Chairperson



George Pogge, Secretary