

MINUTES
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
April 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Thomas Wise, President, called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The meeting was held at the Tri-Lakes District Office, 5240 N. Old 102, Columbia City, IN.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. Board members present were Travis Minear, Ruth Orr, Bill Brice, Brad Staats, and Carol Martin. Kristin Pease was absent. Heather Thompson was also in attendance.

GUEST AND CUSTOMERS' INQUIRIES DIRECTED TO TRUSTEES

No Guests/Customers.

MINUTES & REPORTS

The Minutes and Financial reports were emailed to the Trustees prior to the meeting for review. Ruth made a motion to approve the March regular board minutes as written, Travis Seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried six (6) to zero (0). Ruth made a motion to accept financial reports, Brad Seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried six (6) to zero (0).

NEW BUSINESS

The board discussed a 5% rate increase on operation and maintenance, billing, and improvement fund portions of the bill for June 1, 2026, and increase the New Connection Fee to \$14,200 and voted to hold a public hearing at the district office on May 11th, at 5:30 pm. Carol motioned to hold meeting for Sewer Rate Ordinance 2026-1 and Brad seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried six (6) to zero (0).

Brad presented to the Trustees setting up a strategic planning committee and discussing several items such as staffing, operations, capital projects, revenue, customer relations, employee relations, spare parts, and equipment life cycle. After much discussion, the Trustees will brainstorm for a few minutes each meeting on a different topic over next several months to get a game plan together.

Heather reached out to Simplx Security about monitoring in Station D to be able to see live the gauges. This would work with our current callout system. The quote for the cameras was \$2,370. Ruth motioned to have the monitoring installed, Brad seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried six (6) to zero (0).

The current software used in the office for billing, payroll, and accounting is getting upgrades to Boyce/BS&A. Heather presented preliminary costs to upgrade our system. Heather will present final numbers for the upgrade at the next board meeting as she is still working on getting some things ironed out. The system upgrades would not be final until Spring 2027.

Knapp Lake will also be part of the software update. It was discussed that the contract for them is not due until January 2028 and will be reviewed at that time.

OLD BUSINESS

Heather received quotes for sewage pump at D from American Pump and Anderson Process. Due to needing the pump to get on order for long lead times, via email the board voted to purchase the pump from Anderson Process and Mike will install.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Heather let the Trustees know when it rains, water is standing along the front of the building and is eroding away to the slab. Heather will work on getting some quotes and options for fixes to the water issues. She will also get quotes for a new front door and awning.

Mike Seigel let Heather know he will be retiring from the 24/7 at the end of the contract in February 2027. Heather will talk with him and start getting things around to put the contract out to bid for the coming contract.

With nothing more to discuss, Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Brad Seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by six (6) to zero (0). The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

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Carol Martin, Secretary