AGENDA

HUNTLEY PROJECT IRRIGATION DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Main Office
August 12, 2026
7:30 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

II. Approval of Warrants

III. Treasurers Report

IV. Manager Report

V. Elaine Paffrath – Flood issue

VI. 2027 Budget & 2026 database charges/final review

HUNTLEY PROJECT IRRIGATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 12, 2026
7:30 p.m.

The Huntley Project Irrigation District held its regular board meeting at its main office on August 12, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.
Present at the meeting was, President, Cody Kuntz. Vice President, Justin Hein. Commissioners, Mark Fox, John Mahan & Marc Vogel. Manager, Travis Kamp, Secretary/Treasurer, Sandra Rush. Also present was landowner Elaine Paffrath & Andrew Bolerjack with Yellowstone County News.

Minutes

President Cody Kuntz called the meeting to order. The minutes of July 8, 2026, board meeting were reviewed. With no questions or comments from the commissioners, Commissioner Mark Fox made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Justin Hein 2nd the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Warrants & Stockman Bank debit card purchases

Sandra presented Warrant Nos. 79031320 through 79031430, along with the Stockman Bank debit card purchases, for the Board's review. With no questions or comments from the commissioners, Commissioner Justin Hein made a motion to approve the warrants, and the debit card purchases on the Stockman bank account. John Mahan 2nd the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report

Sandra presented the financial report, noting that, based on the latest trial balance dated July 31,2026, the District had received $135,752.82 in assessment payments. Interest earned across all accounts totaled $5,428.16. Deposits for the reporting period totaled $276,451.33 and consisted of cost of goods sold to landowners, encroachment fees from Charter, sale of surplus water to the

Pryor Creek golf course & a payment from the County for their portion of the pipe placed in lateral D.

Sandra requested a transfer of the encroachment fee income received from the O&M main cash account to the Infrastructure Fund account. Commissioner Justin Hein made a motion to transfer $245,750.00 from the O&M main cash account to the Infrastructure Fund account. Commissioner Mark Fox 2nd the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Manager Report

- Old business

Travis requested to order 20 Waterman headgates to install throughout the system. He would like to order 10 – 12" and 10 – 15", 6' tall spigot backs. Commissioner Justin Hein made a motion to purchase the Waterman headgates. John Mahan 2nd the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- New Business

Travis provided a brief update regarding the temporary repair completed on the Fly Creek Siphon. He reported that he has noticed some settling occurring on the northeast corner. Travis stated that he could not say with certainty what is causing the settling but reminded the Commissioners that when Rob with Performance Engineering inspected the siphon and provided his recommendation, he advised that the temporary repair had approximately a 50/50 chance of holding through the remainder of the season. He had also recommended that the siphon be completely rebuilt. The Commissioners held a brief discussion regarding the matter, but no decisions were made at this time. Commissioner Justin Hein recommended all the commissioners to meet and observe the siphon when the water is out.

Travis requested approval to rent a track hoe in early October to complete the Highline Canal lining project during the current maintenance season. Commissioner Marc Vogel made a motion to approve the rental of the track hoe. Commissioner Justin Hein 2nd the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Travis presented a couple of different quotes for a new bucket with pins for the case track hoe. The current bucket we have is completely worn out. The favored quote came in at $7,400.00. Discussion was incurred but no decisions were made.

Travis requested permission to install a culvert for an approach on Lateral M03 (Rd 22 N) to provide HPID crews with easier access to the spillway and two headgates located in that area. He explained that the crew currently accesses the area by traveling along the district's right-of-way

Easement that runs through Clint Johannes place, but having a direct approach would provide more efficient access when performing maintenance. Travis stated that Clint had discussed with him the possibility of installing an approach several years ago. However, after the recently adopted HPID permit requirements were explained to Clint, he was not interested in proceeding at that time. Travis said he recently spoke with Clint again regarding this approach and HPID's use of it. Clint agreed to purchase the culvert, with HPID providing the installation. Travis also recommended the permit fee be waived since HPID will also use the approach to access the spillway and headgates for District maintenance. The commissioners instructed him to proceed and to waive the permit fee.

Travis showed the Commissioners a video of a sand bar forming in the river in front of the main auxiliary gates. He wanted the Commissioners to be aware of the situation in the event that action may be necessary to either remove the sand bar or trench through it to maintain adequate water flow. Travis stated that he will contact the appropriate agencies and other necessary parties to determine what approvals may be required and what options are available to the district should this become necessary in the near future.

MSU will be replacing three existing culverts that are bad. No permit fees are due, as all the requested work consists of replacements.

Travis requested that the District plan to shut the water system down sometime between September 15th and September 25th, depending on rainfall received and irrigation conditions. The Commissioners had no objection to the proposed timeframe.

Elaine Paffrath

Elaine Paffrath appeared before the Commissioners to discuss flooding that occurred on her property on July 15th. Elaine presented the Commissioners with photographs showing the amount of water that entered her barn and surrounding areas. She explained that she lost hay that was stored in the barn. The barn's dirt floor is now muddy, leaving her unable to access the barn. Elaine stated that she would need dirt hauled in to restore access. Travis reported that he met with Elaine on July 15th to inspect the ditch and the flooding. He acknowledged that the ditch needed to be swiped; however, he observed that the water was not overtopping the ditch banks but appeared to be flowing through the bank. After entering the ditch and swiping the area, the water stopped flowing. Travis believed that a rat hole or similar opening may have developed in the ditch bank, allowing water to pass through. He noted that the water he observed flowing onto Elaine's property was clear.

Elaine disagreed with Travis's assessment and stated that she believed the flooding was caused by a lack of maintenance of the ditch. She reiterated that the resulting flooding caused damage to her property, including the loss of hay and the erosion of dirt around her barn. Travis further explained that Elaine's barn sits lower than both ditches in the area, causing any seepage from the ditches to naturally flow toward the barn. Elaine stated that, since the flooding occurred, she has had a waste ditch constructed around her property to help collect and divert unwanted water. Further discussion was held between Elaine and the Commissioners regarding the flooding, ditch maintenance, and resulting property damage. President Cody Kuntz informed Elaine that the Board would take the matter under advisement and would follow up with her regarding the issue.

2027 Budget Discussion & Vote

Discussion was opened regarding the 2027 budget. The Commissioners discussed various areas of concern within the budget, particularly the impact of inflated costs on the District's financial needs. Sandra & Travis reviewed the projected budget deficits and presented the Commissioners with three different assessment increase options, including potential uses for the additional revenue generated by each option. Considerable concern was expressed regarding an increase in assessments this year. The Commissioners recognized that growers in the area have experienced significant financial hardships due to this year's adverse weather conditions. They also considered the financial challenges facing other water users, many of whom are dealing with increased costs in their personal budgets and would be further impacted by an increase in property taxes.

Following discussion, Commissioner Mark Fox made a motion to increase the current assessment by $6.00 per acre. Commissioner John Mahan 2nd the motion. The motion failed to carry, with a vote of 2 in favor and 3 opposed.

Further discussion was held regarding the 2027 budget and assessment rates. Commissioner Justin Hein noted that since assessments were increased to $39.00 per acre in 2016, the District's operating costs have increased by approximately 48%, while assessments have increased by only 12% during the same period. Commissioner Hein stated that the current assessment structure is not sustainable, noting that no business could remain financially viable while experiencing such a disparity between operating costs and revenue, and that Huntley Project Irrigation District (HPID) is no exception.

Commissioner Justin Hein made a motion to increase the annual assessment by $8.00 per acre, bringing the assessment from $44.00 to $52.00 per acre. Commissioner Marc Vogel 2nd the motion. The vote resulted in a 2–2 tie. President Cody Kuntz cast the deciding vote in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

The current HIR1 charge for parcels less than 1.2 acres is $75.00 per year. Commissioner John Mahan made a motion to increase the HIR1 charge by $25.00, bringing the annual charge to $100.00 per year. Commissioner Marc Vogel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no other issues being brought forward, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes are transcribed and respectfully submitted by:

Sandra Rush - Secretary/Treasurer

Approved By/Title: Cody Kuntz – President

Date: 8/12/2026