

**Linden County Water District
Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2025**

Directors Present: President Lawrence Knapp (virtually), Director Myron Blanton, Director Elaine Reed and Director Douglas E. Smith

Board Secretary Barbara Kascht, General Manager Joe Chaves, District Consultant John Villierme and District Engineer Matt Ospital were also in attendance

Directors Absent: None

Public Comment: None

Agenda Items:

1. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Director Replacement.** President Larry Knapp introduced Patrick Fish, who briefly spoke about his qualifications and desire to be on the Board. Cliff Powell, who is also interested in filling the vacant seat, was in attendance. Brian Kolze and Brian Castillou had both submitted applications but were unable to attend the meeting. Elaine Reed moved to appoint Patrick Fish, seconded by Myron Blanton. **AYES: 4 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0** Motion carried.
- b. **LCWD Utility Operator Position Opening.** General Manager Joe Chaves reported that Manuel Garcia had been hired for the Utility Maintenance Operator position. He holds D2 and T2 licenses in water and will apply for his wastewater Operator in Training (OIT), which is the first step in obtaining his wastewater certification. Garcia's starting wage is \$27.00 per hour.
- c. **Sustainable Groundwater Management.** Director Myron Blanton was unable to attend the September 10th Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority meeting.
- d. **Water Loss.** General Manager Joe Chaves advised that in June there was 3 million gallons of water lost, which was 16% of water loss for that month. March and April were also at about 15% water loss. There was a total of 11% water loss for the past seven months. In June, there were also four water leaks, which could have contributed. District Engineer Matt Ospital suggested to first check the well meters. Then have an acoustics-based leak detection performed by a company out of Montana at a cost of \$1,600 per day, which should take two to three days.
- e. **2025-26 Budget.** The Board reviewed the revised budget figures. A line item has been added under Professional Services for the Cross Connection Control Program. Worker's Comp. Insurance was updated to include the additional 2024-25 Reconciliation expense. Myron Blanton moved to accept the 2025-26 budget as presented, seconded by Doug Smith. **AYES: 4 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0** Motion carried

f. **Office Manual Update.** Barbara Kascht said she was still working to update the office manual.

2. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Doug Smith moved to approve the consent calendar as follows:

- a. Minutes – August 21, 2025
- b. Warrant Listing
- c. Financial Reports
- d. Operations Reports
- e. Compliance Log
- f. Correspondence
- g. Water Usage Reports

seconded by Elaine Reed. **AYES**: 4 **NOES**: 0 **ABSTAIN**: 0 **ABSENT**: 0 Motion carried.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.