

Meeting Minutes:

June 17, 2026

June meeting of the L.I.D. was held at the Lockwood Water and Sewer District office, at 1644 Old Hardin RD. The board members present were Terry Seiffert, Brent Kober, Bob Reihl and Manager Carl Peters. Val Dangerfield, Brian Richardson, Sindi Smith, Steve Smith, Steve Nave, Dick Hoke, Emmanuel Richardson, Tyler Browning, James Lehman, and Matt Steffans were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Terry Seiffert. May 20, 2026, meeting minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made by Brent Kober, 2nd by Bob Riehl, to approve May 20th minutes, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Brian Richardson: On May 28th there was a massive leak reported on an 18-inch pipe discharging 4.4 cubic feet per second directly into the river. Despite assurances that it was fixed, it has continued discharging approximately 61 million gallons so far this season. It was reported to me as a yearly event. Wren St 60-foot ditch is running full and stagnant while their neighbors are getting nothing. The water is not moving efficiently due to blockages and debris. Fifteen plus years of deferred maintenance has driven the system to its current state. We are currently pumping less than 12,000 GPM reported in May 2022. Yet the recent article quoted the original 1913 system as pumping only 6,750 GPM. These inconsistencies in publicly reported numbers make it difficult for the community and the board to have clear, fact-based discussions. Because of this ongoing discharge of water to the river, poor ditch conditions, and inequitable delivery. I authored a petition, at the request of other users, that already is gathering signatures calling for a full-time, hands-on ditch rider.

Tyler Browning: The early shut off and late start this Spring, was horribly bad for the crops. I have talked to a lot of community members for the last three weeks to a month; they are also very upset about the late turn on. They thought that if they got new pumps, they would have water earlier this year. I have been here for ten years and there has been no change in the water. The farmers in the community are looking at 225,000.00 lost this year. I can see a bad year once and awhile, but it has been bad every year. The last thing I want to bring up is that I only applied for the Manager's position because I wanted water and no one else wanted it, so I said what the hell I will take it. What I would do as a ditch rider doesn't matter because I would get the entire system fixed from the head to the tail, so that the farmers and homeowners could get water. Bob Riehl reminded Tyler that the board announced when they would be turning on the system. Tyler said that the community was asking if we could get them back early because of the early turn off. Then Tyler said yes but they all asked for it to be turned on early. The reason the District could not start early was because the project was on the supplier's schedule and Watertronics could not be there to install everything until May.

Steve Smith: Judge Sande's pond hasn't had any water in it for years, that is because the ditch doesn't run that far out anymore. I mean what we have going on is very dissatisfying. We have flow issues because we don't burn our ditches. The Manager said that there is water dumping into the pond right now. Mr. Smith said he looks at all these laterals, like the ones going down Hickory, they run 24/7, why is that, Carl? That water should be heading out that way so that these guys get water. There are like five or six headgates going down Greenwood that never shut down. The Manager said that you could with a closed system, but they are dumping into the sixty, so we are not losing that water. Steve says yeah aren't losing water, but they are losing water on the 100. These new pumps should be able to pump all the water that the 60 and 100. The Manager says that they are running 3 pumps today because the 100' canal is not overtopping at the old Mortenson place. Steve said he has seen that the District has done all the dirtwork at that place, but I see all the trees growing up on the ditch bank that should have been cut down along time ago and they continue to grow.

Steve Nave: I have a comment about the 100' ditch from Bluebird all the way to Judge Sande's as full of garbage. Did you get the couch out, the toilet out, the coolers, and tires out? Mr. Steffans said that they cleaned Bluebird all the way down. Steve Nave asked if they removed the trees as well. Mr. Steffans replied that they removed the trees as well. Mr.

Nave went on to explain that the old ditch rider did not remove a tree a long time ago and now it is 50 foot tall and now the District is wanting to charge the homeowners to remove these trees. That is the District's responsibility.

Val Dangerfield: Would it help to send out letters to the landowners to let them know that they need to take care of their ditch area? Bob Riehl says the District does send out letters to landowners, but it falls on deaf ears.

New Business

1. **\$1,739,00.00 Bond:** On Monday we received the second DNRC bond payment due invoice in the amount of \$44,159.17. On Tuesday, Anna Ullom with Yellowstone County Finance Department said that this payment from the bond account 7285 has been processed.
2. **New Pump Station Project:** The District started pumping May 26th. Today is pumping day number 23. The programming software came set up for a closed system, which would be a valve for both canals but the District's upper canal is open. Watertronics said that it be a couple of weeks before they could get us the correct software. In the meantime, the Manager can run 2 pumps and its 10,500 GPM, or the Manager can run three pumps for 15,500 GPM. They tried all three pumps, but it was overtopping ~~out~~ at the old Mortenson place. The actuator valve runs on percentage so that is set at 20%. The 60' couldn't handle any more water. The Manager checked the depth at Wasco Ave, and it is at 24". There are still a few things that have been completed at the pump station. The efficiency of the pumps at moving the water from the intake will be interesting to see how long we will be able to pump.
3. **DNRC Planning Grant:** In 2010 we had an infrastructure report and the amount of these is between \$15,000 and \$40,000 dollars. \$15,000 is to update the existing infrastructure plan and 40,000 for a new one. July 13th is when they will start accepting applications. The Manager has already notified Performance Engineering that we will need a proposal on how much they will charge because it will be a lot more than \$15,000.00.
4. **Phase 3 LWSD Sewer Project:** We received a bill previously from Performance Engineering for the boring crossings and another bill came in today for \$2300.00. We collected about \$5,880 on the fees from the permits from Askin Construction and we are covered there so far. The Manager has had to shut down a few headgates in the McIntosh Subdivision so that the construction crews can install the sewer lines. The sunk in manhole just off Lark Ave near the old fire station and it is from a leaking headgate that the developer put in but they are all capped because the property owners in Opportunity Subdivision would not organize to put in pipe.
5. **MDT I-90 Interchange Projects:** nothing new
6. **Clayton ST Project: 60' Greenwood Culvert extension:** nothing new to report.
7. **Required Audit:** We received our first invoice for \$10,770.00, and the Manager is going to submit this to Yellowstone County Finance Department to pay because the bond itemized costs include \$5,000.00 for an audit.
8. **PERS Questionnaire:** This has been submitted to the Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration by email.

Old Business

1. **LID-LWSD Water Rights:** Nothing new.
2. **2014 LID Rate Update 2019:** On Hold.

Manager's Report:

The output of the pumps is about 15,500 GPM; that's about 5,166 gallons per minute per pump. The stats on these pumps are only 4,467 per pump so we are going over the capacity of what the stats show. Bob Riehl asked what the power was going to cost. The Manager said that will be interesting to see because the last power bill was not for a whole month, the bill ended on the 19th and we started testing on the 20th. Melinda Oedekoven at 425 Johnson Ln wants us to level the dirt and add hydrogen to it and seed it. Bob Riehl and Terry Seiffert asked if we charged her for returning the bank profile to its previous height. The Manager said that we did not. Then Terry Seiffert said didn't we send her a letter to return the

profile, and didn't she agree to do this? The manager said yes, she did. Then at 2424 Sunrise where we built up the berm because it was overtopping and flooding their pasture. The guys cleaned the canal from Bluebird to Bobolink.

Secretary's Report:

The May financial reports were presented. A motion to approve the May financials was made by Bob Riehl and 2nd by Brent Kober, motion carried. The checks written list for May was present. A motion to approve the list was made by Brent Kober and 2nd by Bob Reihl. With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Terry Seiffert, 2nd by Brent Kober, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM. The next board meeting will be on July 15, at 7:00 PM, located at the Lockwood Water and Sewer Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Watson, Secretary/Treasurer