

Meeting Minutes:

August 19, 2026

August 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 Riehl and Manager Carl Peters. Val Dangerfield, Brian Richardson, Sara Richardson, Sindi Smith, Steve Smith, Steve Nave, Dick Hoke, Tyler Browning, Kent Hjorth, Rodney Stoddard, Jay Cormier, Ron Kindfather, Matt Crozier, Manny Richardson, Diane & Dave Warren were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Terry Seiffert. July 15, 2026, meeting minutes were reviewed, and Bob Riehl would like the comment made by Brian Richardson in the July 15th minutes to be removed due to it being stated as a fact and it is false, regarding the Ditch Rider position that is not open and Tyler Browning seeks. A motion to approve minutes as amended was made by Brent Kober and 2nd by Bob Riehl, to approve July 15th amended minutes, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Brian Richardson: This season my fields produced only 310 of the standard 65-pound bales, less than the seven bales per irrigated acre. Historically these fields produced 50 to 60 bales per acre on a single cutting alone. The difference has been multi-year restricted delivery. Brian thinks that there is conflict of interest that the Manager of the Irrigation District who manages the water rights for the District, should not be the board president of the Water and Sewer District who is trying to share or purchase the water rights from the District when the assessed users could be paying taxes for water without access because of the sale or sharing of these rights.

Rod Stoddard: I would like to know why we have less water in our ditch? Why is the ditch water still running down Dry Creek? The Manager spoke with the property owner, and this is the first that that manager has heard about this issue. The Manager also said that the only thing he can control is the headgate to prevent this from happening because the issue is from a bad lateral. The Manager has looked at it and has concluded that the only thing he can do is to turn off the headgate to that area to prevent any further flooding of Dry Creek area near Greenwood Ave.

Matt Crozier and his neighbor Dave at 809 Saddle Ln: I have been there 22 years and has talked to the Manager about the ditch being diverted towards our houses because there are cattle back there. We have had septic problems because of the diversion. It is also going into a field rather than down our ditch. This is lateral off Becraft LN. The manager explained that he had sent a letter to the property owner who was Helen Bell 3-26-26 (deceased) and has spoken with Guard Bell her son about getting ahold of the Lessee and she did a little bit of work at the beginning but it only stops it from going into our drain fields. Matt says they have also spoken with Kelly, the lessee of the land in question, she used to answer our calls but now she ignores them and we are still having issues watering our lawns. Terry Seiffert said the only course of action because it is a lateral is to shut the head gate down completely. The Manager says that if look up block 1 lot 1 in the Garrette subdivision 1.9 Acre plot, they are delinquent on their taxes, and it is still in Helen Bells name. Terry Seiffert says that it is probably in probate and that is why the taxes are delinquent. Matt Crozier has been trying to get Kelly the lessee to answer because he is willing to help get this issue resolved but she never responded. Bob Riehl said that his neighborhood put their lateral in pipe to avoid issues like this from happening. The district offers to buy the pipe, but the homeowners need to either work themselves or pay a contractor to complete the pipe. Terry Seiffert offered that Carl calls the lessee to see if she plans to do anything about this issue.

Steve Smith: Everyone on a lateral must pay taxes on that or just the property that they are having issues with? Bob Riehl says that technically everyone on the lateral will pay more taxes for the repair to a headgate or it is put into pipe by the District.

Jay Cormier: His neighbor at 47 Lauretta won't clean her ditch and it has been a problem for about 15 years. The Manager came down and cleaned it earlier with his rake before the season started this season, she hadn't cleaned it

since. I will contact a lawyer, and I will sue her and I will sue you. I am sick of this stuff. The Manager said that the neighbor refused one of the letters he has sent to her.

Tyler Browning: Says that Brian is getting lot of water in the ditch but there is not a lot of flow there. Historically there was a check there before the interstate came through. The Manager brought pictures from August 1st, but Tyler is explaining that the water isn't making it to the Big Tree field. The Manager said the pictures are from Old Hardin RD. Brian says that those ditches used cut waste deep and now they are cutting knee deep. Tyler says that this year he metered his water and this year he got his water. The past few years he did not. Once and a while, especially when Brian is irrigating the Big Tree Field, check the pressure on the culvert. Tyler passed the signatures for the petition created by Brian Richardson and Tyler Browning to have a full-time year around ditch rider replace the Manager.

Val Dangerfield: Can a homeowner hire a neighbor to dig out a lateral and submit it to the Board for payment? Bob Riehl said that only if the homeowner is going to pay for it because the District must hire a licensed contractor. This bill would then be passed to someone else.

Steve Nave: When are the trees going to get cut down on the ditch and the end of the 100' ditch, and start of Dickie RD, there are three trees growing right there. Are you going to let them get 45 feet tall and then tell the landowners that they need to pay to have them removed?

New Business

1. **\$1,739,00.00 Bond:** nothing new to report.
2. **New Pump Station Project:** The last program update on 6-24-26 & 8-10-26. On August 10, 2026, a new operating software was installed at the pump station, this enables the operator to maneuver the set point within a ½ inch of the upper canal water level. The lower canal is already controlled by the crossover valve. The month of July all three pumps had to be running to make the system work properly and this brought up our electricity costs, so the costs that are reported are not representative of the savings that should be associated with the new pump station. We should know from the next statement from Northwestern Energy to see if this fixed the problem. Terry Seiffert asked when the enclosure would be completed over the pump station. The Manager said that he doesn't know because the designer and fabricator were on site a couple weeks ago and found a couple of other issues and has not heard anything back from them.
3. **DNRC Planning Grant:** Brent Kober spoke with Mike Vinton, who had mentioned in a steering committee meeting that if there were any issues with anything in Lockwood to notify him, so I took it upon myself to contact Mike Vinton and asked him if he could help us with getting funding for some of the projects that we need to get competed here is Lockwood. He was emailed and he said that he would check into it and see where it goes.
4. **Phase 3 LWSD Sewer Project:** nothing new on that.
5. **MDT I-90 Interchange Projects:** nothing new.
6. **Clayton ST Project: 60' Greenwood Culvert extension:** nothing new to report
7. **2024 Required Audit:** The auditor's final invoice was in the invoices that were signed tonight for the remainder of the contracted amount of \$13,650.00 from Strom and Associated in amount of \$2,680.00 & submitted for partial reimbursement of \$5,000.00 and that amount has been transferred from the bond account into our O&M account. The Manager must advertise it in the local newspaper.
8. **PERS Questionnaire:** Haven't heard anything back.

Old Business

1. **LID-LWSD Water Rights:** The Manager said that he is expecting something by the September meeting. Tyler Browning asked why they don't use some of the Coulson water rights owned by local businesses like Weaver, Copart, and Par Montana? Terry Seiffert said that this would be up to Mike at LWSD to investigate but the last he heard was that Weaver wanted a million dollars for their rights.
2. **2014 LID Rate Update 2019:** On Hold.

Manager's Report:

Askin Construction cleaned the intake and split the cost with LWSD 1/3. July 9th and July 29th were for the debris of logs and moss in the intake. August 6 & 7 was removing the rockslide that came down from the quarry. They also went all the way up to the end for \$5,500.00. At 2532 Silverton the 60' had some seepage so we had Dale Hanson take the backhoe while there is water in the canal to seal this area; this method has worked in the past but may only last a season. There was a rusted-out culvert on Ethylene Ave that carries water from the 100' to Cherry St. and the County has replaced it. There was some flooding on 310 Hickory Dr and it's from the lateral that runs between Hickory and Wanda Ln. The property 233 Wanda so the Manager went over and cleaned it out on the 14th of August, it took Matt and I about an hour. The property owner Drew Hanson needs to have it cleaned out and has already received one of our letters, so it is time for the district to clean it with a backhoe. There were several headgates that needed to be addressed. The Brakken headgate off Old Hardin RD, it had a broken stem, so during moss shutdown a coupling was welded on one section, and a hole was drilled and bolt placed in the remaining stem so now it is functional. The other headgate was on Omaha St., and it lacked six bolts which were replaced even though it is on a closed system. The other headgate that needs to be replaced this fall is Becraft Ln, the Starlight/Twilight Headgate. It's cheaply done with wood and I never use wood; I always go through Montana Terrazo because they have a concrete design that works great. I added some sandbags and plastic, and I think we got it cut down a little. The Lorang Headgate was fixed using Gator Wrap and covered with quickcrete. Terry Seiffert said that we should get it replaced to avoid the same cost next year. There's a headgate that has never been used before being used to irrigate a small hayfield on McGrail's property above Rosebud Ln. 340 Juniper has a tree down that needs to be cut but it is not impeding the flow of the 60'. The LWSD Sewer project put in a new culvert on Tigard Ave in the 60'. On July 1st I seeded the 100' canal bank at 2424 Sunrise. On the 7th of July we burned the large brush pile at the quarry. We are starting to see moss in the river.

Ron Kindsfather: would like us to dig out an old lateral that used to be in his neighborhood to make it easier for him to get water to Cherry St. The District explained that we do not pay for laterals to be worked and that he would need to contact his neighbors to see what they thought and if they would help dig it in. Kent Hjorth says that when the ditch was there it would flood Ron's Property and McGrail's property. Kent says let's open her back up, we can have a ditch in my yard again. Kent says that if they dig the ditch through Keith's yard and McGrail's beautiful yard and T in at Ron's place; but I am betting that it will cause flooding for all of us.

Secretary's Report:

The June and July financial reports were presented at the August 19th meeting and a motion to approve the June and July financial were made by Bob Riehl and 2nd by Brent Kober. With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Bob Riehl, 2nd by Brent Kober, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34PM. The next board meeting will be on September 16, at 7:00 PM, located at the Lockwood Water and Sewer Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Watson, Secretary/Treasurer