



MINUTES

UNION PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

Directors Present: Greg Rasmussen, President
Bruce Tallakson, Vice-President
Tom Quincy, Secretary
Ralph Chick, Treasurer
Eric Bottomley, Director

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: Jessica Self, General Manager
Joe Darby, Operations Manager
Jenna Mayo, Clerk to the Board

Others Present: Matt Opsital, WGA
Justin Shobe and Philip L'Amoreaux of Shobe Engineering
Public at Large

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER/THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ROLL CALL

Director Rasmussen called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 2:10 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Tallakson
Second: Director Chick

Ayes: Directors Rasmussen, Tallakson, Quincy, Chick, and Bottomley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Julia Hollars addressed the Board regarding concerns related to the recent Utica Water Power Authority (UWPA) Board meeting, including potential Brown Act violations and the conduct of the meeting.

Joe Darby addressed the Board regarding the history and formation of the Union Public Utility District. He presented a historical timeline of the local water systems, including the formation of the Calaveras Water Users Association, the legal disputes over water rights from 1926 to 1939, and the eventual establishment of UPUD in 1946. He recognized the contributions of local pioneer families who fought to preserve community water access, emphasized the importance of honoring the District's history, and urged continued commitment to the District's founding principle of putting the community's needs first.

Mike Peirano addressed the Board regarding concerns over UWPA's governance and accountability. He stated that he had spoken with several individuals involved in drafting the Joint Powers Association (JPA) to clarify who holds responsibility for overseeing UWPA. According to Mr. Peirano, those individuals confirmed that oversight rests with the participating agencies. He urged the Board to fulfill its responsibilities and expressed frustration with ongoing issues over the past six months.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of Minutes:
 - o August 17, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting
 - o September 9, 2026 – Special Meeting
- b. Fund Balance Report – July 2026 and August 2026
- c. Balance Sheet & Income Statement – July 2026 and August 2026
- d. Expenditures – July 2026 and August 2026
- e. YTD Budget to Actuals – July 2026 and August 2026

Motion: Director Tallakson
Second: Director Quincy
Ayes: Directors Rasmussen, Tallakson, Quincy, Chick, and Bottomley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None

MINUTE ENTRY. MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation and Discussion of Master Plan Update
(Shobe Engineering)

Justin Shobe and Philip L'Amoreaux of Shobe Engineering presented a progress update on the District's Water Master Plan. The presentation provided an overview of the domestic and raw water systems, hydraulic modeling and calibration efforts, system evaluations, and preliminary findings.

Mr. Shobe reported that data collection and hydraulic model development have been completed for both systems. Preliminary findings indicate adequate water source and storage capacity, with no immediate need for water treatment plant upgrades. The evaluation identified opportunities for targeted improvements to fire flow capacity, system reliability, and aging infrastructure, particularly within the South Ditch portion of the raw water system.

The consultants outlined the next steps, including identifying and prioritizing recommended improvements, developing preliminary cost estimates, and preparing a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) addressing near-term (5-year) and long-term (20-year) infrastructure needs.

Mr. Shobe noted that the findings are still being evaluated in coordination with District staff and that a more detailed presentation of the results and proposed improvements is anticipated at the next Board meeting.

The Board thanked the consultants for their presentation. No formal action was taken.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Discussion/Action Regarding Adopting Comprehensive Revisions to the District's Water Ordinance
(Jessica Self, General Manager) **ORD 2026-001**

General Manager Jessica Self presented the proposed comprehensive revisions to the District's Water Ordinance. During the discussion, the following two amendments were identified:

Section 6.02.4.9 – Minimum Meter Size: Revised to state, "Each service connection will be charged, at a minimum, the rates associated with standard size designated by District policy." The language referencing "typically a one-inch meter" was removed.

Section 7.02: Corrected the section reference in the first sentence from 7.1.4 to 7.1.6.

Following discussion, the Board approved the comprehensive revisions to the District's Water Ordinance, incorporating the amendments identified above and subject to any final non-substantive revisions recommended by District legal counsel.

Motion: Director Tallakson
Second: Director Quincy
Ayes: Directors Rasmussen, Tallakson, Quincy, Chick, and Bottomley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None

ORDINANCE 2026-001. COMPREHENSIVE REVISIONS TO THE DISTRICT'S WATER ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED.

b. Discussion/Action Regarding Adopting an Updated Schedule of Miscellaneous Fees and Charges
(Jessica Self, General Manager) **RES 2026-014**

Motion: Director Tallakson
Second: Director Chick
Ayes: Directors Rasmussen, Tallakson, Quincy, Chick, and Bottomley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None

RESOLUTION 2026-014. AN UPDATED SCHEDULE OF MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES, AS PRESENTED BY DISTRICT STAFF.

7. UPDATES

Discussion and Potential Direction Regarding Utica Water & Power Authority
(Erik Holt, UWPA General Manager)

In the absence of UWPA General Manager Erik Holt, District board representatives provided an update on recent UWPA activities and meetings.

The Board discussed UWPA's recent approval of resolutions establishing frameworks for its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and long-term Master Plan. Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of specific project details and supporting information within the resolutions. It was clarified that individual projects would be reviewed by the appropriate UWPA committees, with recommendations presented to the full UWPA Board for final approval.

Discussion also addressed a September 18, 2026, UWPA special meeting involving anticipated litigation. The Board expressed concerns regarding meeting notification procedures and the exclusion of UPUD's appointed representatives from the anticipated closed session.

A member of the public expressed concerns regarding the exclusion of UPUD representatives from the special meeting, questioning compliance with the Brown Act and the potential implications for ratepayers and financial oversight. The speaker urged greater transparency and accountability in UWPA's governance and requested that the circumstances surrounding the meeting be formally addressed.

Director Bottomley further expressed frustration regarding requested items being omitted from a recent UWPA meeting agenda and concerns regarding communication and professional conduct among UWPA leadership and Board members.

The Board also discussed an upcoming UWPA agenda item concerning JPA governance and Board member duties and responsibilities. Despite ongoing concerns regarding UWPA's governance and management, the importance of maintaining a cooperative working relationship between the agencies was emphasized.

8. REPORTS

a. Operations Manager

The Operations Manager's report was presented to the Board by Operations Manager, Joe Darby.

b. General Manager

The General Manager's report was presented to the Board by General Manager, Jessica Self.

c. Board Updates

During Board updates, Director Bottomley inquired about the status of recruitment efforts. Joe Darby, Operations Manager acknowledged that additional follow-up was needed to advance the hiring process.

Board members expressed appreciation to the District's UWPA representatives for their continued efforts and acknowledged the challenges associated with recent UWPA meetings. The discussion also emphasized the importance of reestablishing a positive and cooperative working relationship between the agencies.

9. **CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 4:50 pm

a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – INITIATING LITIGATION
(Gov. Code, § 54956.9(d)(4)): One case

10. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** The meeting returned to open session at 5:15 pm

a. Report on Closed Session

11. **REPORTABLE ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION:** There was no reportable action.

12. **NEXT BOARD MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Director Rasmussen clarified that the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2026, rather than October 20, 2026, as incorrectly listed on the agenda.

Upcoming regular Board meetings are scheduled as follows:

- October 19, 2026 at 2:00 pm
- November 16, 2026 at 2:00 pm
- December 21, 2026 at 2:00 pm

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 pm

Respectfully Submitted:



Tom E. Quincy, Board Secretary

ATTEST:



Jenna Mayo, Clerk to the Board