

**MINUTES**  
**ACADEMY WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT**  
**January 21, 2026**

All participation in this public meeting, including public participation, is in conformance with state orders. This meeting is being held via Microsoft Teams. For sign on please go to AWSD website.

**ATTENDEES VIA SKYPE:**

- ( ) Steve Callicott        President
- ( ) Linnea Knoerzer      Vice President
- ( ) Brian Houghtaling    Treasurer
- ( ) Loring Wirbel        Secretary
- ( ) Ronald Curry         Director/Webmaster
- ( ) Will Parker          Semocor President
- ( ) Timm Knoerzer        Guest
- ( ) Tony Keith            Guest
- ( ) Alan and Karen Gershanov  
                                  Guests
- ( ) Emily Eldridge        Guest

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES:** Ron shared minutes from December, moves they be approved as written. Linnea seconds. Approved **UNANIMOUSLY**

**REPORTS:**

**SECRETARY:** Nothing

**TREASURER:** Brian shares budget-to-actual report, for last month of 2025. Brian does not forecast late fees, so increase in revenue has come from late fees and more interest payments than anticipated. In good shape end of calendar year. Expenses were under, mostly due to less in repairs and maintenance. Capital improvement \$662,197 in the year, a large chunk due to water filter refurbishment. Karen asked if higher maintenance bills are in winter, Brian said it can be very dependent on the year. Karen pointed out that system is getting older, and more could be anticipated. Brian said we have tried to be very anticipatory in planning for reserve funds. Water filter refurbishment was a large expense but had to be done, past their usual life.

**BANK ACCOUNTS:**

	<u>November 2025</u>		<u>December 2025</u>
Checking: US Bank	\$ 36,874.27	\$	\$ 65,376.07
Colotrust: Water	\$ 285,275.28	\$	286,230.34
Colotrust: Wastewater	\$ 524,583.76	\$	526, 339.94

**OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT:**

. Operations Report for Dec/Jan attached

Ron said that with three part-time managers in a few years, he and Steve had to take on many operations, particularly with Shawn's departure. Will introduced himself to the guests. Meter readers started at 9 a.m. on Jan. 21 and were done at 2:30 pm. Steve mentioned that we are still looking for half-time operations manager.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- GIS Mapping Status – no real progress, deferred until warmer months
- Booster Station Pumps Update – Steve asked if Will has gotten estimate, Excel Pump has not submitted such. Will said industry is backlogged, and price increases are drastic. Boosters on Pleasant View Lane maintain 55 psi pressure.
- Donala Flow Meter Update – Intersection between AWSO and Donala has meter to show amount of sewage pumped into Donala. Meter has been a problem for several months. Will said meter has been in question for a few years, so improvement would be valuable. Timm K. asked about the cost of the flow and how the accuracy would reflect that. Steve said that Donala has a cap on how much can be sent to them – 70,000 gallons per day. Contract will need to be renegotiated soon. Cost of a new meter plus change in property would be ~\$100,000, looking for better solution.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Disclosure of Board Member Conflict of Interest
- Search for New Operations Manager – Looking for a 20-hour/week job, anyone who knows how to run a spreadsheet and can talk to people could be candidate.
- December Customer Discoloration Complaints/Line Flushing – This affects approximately 20 homes.

Will said improvements at the plant need to be shaken out. All water is disinfected to state standards. We noticed the filtration was much better than we anticipated, so we take the backwash water through filters and re-use. We were filtering so well, the basin was trying to pull sediment back into filters. We think this last week we got good adjustments, existing discoloration due to iron. Later this year, we will improve automation in the plant. Affected customers tend to be down the hill closer to the plant itself.

#### **RECAP ON WEB SITE:**

Semcor, the District's operations company, has identified the source of recent water discoloration as being related to the newly renovated water filters. While unexpected, the issue is occurring because the new filters are performing more efficiently and are capturing nearly three times more sediment from the wells than before the renovation.

This additional sediment is removed from the filters during routine backwashing and sent to a holding tank, where it normally settles out before the clarified (decanted) water is returned to the treatment process. Due to the increased amount of sediment now being captured, this process has become short-cycled, meaning some sediment is being returned to the filters before it has fully settled. As a result, a small amount of sediment has been able to pass into the distribution system.

Although the amount of sediment is minimal, it can be noticeable in areas of the distribution system with higher water flow. To address this, the District has already implemented operational changes to the filter system and will continue to make additional improvements to enhance the overall filtering capacity and performance of the system.

The discoloration observed is associated with naturally occurring iron in the source water. Iron is considered a secondary contaminant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), meaning it affects the appearance, taste, or staining potential of water but does not pose a health risk at the levels typically found in drinking water. The water delivered to our customers remains safe, fully disinfected, and compliant with all drinking water standards.

For customers who may notice discoloration, flushing household plumbing through an exterior hose bib, when weather permits, can help clear the lines more quickly.

Timm asked about separate analysis of Iron-2, Iron-3, or a general iron analysis. Will said it is a general iron ferrite analysis. Last reading was 0.1 mg per liter, up to 0.3 mg per liter. Karen said that she has a hyper-sensitivity to iron, but we have to follow state standards and have not hit close to that level. Ron said may require a house purification system. Timm pointed out that this is close to the best to be expected from any water system. He volunteered to test samples for individuals.

- Annual Admin Resolution – Ron moves we approve resolution, Loring seconds. Motion approved **UNANIMOUSLY**
- Capital Improvement Priorities Chart for 2026 (Doc attached) – Display list priorities within \$323,000. Highest is Well #1 motor replacement, \$9,300. Items 1 to 6 are within budget, items 7 and 8 are beyond budget. Those that can be afforded include booster flowmeter replacement, booster station pump refurbishment, customer meter replacement, water tank level meter, plant automation update, and Tosibox. Two lift station items will likely by 2027. Ron said the Donala meter should be added to the list. Ron said all should begin immediately, particularly plant automation. Ron moves to authorize president and treasurer to determine proper prioritization of projects 1-6 and to initiate based on availability of cash. Linnea seconds. Approved **UNANIMOUSLY**.
- Transparency Notice and No Boundary Change Letter accepted by DOLA - informational
- And any other issues pertaining to district operations

**ADJOURNMENT: 6:59 p.m.**