

**WEST SLOPE WATER DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2026**  
**Meeting Summary**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Chair Andy Smith, Commissioners Chris Eppler, Susan Meamber, Ramesh Krishnamurthy and Paul Schuler

Management Staff: Ken Ackerman, General Manager; Wendy Irwin, Finance Manager

Absent:

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**1.0 – CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Smith called to order the meeting of the West Slope Water District Board of Commissioners at 5:01 P.M., Wednesday, April 15, 2026. The meeting was held in person and through Zoom virtual meeting technology. The public was made aware of the meeting through the District’s website (meeting agenda and Zoom link were posted on the website).

**2.0 - PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

The District did not receive any public comments regarding agenda items or other issues for the Board to consider.

**3.0 – CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Krishnamurthy asked about Bend Mailing Services – Wendy explained that is who does our prints and mails out the monthly billings. Commissioner Krishnamurthy asked about Path Point – Wendy explained it is our credit card service provider. Commissioner Krishnamurthy asked about Monday.com charges – Wendy stated it is a project management software that we currently use and the charge is for the annual subscriptions. Commissioner Meamber asked what dates did general manager change – Ken outlines Mike was acting until April 10th and will be on the payroll until April 30th, Ken is General Manager starting April 11th. Commissioner Meamber made a motion to accept the entire Consent Agenda consisting of Agenda Items 3.1 through 3.8. Commissioner Krishnamurthy r seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

**4.0 - DISTRICT ACTIVITIES**

**4.1 – General Manager’s Report:** Mr. Grimm highlighted some key issues from the General Manager’s report:

Reservoir #4 Project: Mr. Ackerman gave a brief summary; no meeting happened with Grayling Engineering this month as they continue to work on the baseline report.

Wholesale Water Rates from Portland Water Bureau: Mr. Ackerman share we have no updates on the rates from Portland, the Mayor's budget is due out April 20<sup>th</sup>, and we will know more after that document has been released. While this appears that the District will be paying a larger sum of money to the City for wholesale water, the actual expense is projected to be less than the current fiscal year's expense based on only paying for water the District actually uses through the wholesale water meter with the City. Under the current wholesale water sales agreement, the District pays for a guaranteed minimum purchase amount which leaves the District annually paying 20% more water to the City which the District cannot sell to retail customers.

Washington County Meetings: Mr. Grimm and Mr. Ackerman attended the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Washington County LUT staff and the consultants for the Urban Services Framework project funded by the County for what will be the next to last meeting. The County will provide a book of information that has been documented for all to review in the next month.

Mr. Ackerman gave an update on the In-N'-Out Burger pre-construction meeting for the improvements on SW Laurel. The contractor is expected to start work on May 4. They have permits for the waterline work but not the rest of the work to complete the project.

Mr. Ackerman gave an update on Mr. Grimm's exit interview with Judy Clark. Asked if the board wanted to have Ms. Clark at the May meeting to report on the findings. The direction was to get the written report out to Board members the first week of May and allow them to review and decide by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ackerman also gave an update on his 30-60-90-day plan. Some discussion occurred about meeting with Board members as a group or individually. It was decided that individual meetings would occur.

4.2 – Finance Manager's Report: Ms. Irwin briefly gave an update on the budget development process working to reconfiguring a few things which is taking a little longer. Adding new information to be beneficial, some performance measures, statistics, etc. We should be hearing back soon on whether we got the Oregon loan. If we did not, Mr. Grimm has talked to Rep. Suzanne Bonamici about an earmark. Ms. Irwin is also working with Gary on some workflow optimization and working with Mr. Ackerman to get him up to speed on the district. We had one leak adjustment for March which keeps us on track with last years adjustments. Also concerned about next two months about water usage as we are low in billings, wondering if its due to the rain. Planning to reduce forecast usage in budget that may produce lower revenue even with additional 5% increase in rates. We are under expenses for this year with Garden View project being under budget and almost completed.

4.3 Updated Authorized Signers: Ms. Irwin stated that we need to update the Authorized Signers with the bank and they need to see a resolution from the Board. She shared Resolution 01-2026. Commissioner Meamber made a motion to approve Resolution 01-2026. Commissioner Eppler seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

4.4 FY 2026-27 Overview of Proposed Budget Assumptions: Ms. Irwin talked about assumptions for next years budget, rate is already set to increase 5% based on the water rate study that was done last year and the two year rate increase, so we do not a rate hearing with this years budget. That will cover all the expenses for the coming year and we will be in an advantageous position. The assumption is that we need to have a min of \$1.5 million moved into reserves every year for capital projects. Budget for salaries is going down since this year had an overlap

of general managers, some of which will be offset by higher health care insurance increase of 17%. The insurance is an 18-month increase, so we were do for a higher number. COLA increase is currently showing at 3.3% in March current budget is based on 2.5% we award based on April. The wholesale rate is set to go up 20% but we will be paying on actual verse guaranteed minimum purchase amount the total should go down. We are doing tank cleanings next year that we do every 5 to 10 years. We are updating the seismic valves at the reservoirs with new batteries to start. We are looking to extend the back up power to the rest of the office and the shop, the generator is big enough only requirement is to extend the electrical connections. Plan to connect the Green tank to SCADA, currently estimated at \$40k. We will also plan a few office improvements to allow for a more private call area. And lastly the three CIP projects, the two mains' projects SW Canyon, & SW Sharon and the reservoir 4 project. We will be replacing one crew truck this year and adding to the reserve for a replacement vactor truck. The capital reserve will be well over \$6 M & the equipment reserve of about \$600k. Budget packets will be sent out the first week of May for Budget Committee review.

**5.0 – COMMISSIONERS COMMUNICATIONS**

No Commissioner attended any outside meetings. There were no suggestions for additional topics for this meeting or future meeting agenda items. The consensus of the Board was that the meeting went well and very efficientl today.

**6.0 – ADJOURNMENT**


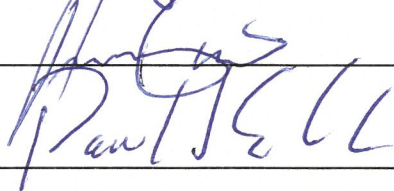
There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Meamber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Krishnamurthy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously (5-0). Chair Smith adjourned the April 15, 2026, meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 5:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kenneth Ackerman*

Ken Ackerman, P.E.  
Acting Secretary

Approved:

  
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Paul Bell