

**Humboldt Bay Municipal Water
District 828 7th Street, Eureka**



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of
Directors**

May 14, 2026

1:00 p.m.

1.1 ROLL CALL

President Fuller called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was conducted. Directors Fuller, Rupp, Stevens, Wheeler, and Woo were present. General Manager Michiko Mares, Director of Maintenance and Operations Dale Davidsen, Director of Finance and Human Resources Chris Harris, and Board Secretary Contessa Dickson were present.

1.2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Fuller led the pledge of allegiance.

1.3 ACCEPT AGENDA

ACTION: Motion #26-027 to accept Agenda.

Maker: Director Woo

Second: Director Wheeler

Vote: 5-0 to approve

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: Motion #26-028 to approve Consent Calendar.

Maker: Director Wheeler

Second: Director Stevens

Vote: 5-0 to approve

- 3.1 Approve the Draft Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 9, 2026
- 3.2 Approve 2025-26 State Legislative Session – CSDA & ACWA Bill Positions Relevant to HBMWD
- 3.3 Approve 2025 Consumer Confidence Reports for HBMWD (CA1210013) and Fieldbrook Glendale CSD (CA1210020) and Authorization to Distribute
- 3.4 Approve Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025
- 3.5 Approve Authorization to Use ReMat Reserve Funds for Watercraft
- 3.6 Approve Advanced Charges and Project Budget Reallocation – Part 1

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 None.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

5.1 Public Meeting – Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 17 (Revised)

ACTION: Motion #26-029 to approve

Maker: Director Rupp

Second: Director Wheeler

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Vote: 5-0 to approve by roll call vote

- Director Wheeler: Aye
- Director Woo: Aye
- Director Fuller: Aye
- Director Stevens: Aye
- Director Rupp: Aye

(5 ayes, 0 no, 0 abstained)

Ms. Harris presented the second reading and adoption of revised Ordinance 17 related to Director compensation. She provided an overview of the proposed revisions, including the automatic annual cost-of-living adjustment mechanism and updates to the bill review stipend structure. Public comment was opened with no comments, then closed. Following discussion, the Board approved the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 17 (Revised).

5.2 Informational Memo Concerning the Former McNamara and Peepe Mill Site

Non-Action Item

Director Woo recused due to a conflict of interest.

Ms. Mares presented an informational update regarding the Former McNamara and Peepe Mill Site. She reported on ongoing coordination with DTSC, continued groundwater and stormwater monitoring activities, and recent communications regarding site management and regulatory review. Discussion included the District's continued concern regarding protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

5.3 Approval of April Financial Statement & Vendor Detail Report

ACTION: Motion #26-030 approve the April financial statement & vendor detail report in the amount of \$914,326.97.

Maker: Director Woo

Second: Director Wheeler

Vote: 5-0 to approve

Ms. Harris presented the March financial statement, reporting a general account balance of \$1.1 million, investments totaling \$13.5 million, \$6.7 million in advance charges, and \$4.5 million in general reserves.

6. Reports:

6.1 Staff Reports:

a. Operations Report

Non-Action Item

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Mr. Davidsen presented the April Operations Report. He reported on operational activities at Ruth Lake, hydro generation, maintenance projects, and ongoing safety and infrastructure work completed by staff during the month.

b. Management Report

Non-Action Item

Ms. Mares presented the General Manager's Report, providing updates on regulatory compliance, permitting, and reporting activities. She reported no workplace injuries during the reporting period and stated the District remained in full compliance with all state and federal drinking water regulations. Updates were also provided on FERC and DSOD coordination activities, Petition for Change discussions and working group coordination, capital improvement planning, grant opportunities, strategic planning implementation, and municipal customer coordination.

6.2 Active Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

a. Former McNamara and Peepe Mill Site Cleanup

The committee met with General Manager Mares on April 16. Director Wheeler was absent.

6.3 Director Reports

a. Vice President Woo

Vice President Woo Expressed appreciation for staff work and ongoing coordination efforts.

b. Director Wheeler

Director Wheeler reported on the pathways to trust training put on by Blue Lake Rancheria he attended and was glad to see District staff in attendance.

c. Director Stevens

Director Stevens expressed appreciation for staff and ongoing project coordination.

d. Director Rupp

Director Rupp commented on the North Coast Resource Partnership meeting he attended.

e. President Fuller

No comment.

6.4. Organizations on which HBMWD Serves

a. Association of CA Water Agencies (ACWA)

Non-Action Item

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Director Rupp reported on the recent ACWA Finance Committee meeting he attended, including the Spring Conference, employee benefits committee meeting in Roseville, possible health benefit program changes, liability committee discussions regarding rates and the state of the marketplace.

b. Association of CA Water Agencies/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA-JPIA)

Non-Action Item

Director Rupp reported on the recent ACWA-JPIA meeting he attended. Including updates on the JPIA strategic plan, an artificial intelligence presentation utilizing avatars, audit and budget approvals, and emergency preparedness sessions.

7. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

7.1 Information Management System

Non-Action Item

No update.

7.2 Artificial Intelligence Policy

Non-Action Item

No update.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned from open session at 1:50 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

1. ROLL CALL

President Fuller called the Closed Session meeting to order at 1:50 p.m. Roll call was conducted. Directors Fuller, Rupp, Stevens, Wheeler, and Woo were present. General Manager Michiko Mares, Director of Maintenance and Operations Dale Davidsen, Director of Finance and Human Resources Chris Harris, and Board Secretary Contessa Dickson were present.

2. Public comment:

Public comment was opened and received regarding the Section 1707 Instream Flow Dedication matter:

Monty Larsen, Water Rights Coordinator with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, commented on the Section 1707 Instream Flow Dedication process, noting he has been working with District staff for the past six to eight months to resolve the protest and feels progress has been made through the technical working group meetings with staff and other protestants. He stated support for the District continuing to participate in the process.

Dan Free with National Marine Fisheries Service commented that significant progress has been made and acknowledged the complexity of the system. He stated the meetings were productive and included extensive discussion regarding technical aspects of the petition. Mr. Free also noted that

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protestants met separately and have worked well with District staff. He thanked staff and consultants for the work and information provided and expressed support for continuing the process with the State Water Resources Control Board and the 1707 petition.

Ms. Mares expressed appreciation to the speakers for continuing to work with the District and providing another opportunity to collaborate.

1. Announcement of Closed Session Agenda:
 - 3.1.a (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
 - 3.1.b Name of case: Petitions for Change and Instream Flow Dedication for Permits 11714 (Application 16454) and 11715 (Application 17291)

3.2. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Title: General Manager

3.3 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Agency designated representatives: Michelle Fuller, Board President; Sheri Woo, Vice President; Ryan Plotz, District Counsel

Unrepresented employee: General Manager

The Board entered closed session at 1:55 pm and returned to open session at 4:33 p.m.

President Fuller announced there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Fuller".

Michelle Fuller, Board President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Contessa Dickson".

Contessa Dickson, Board Secretary