

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

APRIL 13, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Kicinski at 4:30 p.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stan G. Rajtora. **PLEDGE**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** President Ronald R. Kicinski  
Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand  
Director Charles D. Griffin  
Director Stan G. Rajtora  
Director Mallory J. Boyd **ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** George Croll, General Manager  
Jim Worth, Attorney  
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer  
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer  
John Svika, Operations Manager  
Amber Chapin, Recording Secretary

**AGENDA DECLARATION** **AGENDA DECLARATION**  
Recording Secretary, Amber Chapin, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, April 09, 2026.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION** **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**  
None.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION** **PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
None.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Kicinski recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION** **CLOSED SESSION**  
The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:34 p.m.  
Closed Session was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

No action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

The Board heard public comment from Rene Westa-Lusk.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENTS**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Boyd approving the Minutes of the March 09, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, March 24, 2026, Special Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$939,400.96. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**CONSENT  
CALENDAR**

**Administration/Executive Committee**

Director Griffin announced he would be abstaining from item 9.B.1 and 9.B.2 because his son is an employee of the District.

George Croll presented the new organization chart, which reflects the Water Supply department under Engineering. Mr. Croll explained this move will balance the departments more evenly between managers. Currently information from Water Supply flows through the Operations Manager to the Engineering Department, this move will also make communication more efficient within staff.

**ORGANI**

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Director Boyd approving the Organization Chart revisions. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstain: Griffin)

George Croll presented four job descriptions for the positions that were affected by the Organization Chart revisions. The changes to job descriptions were minor, mainly focusing on title changes and updating reporting duties.

**TRUCK  
PURCHASE**

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand approving the job descriptions for Chief Engineer, Water Supply Supervisor, Construction Supervisor and Operations Manager. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

President Kicinski:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Aye
Director Boyd:	Aye
Director Griffin :	Abstain
Director Rajtora:	Aye

**Plant & Equipment Committee**

Renée Morquecho reported the District would like to move forward with closing the work done by Onstott Construction for this fiscal year. They have completed \$250,285.11 worth of work, the District is holding a retention of \$12,514.20 that will be released once the contract is accepted and closed out. Onstott will start work again for the next fiscal year on July 1.

**GRANT FUNDING**

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Boyd authorizing staff to accept the contract work for Fiscal Year 2025-26. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

Renée Morquecho presented a Request for Variance from Onstott Construction for APN 477-020-23, it is a vacant lot that will be used for storage. Currently there is no pipeline fronting this parcel, District policy would require a mainline extension on Gordon Street connecting to the existing pipeline on Church Avenue. Surrounding parcels can access water from other streets so the extension is unnecessary. Staff is asking the Board to grant the variance with a Covenant Running with the Land requiring the construction of the pipeline across the entire frontage if needed in the future.

**REQUEST FOR VARIANCE**

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Variance Request from Onstott Construction for APN 477-020-23. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

Renée Morquecho presented a Request for Variance from Kim Young for APN 354-021-12(1360 N Brady), this property previously received water service from a well that was shared with a neighbor(1380 N Brady), that well is no longer in service. Currently the only pipeline that fronts this property is the District's transmission pipeline on Brady Street. The District's Sales & Service Policy requires "a water main line extension to and across the entire frontage of the parcel(s) to be served". A mainline extension to reach the Young property would result in a dead-end with one connection and it would be highly unlikely the pipeline would need to be extended to reach any neighboring parcels. Ms. Young is requesting a variance and would like to set a meter on Reeves and run a service to her parcel through an easement granted by her neighbor at 1380 N Brady Street. Staff is asking the Board to grant the variance with the provision that an easement, of width agreeable to both parties, be recorded against both properties that allows the water service connection to Reeves Ave.

**REQUEST FOR VARIANCE**

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Variance Request from Kim Young for APN 354-021-12(Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION**

**COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION**

Jim Worth reported the expert depositions have concluded and the District continues to move toward the Safe Yield trial on June 1.

Mr. Worth reported there was a hearing on April 6 where two pre-trial motions were heard, both brought by the IWVGA. The first was an objection to the District's subpoena of Anthony Brown as a witness to the Phase 2 trial, the objection was denied by the Judge. The second was a request to prevent testimony regarding groundwater in storage, that motion was denied as well.

**INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)**

**IWVGA**

Vice President Saint-Amand reported the IWVGA Meeting that was scheduled for April 8, 2026 was cancelled, no reason was given for the cancellation.

**Water Resources Development Act Overview of Imported Water Pipeline Project**

**PRESENTATION**

George Croll gave a presentation discussing the Imported Pipeline Project funding. The full PowerPoint is available on the District's website along with supporting documents.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

**GENERAL  
MANAGER  
UPDATE**

**General Manager Update**

George Croll reported there has been no new updates to AB 1413 and reported on potential legislation that may affect the District. There was nothing significant to report in regards to personal safety and injury reports. The District participated in the Conservation in the IWV event on March 14, the Home and Leisure Show on March 21-22 and Mr. Croll spoke at the Republican Club on March 20.

**Engineering Update**

**ENGINEERING  
UPDATE**

Water Systems Consolidations:

- o Inyokern CSD: The State will be planning the next public meeting, no official update at this time.
- o Rademacher Way/Gordon St: The IWVGA has hired a right of way consultant to get the final easements in place. Once that has been completed the District can order parts and begin on the project.
- o Dune 3: The agreement has been finalized and the State Water Resources Control Board has granted the District permission to proceed to bid.
- o Stark Street: The District has filed the CEQA exemption, this project will be completed via change order to Dune 3. Staff and legal will be working with LAFCO to get an emergency connection permission.

Renée Morquecho reported pressure testing and chlorination has been completed on the Brady Street transmission pipeline. The bacteriological samples were completed and have come back negative. The tie in process has began at Inyokern Road, the Construction crew installed a total of 2,675 lineal feet of 24 in PVC pipe, 4 fire hydrants and will be installing 2 more hydrants. Once they have completed the tie in on Inyokern Road they will complete the tie in on Ward Avenue. The line should be back online in the next week.

**BRADY STREET**

**Financial Update**

**FINANCIAL  
UPDATE**

Ty Staheli reported the year to date water use, total billed consumption year to date in 2025 was just under 1.8 million and in 2026 it is just under 1.7 million.

Mr. Staheli reported year-to-date actual revenue of \$13.56 million which is about \$560,000 below budget. Capital contributions are down and will most likely not realize this year due to reimbursements for projects like Dune 3, Rademacher and Stark Street. Mr. Staheli reported expenditures are just under \$13 million which is \$1.2 million below budget. The District is ahead overall with net income. Capital expenditures to date are just over 1.8 million, 1.3 million of that is funded by either grants or bond proceeds. The District has paid just over \$3.7 million in extraction fees and \$15.8 million in replenishment fees to the IWVGA. Staff also provided an update on meter installations; delinquent account turn offs and WaterSmart alerts.

**Operations Update**

**OPERATIONS  
UPDATE**

John Svika reported there were 32 valves exercised which brings the year-to-date total to 495 valves. There was 218 USA North locates which brings the year-to-date total to 2,560 and 3 USA South which brings the year-to-date to 7. Mr. Svika reported there were 19 flushes which brings the total water saved by the NO-DES truck year-to-date to just under 10 million gallons. Staff reported 14 afterhours calls which resulted in 7 lateral repairs and 1 mainline repair. For the month there were 16 service lateral repairs, 14 lateral replacements, 1 hydrant repair and 1 blowoff repair.

Mr. Svika gave an update on projects completed by the Water Supply department.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

**BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Boyd complimented staff for their hard work.

Director Rajtora and Director Griffin thanked George Croll for his effort in putting together the informational presentation.

Vice President Saint-Amand thanked George Croll for the presentation and gave praise for the financial position of the District.

President Kicinski also thanked George Croll and complimented staff for their hard work.

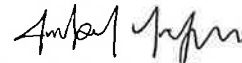
**DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

The date of the next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, May 11, 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Isabel Tejada  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: May 11, 2026

**BOARD  
COMMENTS/FUTU  
RE AGENDA  
ITEMS**

**DATE OF NEXT  
MEETING**

**ADJOURNMENT**