



Mission Statement

“To provide reliable water and sewer service in a safe, cost effective environmentally sound manner in accordance with community needs.”

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
IDYLLWILD WATER DISTRICT
25945 Highway 243
Idyllwild, CA 92549**

January 15, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

President Schelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

President Schelly, Director Olson, Director Priefer and Director Davis were present along with General Manager Rojas and Chief Financial Officer Shouman

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Hunt expressed concerns from a public relations standpoint that the closed session item appeared suspicious and hoped it wasn't related to the property being sold to Mr. Butterfield.

Jeffrey Smith expressed concerns about Strawberry Creek and the new path constructed. He emphasized that water quality and the construction's impact on the creek are significant issues. Mr. Smith questioned whether Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board was aware of the ongoing work. He also expressed hope that the Water District would take steps to protect the water source, especially given the changes to human traffic patterns near the creek. In response, President Schelly asked Mr. Smith whether he believed the District had control over all the issues he raised. Mr. Smith noted that he thought where the guard rail and culvert had been cut and installed were located on District property. Mr. Smith also mentioned that the Johnson family had owned the creek before selling it to Mr. Butterfield. However, during the time the Johnsons owned it, they had no intention of developing any of the land surrounding the creek.

Peter Szabadi suggested that there might be a public easement along the creek or trail and that it might not be District property. Mr. Hunt noted that there are easements leading to the creek, but not along the trail.

Franz Huber stated that he sold the property to the District approximately 12 years ago. At the time, Terry Lyons assured him—through a verbal agreement with the board—that the property would never be sold. This assurance was a key factor in his decision to proceed with the sale. Mr. Huber also raised concerns about recent changes to the land, specifically noting that Shane Stewart had poured decomposed granite (DG) and was moving large boulders. He warned that these alterations could create new water pathways, potentially increasing the risk of flooding to his home. In response to these concerns, he reached out to the county for further action.



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Additionally, he expressed worries about the impact on the fish in the creek, emphasizing the need to preserve the area's natural ecosystem.

Mr. Huber urged the board to walk the property themselves to assess the situation firsthand. He also strongly advocated fencing off the area to restrict public access, as ongoing human activity has, in his words, turned the property into a "disaster." Despite no longer owning the land, he has taken it upon himself to clean it up multiple times. Furthermore, he mentioned that the District had installed a chain and lock at the entrance, but it had been cut off. Concerned about security, he took the initiative to reassemble and secure it once again. President Schelly clarified that the District has no authority or jurisdiction over the location of the trail.

Mr. Hunt and Mr. Huber stated that, based on their understanding, the survey conducted by Lee Arson confirmed that the pathway was on the District's property.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, to be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, it shall be removed so that it may be acted upon separately.

A. MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting: December 18, 2024

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. Income statement for the sixth month ending December 2024
- b. District warrants for December 2024
 - Check #18674-18732 = \$299,371.37
 - Gross Payroll = \$71,250.00
 - Federal/State PR taxes = \$6,890.00
 - LAIF Transfers = \$0
 - Transfers/charges = \$345.00

C. OPERATIONS REPORT

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

President Schelly noted that the operations reports looked excellent, with the numbers appearing more accurate than in previous reports. He expressed that, in the past, the numbers had been difficult to interpret and seemed static, often appearing to be carried over from the previous month. However, he now finds the current reports much clearer and more reliable.



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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Huber clarified the location of the property and the driveway, stating that the main entrance to the property is located behind the Brewpub.

President Schelly inquired about the split rail fence, specifically noting that it has an opening that allows people to pass through.

A motion was made by Director Olson to approve the Consent Calendar and Director Davis seconded.

AYES

**Director Davis
Director Olson
Director Priefer
President Schelly**

NAYS

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

Motion approved.

INFORMATION

2. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

The General Manager will update the Board on accomplishments, challenges that have occurred, and key performance metrics.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

President Schelly asked for clarification on whether Mr. Rojas was providing an update on Strawberry Creek or the sewer plant. Mr. Rojas clarified that his update was about the sewer plant project.

Director Olson asked about the grants and if there was a dollar amount of what was has been requested. Mr. Rojas mentioned that we are in the "neighborhood" of \$10-12 million for the cost of the project and that is what we are "seeking" in our grants.

Mr. Shouman mentioned that it is not 100% guaranteed that we will receive the full amount of grant money. Mr. Rojas agreed, stating that the funding is not guaranteed and could be split in various ways, such as 50/50. However, he emphasized that they are doing their best to secure the maximum possible funding.

Director Davis inquired about the Southridge facilities and the booster pump, specifically asking if it was an inline pressure-sustaining system. Mr. Rojas confirmed that it is and added that there is also a fire booster station at the site. Mr. Rojas explained that the booster pump primarily serves as a backup for that system and is also designed to supply fire flow in the area, where pressure levels are typically very low.



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Director Priefer commended Mr. Rojas and his staff for their preparedness during the power outages. Mr. Rojas expressed his pride in his team, emphasizing that they didn't "miss a beat," consistently rising early and working late as needed to tackle the challenges. He highlighted that his staff is passionate about their work, and their dedication and commitment are evident in everything they do.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunt commended General Manager Mr. Rojas for doing an excellent job since joining the district and noted that it was great to see him actively working in the field.

Mr. Hunt inquired whether the district had contacted the Idyllwild Fire District and the County regarding hydrant flushing to explore the possibility of capturing and reusing the water. Mr. Rojas confirmed that they had been in touch with both agencies regarding the flushing process.

Mr. Hunt also asked about the formula used to calculate water usage in gallons per minute during the drought stage. Mr. Rojas explained that with the current wells in operation, the district can produce 410 gallons per minute. He noted that water usage last month was low due to Idyllwild Arts students being away and a decrease in production. He assured Mr. Hunt that the district would continue to monitor drought stages. Hunt expressed concern about the ongoing drought, noting that there had been no measurable precipitation in the last eight months. In response, David Jerome mentioned that Pine Cove Water was still in Stage One drought restrictions, and Director Priefer added that Fern Valley remained in Stage One as well.

ACTION ITEMS

- 3. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 801 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE IDYLLWILD WATER DISTRICT AUTHORIZING SIGNERS FOR PNC, CHASE AND HCN ACCOUNTS**

The Board of Directors will consider approving Resolution No. 801.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunt raised concerns that the resolution referred to "President Schelly" instead of "Director Schelly," given the upcoming election. He felt it implied an assumption that President Schelly would automatically be nominated as Board President. President



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Schelly acknowledged the concern and said necessary changes would be made to the resolution if needed.

A motion was made by Director Olson to approve Resolution No. 801 and Director Davis seconded.

AYES

Director Davis
Director Olson
Director Priefer
President Schelly

NAYS

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

Motion approved.

4. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 802

The Board will consider and approve moving the regular scheduled board meetings from Wednesdays at 6:00 pm to Mondays at 9:00 am.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Olson was not in favor of moving the meeting.

Director Davis was not in favor of moving the meeting either he said it may create conflict.

Director Priefer mentioned it would be a conflict with her job and wasn't in favor of moving the meeting time.

President Schelly requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 802, however no motion was made, and the resolution has been abandoned.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Smith views later board meetings as a significant benefit of IWD, perhaps due to increased accessibility for attendees or other advantages.

Mr. Hunt expressed concerns about safety, particularly for individuals driving late in snowy conditions, and suggested that earlier meeting times might alleviate these risks.

Stephine Yost, a board member of the Idyllwild Fire Department Protection District, highlighted that their 3 p.m. meeting time rarely attracts community members due to conflicting work schedules, suggesting a challenge with earlier meetings.

Paul Hellerman proposed that if overtime for staff is a concern, the District could



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consider staggering work hours on meeting days to address this issue.

5. 2025 ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors will consider electing a President and Vice President for the 2025 calendar year.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Board Secretary Mrs. Wheeler facilitated the nominations and elections of officers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunt nominated Director Priefer for Board President, and President Schelly seconded the motion. However, the nomination failed due to a lack of votes.

A motion was made by Director Olson to nominate Director Priefer as the Vice President for calendar year 2025. Director Davis seconded.

The vote was as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Director Davis			
Director Olson			
President Schelly		Director Priefer	

Motion approved.

A motion was made by Director Olson to nominate President Schelly as the Board President for calendar year 2025. Director Davis seconded.

The vote was as follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Director Davis			
Director Olson			
Director Priefer		President Schelly	

Motion approved.

The Board of Directors adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The Board moved into Closed Session at 7:05 p.m.



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CLOSED SESSION

1. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR- GOV'T CODE SECTION 54956.8

Property Description: Property in Idyllwild
Agency: Idyllwild Water District
District Negotiator: Bill Rojas, General Manager
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

None.

The Board moved out of closed session and moved back into the open session at 8:10 p.m.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Directors established a committee for purchasing an investment property.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

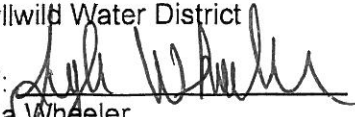
CLOSING DIRECTOR COMMENTS


None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next Board meeting is a Regular Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., to be held at the Idyllwild Water District Boardroom, 25945 Hwy. 243, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

Idyllwild Water District
BY: 
Tyla Wheeler
Board Secretary

Idyllwild Water District
BY: 
Dr. Charles Schelly
Board President