

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



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

February 12, 2026

1:00 p.m.

a valuable experience and that he learned a great deal.

e. President Fuller:

President Fuller stated that the Strategic Planning Workshop was a worthwhile investment of time and noted that it went smoothly. She expressed appreciation for the work that went into the effort and enthusiasm for next steps in the strategic planning process.

6.4. Organizations on which HBMWD Serves

a. Association of CA Water Agencies (ACWA)

Non-Action Item

Director Rupp reported on the ACWA meetings he attended on January 29 and 30. He also noted that on February 6, Regions 1 and 5 met to further discuss topics from the prior meetings. Key issues included the need for additional headwaters funding and workforce development initiatives.

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

Non-Action Item

Director Rupp reported on the Executive Committee meeting held on January 22. One topic discussed was the status of the risk management program.

c. Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA)

Non-Action Item

Director Woo attended the January meeting and reported that she informed the RCEA Board that the District would be stepping down from its Board position. The RCEA Board expressed a desire for Director Woo to attend the February meeting.

d. County of Humboldt Redevelopment Oversight Board Meeting

Non-Action Item

Director Rupp reported on his attendance at the County of Humboldt Redevelopment Oversight Board meeting held on January 26. This committee assignment will be added to the annual Board committee assignments list moving forward.

7. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

7.1 Information Management System

Non-Action Item

Ms. Harris continues to work through filed documents as part of the Information Management System efforts. It was noted that SharePoint should be sufficient to manage and organize the District's documents.

7.2 Artificial Intelligence Policy

Non-Action Item

No update.

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b. Management Report

Non-Action Item

Ms. Mares presented the General Manager's Report, providing updates on regulatory compliance, permitting, and reporting activities. No workplace injuries were reported. Discussion included FERC and DSOD comments related to the embankment investigation and operational impacts associated with Collector #4 being offline. Director Rupp asked clarifying questions regarding system redundancy and potential risk if additional supply infrastructure were disrupted.

Ms. Mares also reported on coordination with the Watershed Research and Training Center, a meeting with the Bear River Band regarding the un-naming of the Mad River initiative, and ongoing progress related to the General Manager performance appraisal. President Fuller provided an update on progress related to the General Manager performance appraisal process.

6.2 Active Committee Reports

a. Instream Flow Dedication

The Instream Flow Dedication Committee (Directors Fuller and Stevens) met on January 15 to discuss ongoing matters related to the Petition for Change and next steps in the protest resolution process.

b. Former McNamara and Peepe Mill Site Cleanup

The committee (directors Fuller and Wheeler) met on January 6.

6.3 Director Reports

a. Vice President Woo:

Director Woo commented and thanked staff for their preparation for the Strategic Planning Workshop, noting that it made the two-day session very productive.

b. Director Wheeler:

Director Wheeler concurred with Director Woo's comments and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in discussions with staff during the Strategic Planning Workshop.

c. Director Stevens:

Director Stevens thanked staff for their work on the Strategic Planning Workshop and concurred with the comments of other Board members. She noted the value of hearing directly from staff and appreciated the sense of alignment among participants.

d. Director Rupp:

Director Rupp thanked Ms. Mares for organizing the Strategic Planning Workshop, noting that it was

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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. General Counsel Ryan Plotz attended for a portion of the meeting.

1.2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Fuller led the pledge of allegiance.

1.3 ACCEPT AGENDA

ACTION: Motion #26-009 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 #26-010 to approve Consent Calendar.

Maker: Director Rupp

Second: Director Stevens

Vote: 5-0 to approve

- 3.1 Approve the Draft Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 08, 2026
- 3.2 Approve the Draft Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 02, 2026
- 3.3 Informational Memo Regarding SB 827-Required Fiscal and Financial Training for Board Members
- 3.4 Informational Memo – Summary of Brown Act Requirements and 2026 Updates
- 3.5 Discuss and Consider Approval of Consultant Selection for FY26 General Manager Performance Appraisal and FY27 Performance Plan Development
- 3.6 Approve Contract for Urban Water Management Plan

4. PRESENTATIONS

- 4.1 District Jacket Presentations – Per District tradition. New employee Annmarie Behan was presented with a District jacket.

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5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

5.1 Informational Memo Concerning the Former McNamara and Peepe Mill Site

Non-Action Item

-Director Woo recused herself due to a conflict of interest.

The Ad Hoc Committee met on January 6 with DTSC and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for their quarterly meeting. Staff reported no significant updates at this time.

5.2 Approve the January Financial Statement & Vendor Detail Report

ACTION: Motion #26-011 to approve the January Financial Statement & Vendor Detail Report in the amount of \$606,500.98.

Maker: Director Woo

Second: Director Rupp

Vote: 5-0 to approve

Ms. Harris presented the January financial statement, reporting a general account balance of \$1.3 million, investments totaling \$13 million, \$5.8 million in advance charges, and \$4.3 million in general reserves.

5.3 Do Not Approve to Install 35-ft Flagpole at Eureka Office – Updated Cost Estimate and Location

ACTION: Motion #26-012 to discontinue pursuing this project.

Maker: Director Rupp

Second: Director Wheeler

Vote: 5-0 to approve

Ms. Mares provided an update on the revised cost estimate and location constraints for the proposed flagpole installation. Due to overhead power lines, the flagpole cannot be installed in the originally proposed location on 7th Street. Relocating the flagpole would require a taller structure, resulting in increased costs, including structural engineering and permitting fees.

Director Rupp asked when the need to relocate the flagpole was identified. Mr. Davidsen responded. Director Rupp expressed appreciation for the work completed on the project and the Board's prior support; however, he stated that the revised cost is now too high and that installing the flagpole behind the building is not a preferred option.

6. Reports:

6.1 Staff Reports:

a. Operations Report

Non-Action Item

Mr. Davidsen presented the January Operations Report.

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The Board recessed from Open Session at 2:10 p.m.

1. The Board reconvened open session at 2:30 pm.

2. Public Comment

No comment was received.

3. Announcement of Closed Session Agenda: Time Set - (2:30 PM)

3.1.a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Name of case: Petitions for Change and Instream Flow Dedication for Permits 11714 (Application 16454) and 11715 (Application 17291)

The Board entered closed session at 2:30 pm and returned to open session at 3:28 p.m. President Fuller announced there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Attest:

Sheri Woo, Vice President

Contessa Dickson, Board Secretary