

ROARING FORK WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 1002 * GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO 81602
Tel (970) 945-2144

REGULAR MEETING
August 18, 2026

Call to Order

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Ian Exelbert, President
Brendan Matthias, Vice President
Paul Goldstein, Secretary (by phone)
Tom Sherman, Board Member
Carter Barger, Board Member

Staff Present

Tonya Uren, District Administrator
Scott Grosscup, District Attorney
Alan Leslie, Plant Operator
Brandyn Bair, District Engineer

Administrator's Report

July Minutes

M/S/C Carter moved to approve July 21, 2026, minutes. Tom second, all in favor.

Accounts Payable

M/S/C Brendan moved to approve the August Accounts Payable, Tom second, all in favor.

2027 Budget Review

Tonya outlined the 2027 Budget Review:

- Operating Income and Expenditures for 2026 are tracking according to budget.
- Property Tax assessment information is due from Garfield County at the end of August. This revenue is used to maintain and replace aging infrastructure, as well as plan for large capital obligations. Staff monitors regulatory directives and projections for Reserve Funds.
- The Board increased customer fees in 2025 and increased water use fees in 2026. Customers reduced water use in response to voluntary water restrictions, however, there are some that continue to use excessive irrigation water. The board can elect to increase water use charges in the upper tier to promote conservation.
- Staff are discussing possible capital projects and will evaluate infrastructure repair and maintenance to provide 2027 budget projections.

Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Considerations 2027 Budget

Ian inquired about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in water and sewer utility operations. Staff noted AI is beginning to be used on the design side of the industry. Tonya advised that the Special District Association (SDA) conference will offer AI and cybersecurity breakout sessions. The Board directed staff to consider AI and cybersecurity when preparing the 2027 budget.

Alan reviewed the District's current cybersecurity posture, noting that a recent cyberattack on a water utility, reported in the news, exploited a factory-default password. The District previously participated in an EPA-sponsored cybersecurity review together with advisement from former Board member Brad Geddes. Alan reported that District systems do not permit remote programming access to change operational functions. Staff have completed a vulnerability assessment and implemented a hardware and software firewall, along with a cybersecurity policy and password-protection protocol, allowing continued operational use of District systems without exposing them to outside threats.

M/S/C Tom moved to appoint Tonya as the Budget Officer and prepare the 2027 budget, Brendan second, all in favor. Tonya will provide further budget information at the September board meeting. A draft budget will be presented to the Board by October 15th and ratification scheduled for the November board meeting.

The board appointed Tom to work with Tonya on the budget. Tonya will meet with Tom and report on progress at the September meeting. Tom asked how training of the Billing Clerk is progressing and if Alyssa would attend the September board meeting

Operator's Report

Coryell Ranch Well #11 Pump

The well pump motor at Coryell Ranch Well #11 failed and was replaced with a spare motor from District stock. Combined production from Aspen Glen and Coryell wells are running at approximately 650,000 gallons of water per day.

Wastewater Internal Recycle (IR) Pump

The internal recycle (IR) pump, which returns wastewater flow to the head of the plant, has experienced recurring issues. The District purchased two IR Pumps during plant expansion. One of those pumps failed, and the redundant pump was used until it also failed. A replacement pump was installed and partially covered under warranty. Following an additional failure attributable to a gearbox issue, staff consulted the manufacturer's representative, who recommended an alternative pump style. The District installed the alternative pump approximately one year ago at a fraction of the cost of the original units. That replacement pump has now failed, and staff are in the process of pulling the pump for assessment, including inspection of its electronic components.

Ironbridge #1 Lift Station Odors

Staff continue to address ongoing odor complaints at the Ironbridge Lift Station despite significant mitigation efforts to date. Tonya continues to collect data from neighboring residents. Reported odor patterns have been inconsistent, and complaints have also been received from the adjacent golf course, though not on a daily basis. Staff and the Board

discussed whether vent stacks on neighboring homes, combined with erratic wind currents, could be contributing to the reported odors.

Staff have applied odor masking and absorption products, sealed all building penetrations, and installed filtration consisting of charcoal media, absorption media, and a final scent-masking cartridge. Tonya continues to be available to neighbors to gather information and help identify patterns. Staff are also flushing water from the Eastbank Lift Station to move flows through the system and reduce stagnant pooling and are logging site visits to document station conditions.

Carter asked whether there are guidelines governing the required distance between a lift station and neighboring homes; staff noted that the developer installed the station and the District did not make that determination. Brendan asked about the District's potential exposure, and Scott advised that the District is establishing a pattern of diligence in addressing the issue.

The Board and staff compared the current station to the prior station, which had a vent stack with carbon filtration but no dedicated odor control unit. The current commercial-grade unit draws greater airflow, and no odor is detectable at the point of exhaust. Staff conducted a smoke test to evaluate airflow and confirmed the fan is properly pulling air from the sewer main and scrubbing it through the odor control media.

Staff will investigate the option of smoke testing homes adjacent to the station for sewer odors originating from home plumbing systems. Paul noted that gaps in wax ring seals and vent stacks at individual homes, rather than the lift station itself, could be contributing to intermittent odor reports. Alan noted that smoke testing inside homes has, in his experience, been effective at identifying this type of issue. Staff will schedule an additional smoke test inside the lift station building along with tracking exhaust pipe outlet.

Engineer's Report

Sages at Aspen Glen

Scott and Brandyn met with representatives of the Sages at Aspen Glen development, including its principal, engineer, and land planner, and provided design specifications for the project's lift station. Alan will provide information regarding station controls. The Board agreed that Sages may design and construct its own lift station, subject to District supervision, with a three-year warranty period.

A topic of discussion is the sewer tap fee surcharge to build a reserve for eventual lift station replacement. Details remain to be negotiated as discussion surrounds which specific components would be included in replacement cost calculations. Because the full construction cost of the station is not yet known, the parameters are yet to be determined. Also, ongoing maintenance of the station will be reimbursed to the District through an additional fee to the homeowners charged in arrears in quarterly billing statements. Scott has drafted a preliminary agreement, and Sages' representatives are amenable to the concepts of terms. A potential approach to the sewer tap fee surcharge is approximately twice the standard tap fee, which staff believe would be sufficient to cover appropriate replacement costs. Staff continue to evaluate this issue. Sages is proceeding under its own project timeline, and next steps rest with the developer. Tom noted the arrangement provides efficient delineation for the District, leaving the Developer to proceed independently.

Harvest Village

Staff met with Sopris Engineering for a project update. Harvest Village will not pursue the river crossing this year and is instead resubmitting its application to address Garfield County's PUD comments. The original plan contemplates approximately 1,600 EQR's.

Aspen Glen Reserve

Aspen Glen Reserve has submitted its application to Garfield County. The Sages at Aspen Glen development and Aspen Glen Reserve will connect its lines under the county road.

CDPHE Effluent Flow Meter

The District must respond to CDPHE regarding the effluent flow meter by September 5, 2026. Staff plans to address CDPHE's concerns by installing a partial flume on the effluent line so that influent and effluent meter readings can be coordinated and matched. The proposed solution is a small project using a premade fiberglass flume unit supported by concrete. Brandyn and Alan are working together to design the remedy and report to the state.

Attorney's Report

Scott provided an update on drought conditions, noting that flows in the Crystal River dropped below 5 cfs before recovering somewhat following recent rainfall. The irrigation season generally closes around October 15. Drought conditions are expected to persist until snow accumulation and spring runoff resume next April. Scott noted the District's situation is tempered by its reliance on groundwater wells as its water source.

Open Items

SDA Conference

Tonya is attending the Annual SDA Conference held in Keystone on September 15-17th. Based on Tonya's attendance, the September board meeting will be moved to Tuesday, September 22nd at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

3 p.m., September 22, 2026

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Read and approved this 22rd day of September 2026.

Signed: _____

SEAL

Attest: _____